



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term

8th March 2019

Issue Number 23

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a very long week for teachers this week with two Parents' Evenings lasting well into the late evening hours, but it was really nice to see so many of you attending to discuss your children's progress. Attending Parents' Evenings gives a clear message to your children that you value education and **that**, in turn, will develop a value for education in **them**. Our prefects, as always, did a sterling job meeting and greeting, serving teas and coffees and directing parents to classrooms. The mystery of the disappearing biscuits, however, was never solved since all the prefects claimed that they had maintained a biscuit-free evening. The prefects insisted that the biscuits were taken by younger siblings visiting the refreshments table 4 or 5 times while parents were occupied completing our parent survey; so, if you discovered that you had an unpleasantly sugar-rushed youngster who climbed the walls for hours when you arrived home, I do apologise as I suspect the fault was ours for placing excessively sweet temptation in the way of little hands. One of our prefects suggested serving carrot and celery sticks next time in the hope of warding off little fingers – certainly something to consider (but not for long!!!!)

If you missed your appointment to see your child's teacher, please ensure that you book another meeting, since all teachers are expected to provide a progress report to parents each term. And, while we're on the subject of Parents' Evenings, thank you so much for all your completed surveys. We really do rely on these reviews since we get a clear message about parents' views of the school and allows us to address any issues that parents may have. We can never improve our school if we don't know where we're failing to meet the highest standards.

On Tuesday, I was a little bewildered to see several infant children coming into school with pancakes and frying pans. On closer questioning, I discovered that, in her assembly on Monday, Mrs Waddington had attempted to describe the tradition of pancake day. She explained how it started and the various customs associated with it – namely, the pancake race. But it turns out that our little ones caught nothing more than 'pancake', 'frying pan' and 'race'. So, of course, why *wouldn't* you turn up at school ready to take part in a pancake-tossing race? Miss Howard had to gently explain the misunderstanding along with trying to console a horrified Harry who had just discovered that 'Pancake Day' was *not* a National Holiday and that Maths and English lessons *still* had to continue, pancake or no pancake!

It's been Book Week this week and all over school there have been children with their heads buried in books, teachers getting excited over stories and Mrs Waddington glued to her Bug Club page! Yes, we teachers love Bug Club too, you know! And school on Thursday was like walking into a storyland awash with characters jumping off the pages of our favourite books. As usual, you and your children put in a supreme effort to bring your favourite book characters to life. The Book Fair has been the busiest I've ever seen it which means that children are really developing a love a books – hoorah!

In other news, Year 5s were treated to a taste of Physics, courtesy of The Royal Liberty secondary school and, my goodness, what a treat it was, too! Orange-fuelled electricity, raisins that rise and fall in lemonade, electricity that creates a magnetic field and a host of other fascinating and surprising experiments.

I have to say that I think I drew the short straw when I was asked to take part in the static electricity investigation. Firstly, every hair on my head was made to stand on end and, secondly, I received a series of static electric shocks. Now, I'm not a proud person nor am I the best coiffured individual in school but, when you try to maintain a certain standing in the school and you're made to look like Worzel Gummidge doing a hop-jig, you tend to lose all dignity and poise! 5A will never see me in the same light again! I have to say, though, those year 7 boys were so commanding in their explanations of the scientific phenomena they were presenting, they had our children enthralled and we all want to travel to Japan now to have a ride on a maglev train, which basically hovers along at an almighty speed giving its travellers the smoothest ride of their lives (Year 7 boy's words, not mine!)

Best of all this week, I was able to peek into the hall where 'Harrow Lodge's Got Talent' auditions were taking place. I saw singing and dancing galore and, oh my goodness, I'm not going to give too much away, but I witnessed the best Michael Jackson cover of 'I want you back' that I've ever seen, as well as a solo version of Pink's 'Just give me a reason' that somehow managed to create the illusion of two people singing. Now, I'm no expert at this kind of thing, but I'm predicting that Simon Cowell is going to be eating his heart out on the 5th April!!

In other activities around the school, R2 are overflowing with treasure maps and colourful parrots and Louis in R1 was overheard instructing a group of children to line up the dinosaurs in twos to make them quicker to count because, when there's a stampede, the herd needs to move quickly and you can't waste time counting in ones! Where's that Maths' Wizard's hat Miss Goodwin? We've found a head for it!

Y4 have been furthering their scientific knowledge at the Science Museum this week. As usual, your children did us proud and we were the talk of the museum that day for great behaviour, along with intelligent and inquisitive questioning.

And our sporting successes continue to come thick and fast with our year 3 & 4 children coming second in their Tag Rugby Tournament against several other schools and our Boccia trio, who competed for Havering in the Borough Boccia championship, came a very respectable third! Well done to all of you and a big thank you to Mr Charlee and all the parents who helped with transport and supervision. We couldn't take part in these events without you.

