



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 10th May 2019 Issue Number 30

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Dear Parents and Carers,

A rather short week this week but another eventful one. We excitedly opened the doors to our new unisex toilets this week ready for use only to find that the toilet rolls didn't fit the holders! Another tricky problem to manoeuvre around – this building business is a steep learning curve, I can tell you! So, it looks like the launch of the new toilets won't be taking off until 'next' week now!

Great news for our school this week as another inspector graced our corridors – this time from the Local Authority – to check that we were making all the right improvements and that we're on the right track for Ofsted which is looming ahead of us at an ever increasing pace! She was very impressed with all the work that's going on to improve the buildings and she said that the children were industrious and focussed and I have to admit that I could have cried with pride as your children answered her questions confidently and accurately, enjoying the opportunity to show what they knew and how well they were doing. Children were respectful and polite and were helpful to one another as they worked collaboratively. It's not easy for us teachers either, to have someone walk into our lessons knowing that mental judgements are being made on our work and yet our teachers were amazing as well – no one buckled under the pressure and they all showed why they are in exactly the right profession. So, we await the inspector's report but she was very positive about everything she saw so we're definitely on the right track! She also said that Early Years had transformed in the last two years since she visited last and I think that may well be partly down to the 'In the moment planning' that Miss Goodwin has adopted in the department. The children are so focussed on their learning because it's basically been planned by themselves and what *they're* interested in! This week they've been growing a lot of plants – a big thank you to Miss McAuliffe's mum who donated some grow-bags and to you, our parents, for all your floral, herbal and vegetable donations as well. Louis and Jacob brought in some garden mint which caused quite a stir when added to water and to peas (I think some of you may get a surprise next time you try to entice your little one with peas – they'll probably ask you if you've added fresh mint to them before they're willing to eat them!!)

I happened to be passing R1 this week and heard some loud murmurs of disgust and I was rather concerned that Miss Goodwin was telling gruesome stories to our 5 year olds; it turned out *not* to be Miss Goodwin at all but Eliza's mum who had come into class to show children what being a nurse was all about. After using her stethoscope to listen to hearts and lungs and taking each other's blood pressure as well as learning how to attend to a broken bone, most children were still not convinced that being a nurse would be a particularly enjoyable job. And then Eliza's mum told them that nurses have to deal with many strange cases like the man who came into hospital because he had accidentally cut off his finger when using a saw. When asked for the finger so that it could be sewn back on, the man had to sadly explain that his dog had thought it was a sausage and eaten it!! Most of R1 now want to be nurses!!!

Wednesday was wet, wet, wet! But nothing could dampen the spirits of our Year 5s who were off to the National Portrait Gallery in London to take part in an exciting and informative workshop as well as perusing some famous paintings. I waved them all off at 9 o'clock, happy and smiling and full of expectation for the awe and wonder they were about to encounter, and greeted them back at 11 o'clock, dripping wet, sad and miserable and full of disappointment at the awe and wonder that never materialised!! They hadn't made it beyond Plaistow where the trains had stopped running – no one knows why (probably rain on the lines!). I felt for those children, I really did but I knew they'd experienced a good life lesson and one that would be repeated many, many times over throughout their lives so perhaps it was a good start to building resilience to a lifetime of disappointments in train timetables!!

And the winning playground activity set was revealed in assembly this week. Option 2 was a resounding winner with a clear lead of 137 votes so the order has been provisionally made and the fund-raising now starts in earnest – only £900 to make up the shortfall and 6 weeks to do it in. Today's non-uniform day raised £326.21 – a great start leaving only £573.79 left to go! Let the coin wars begin! Actually, speaking of coin wars, children have already started bringing in their loose change and year 2 have taken an early lead in filling their jar but we haven't added the coins up yet so there's no guarantee that year 2 are in the lead amount-wise. This morning, Kitty (2/3C) handed in £10 for the coin wars. We were very impressed and told

her to thank mummy for her generous donation to which Kitty replied that it was her own money that she was donating and, on further investigation, it transpired that it was her 'Birthday money' that she had chosen to donate. Well, I can tell you that we were actually moved to tears in the office this morning as Kitty revealed this information to us! I know there's a prize involved but, nevertheless, *that* is generosity beyond the call of duty and *that's* the kind of child we have at Harrow Lodge Primary – generous, kind and invested in our school. Thank you, Kitty, we're very proud of you.

There was a huge turnout for our annual talk about sex. We had a vibrant and lively discussion (especially in the evening session) about the best ways to educate our children on a very serious subject and all were agreed that our scientific approach with relationship at its core was a good mix of Science and Personal, Social and Health Education for our youngsters. If you were unable to attend the meeting but would like to see a yearly overview of the topics covered in our Sex and Relationships curriculum, please pick up a leaflet from the office lobby. If you would like to discuss any of the program with me, please make an appointment to see me and we can discuss any concerns or questions you may have. The SRE program officially begins in all classes after half term.

Today we hosted a mental health education course for adults. A few of you attended but quite a few parents from other schools also attended. It's such an important issue now with the stresses and strains placed on all of us in today's fast-moving society and, if we want to be great parents, we need to look after ourselves as well. Parenting is probably the most stressful and difficult job any of us will ever do and we all need to learn how to do it well without compromising our own sanity. So I hope you all enjoyed it and found it worthwhile.

Speaking of health, some of our little ones will be enjoying a first-aid course after school today - another really important skill to learn - and I'm hoping to run this course again if I can persuade more of you to sign your children up for them.