And finally, I'd like to end this week's newsletter with a thought about the precious nature of life, youth and family. Although we didn't know Jodie Chesney personally, we all know how precious our children are to us; and the tragedy that befell Jodie, the pointless loss of a young and beautiful life through the thoughtless and cruel actions of a stranger, makes us realise how important it is to teach our children to value humanity in all its different hues and shades, to teach them that all life is precious and worthy of respect and dignity. If that stranger had learnt those lessons about the preciousness of life, perhaps Jodie would still be here today about to share a weekend of warmth and laughter with her family. We have to pull together as a community at times like this and show our united strength against such crimes and our united compassion for a fellow parent. Thank you for all the purple ribbons and butterflies and your generous donations to Jodie's funeral costs. The money has been given to her father who is very grateful and choked by the sympathy and kindness shown by so many people.

May I wish you a warm and contented weekend filled with extra loving hugs for your wonderful children who are a priceless gift to be cherished and cared for every minute of every day.

With kind regards and best wishes,
Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 1st March 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	95.7
Year 1	98.9
Year 2	96.9
Year 3	97.4
Year 4	95.6
Year 5	93.9
Year 6	95.4

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

1B - 100%

**Overall School Attendance
(year to date) – 95.7%**



Star Of The Week

R1: Sahar
R2: James
1A: Brody
1B: Lily-May
2A: Maci
2B: Scarlett
2/3C: Kitty
3A: Mason
4A: Shania
4B: Laila & Lou Lou
5A: Laura
5B: Kian
5C: Serena
6A: Lacey
6B: Manisha



**Hot Chocolate Friday
Drinkers**

R1: Isabella
R2: Josh
1A: Kevin
1B: Ronnie
2A: Kairyn
2B: Scarlett
2/3C: Lexi
3B: Abedin
5A: Ellie
5B: Freddie
5C: Ibrahim
6A: Avneet & Kirat
6B: Aren



Writer of the Week

R1: Jacob (Maths) Isabella (Kindness)
R2: Mason (Maths) Josh (Kindness)
1A: Amelia
1B: Katie
2A: Alyssa
2B: George
2/3C: Justin
3A: Ema
3B: Hallie
4A: Ben
4B: Tyler
5A: Conor
5B: Amelia
5C: Henry W
6A: Lillie
6B: Skye

This week's
Presentation Award
for Year 5 Topic Work goes to

Uwaye (5B)

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th March

2A - Elm Park Library visit

Thursday 14th March

Years 1&2 Mixed Football Festival

Friday 15th March

Red Nose Day
(wear something red)

Monday 18th March

6pm Parent Council Meeting
(all welcome)

Tuesday 19th March

2B – Elm Park Library visit

Thursday 21st March

World Poetry Day

Tuesday 26th March

Year 5 – Wiggly Wild Show

Thursday 28th & Friday 29th March

Mother's Day Stalls
5pm-7pm PTA Pamper Night

Reminder

As the office is closed until 9.15am (apart from children signing in late), please see the members of staff at the gates if you have any letters, uniform orders or messages which need to be passed on.

Lost Property

There is a huge amount of lost property in the box at the moment, so please come in at the end of the school day and claim your children's lost uniform.

Absences

If your child is going to be off school for any reason, **please** ring the school office by 9am **every** day of absence and leave a message on the absence line, even if you have already told your child's teacher.



PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to

- ❖ Tegan (4A) who was awarded a medal last weekend as her football team, Billericay FC, won a tournament winning 5 out of 6 games.
- ❖ Ruby (4A) for recently gaining 2 certificates and medals for dancing.
- ❖ Erin (4A) on her recent performance with her dance school in “A Night to Remember” at Thameside Theatre in Grays.