With the first phase of the playground improvements set to start in a few week's time, the PTA want to get going on some big plans for fundraising. We really need as many of you as possible to come along next Tuesday at 6:30pm in The Harrow (yes, we're making it a truly professional meeting this time!) to put together ideas for the coming weeks. We want to achieve the impossible but we need to *all* come together to do it.

Next week we're going to start our 'Magic Breakfasts' by offering bagels to children as they come into class before registration. Some children come into school having missed breakfast and are very hungry and, whilst we can't offer a 'full English' we *can* offer a bagel or two to keep the wolf from the door. No child can learn effectively with a rumbling tummy!

Having been told by the inspector last week that we needed to get our parents to complete the online survey, some of you very kindly went straight onto your phones and followed the link to register and complete the survey. However, some parents have come back to me to say that they couldn't access it on their phones or on their ipads and, in fact, the only way they managed to access the actual survey was by working on a laptop or pc of some kind. So, firstly, thank you all for persevering with the survey and, those that haven't done it yet, please be aware that ipads and iPhones don't seem to work and, thirdly, I'm going to see if I can contact someone to find out what the problem is and get them to sort it out! Please do try to complete the survey over the weekend, if you can, so that we start building our numbers up Here's the link to the website again:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Finally, all the hard work your children have put in over the years, but especially this year in year 6, will culminate next week in the KS2 SATs tests. I know your children will excel because I've seen their dedication and I'm so proud of them. We'll be offering breakfast for all Year 6 pupils from 8am next week so make sure they don't miss out as that early morning time is an exciting 'meeting of minds' where children encourage each other and get themselves 'in the zone' ready for each test.

And so, I bid you farewell, wishing you a wonderful weekend, hopefully full of sunshine and definitely full of family adventures and love.

Kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 3rd May 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	96.3
Year 1	96.8
Year 2	95.1
Year 3	95.2
Year 4	95.5
Year 5	97.9
Year 6	96.6

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

6B - 99.3%

**Overall School Attendance
(year to date) – 95.9%**



Star Of The Week

R1: Olivia & Rehaan
R2: Charlie
1A: Jessie & Freddie
1B: Mollie-Mae
2A: Noah
2B: Natalia
2/3C: Kristian
3A: Jessica
3B: Lewis
4A: Vinnie
4B: Lou Lou & Eesha
5A: David
5B: James
5C: Eloise
6A: Kristiana
6B: Levi



**Hot Chocolate Friday
Drinkers**

R2: Madeline
1A: Alex
1B: Hannah
2A: Lexi
2B: Kayla
2/3C: Brian
3A: Beau
3B: Isabelle
4A: Hayden
4B: Stanislav
5A: Bogdan
5B: Christian
5C: Amadou & Shane
6A: Felicity
6B: Manisha



Writer of the Week

R1: Boe (Kindness)
R2: Daisy (Kindness)
1A: Pavel
1B: Zara
2A: Parker
2B: Jenson
3A: Benita
3B: Marie
4A: Tegan
4B: Nifemi
5A: Bogdan
5B: Joshua
5C: Rosie
6A: Louie
6B: Sophie

Diary Dates

w/b Monday 13th May

Year 6 SATs week
(breakfast at 8am)

Tuesday 14th May

6.30pm PTA Meeting @ The Harrow Pub

Thursday 16th – Thursday 21st May

Year 2 SATs

w/b Monday 20th May

Walk to School Week

Tuesday 21st May

Year 3 visit to Elm Park Library
Year 6 trip to Colchester Zoo

Wednesday 22nd May

6pm PGL Parents' Talk

Thursday 23rd May

ELECTIONS – SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday 24th May

Bouncy Castle Bounce Challenge

Monday 27th – Friday 31st May

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 3rd June

Return to school

NO year 5 swimming

9am-10am Stay & Learn Week
Year 3 Eastbrookend Country Park visit
(half the year group)
Year 6 Keeping Safe on the Streets Talk

Tuesday 4th June

Year 2 trip to Chalkwell Beach
Year 3 Eastbrookend Country Park visit
(half the year group)

Thursday 6th June

Year 6 Air Quality Project
Year 5/6 Quad Kids
2pm Parent Council Meeting

School Dinner Change

SUPERHEROES DAY

THURSDAY 16th MAY

**Pork Sausages
with Curly Fries**

**Sweet Chilli Chicken Pasta
with Garlic Bread**

**Cheese & Tomato Pizza
with Garlic Bread**

**Mixed Salad
Baked Beans**

Jam Doughnut

**KS2 - £2.20
KS1 - FREE**

Water Bottles

If your child brings a water bottle into school, please ensure that it is a clear plastic bottle. We have had several accidents with split bottles and those with glitter or fruit or any such additives have caused irreparable damage to our carpets.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to

Tegan (4A) who played in a football tournament in Great Yarmouth last weekend. Her team won every single game! She was presented with a trophy by footballer Darren Bent.



**PICTURE OF
THE WEEK**

BY

REBECA (6B)

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Thursday 23rd May – European Elections

**Monday 27th – Friday 31st May
HALF TERM**



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!

Next week, 15th May, the School Nurse will be coming to answer any questions you may have.

sQuid

The amount owed on sQuid for school dinners is currently **£226**.

Starting w/c 20th May, once a sQuid debt reaches **£6.60**, 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.