THANK YOU

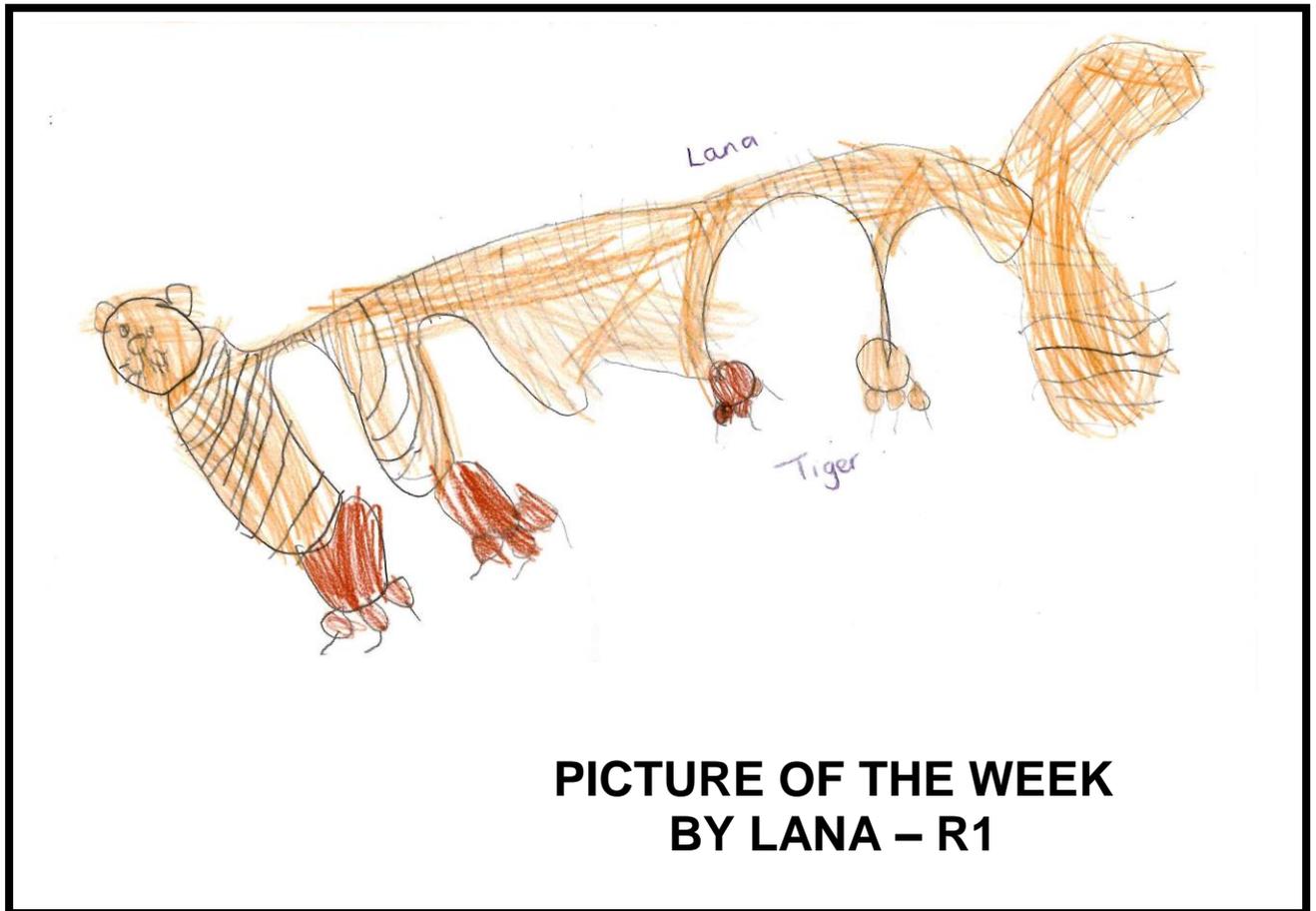
for your generous donations
yesterday towards
Jodie Chesney's funeral fund.

A total of **£351.91** was collected.



We will be having a non uniform day, but wearing something red, on **Friday 15th March** in return for a £1 donation towards Comic Relief.

Please ensure long hair is still tied up as usual and **NO** red hair spray or facepaint is used. Thank you.



sQuid

The amount owed on sQuid for school dinners is currently

£316.59

As you are aware, once a sQuid debt reaches £10.50, your child's entitlement to a hot meal will be cancelled and they will be given an emergency meal of cheese and crackers with unlimited salad from the salad bar. This will continue until the debt is cleared.

If anyone is struggling to pay the debt, please arrange a meeting with our office manager as soon as possible to agree a monthly payment plan.

We would also like to advise you that Trust policy is to seek to recover unpaid debts through the small claims court, but we sincerely hope that will never become an issue at Harrow Lodge.



KEEP FIT is held on **Tuesdays** from 9.00am - 9.45am in the KS2 hall. This is a fun and **FREE** exercise class run by Mr Charlee. If you don't have childcare, please bring your little ones with you as they can be in the hall with us.



COFFEE MORNING takes place on **Wednesday** mornings from 9am-10am in the Oak Room. Please come and join us for a chat and cuppa!

Internet Safety

There have been a few parents and children mentioning about the momo sinister challenge.

We are not, as a school, talking about this as we do not wish to scare the children that are unaware of it or draw attention to it so children go and look for it.

We would appreciate it, if parents feel it needs discussing, that you kindly do this at home.

Top tips include:

1. Tell them it's not real
2. Be present when they are online
3. Talk regularly with your child about what they are watching
4. Check parental controls on your children's devices.