



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 17th May 2019 Issue Number 31

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, what a week it's been! The SATs tests were upon us and there were tears and tantrums, trembles and twitches and rocking in the corner.....and that was just the teachers!! Joking aside, I've been immensely proud of our Year 6 children this week. They've faced the mighty monster and laughed in its face and that's all credit to the year 6 teaching team and our year 6 parents because up and down the country there have been 10 and 11 year old children who really *have* been crying and shaking under the stress and pressure of these tests. But your children have worked their socks off to prepare for SATs yet haven't allowed themselves to take the tests so seriously that anxiety sets in and, for that, you should be really proud. I know *I* am!!

I've missed seeing everyone on the gate this week but there's such tight security around these tests that I've had to be on guard outside the SATs test cupboard every day from 8:30 am! That cupboard is like Fort Knox - bolted and double-locked and, if anyone *does* go in, we capture them on CCTV, handcuff them, frog-march them into my office and interrogate them under bright lights for 3 or 4 hours! Ok, so that last part was a slight exaggeration but the security is unbelievable for a 10 year old's test!! None of us are allowed to be alone with the tests once they're completed so we teachers have spent the mornings walking around in pairs all week as we've collected them, collated them and packaged them up before locking them up again in the sacred SATs vault!!

To be honest, it's been a fairly quiet week with the tests going on and even quieter today when the year 6s took themselves off to the park for a well-deserved, fun-time morning; which is why I was so pleasantly surprised by 3 little visitors (sorry, 4 little visitors) to my office on Tuesday. I called, 'Come in' on hearing a frail and feeble knock on my office door and then there was a lot of fumbling and handle-rattling as someone was clearly struggling to open the door. I thought I'd be helpful and open the door and, as I did, in tumbled 3 very excited year 1 children, one of whom was very proudly (and precariously, it has to be said) carrying a tray of earth in which lay wriggling our 4th little visitor! Yes, they'd found a worm and come to ask me if they could keep it as their class pet. Behind Logan, Jessie and Gracie, I could see Miss Townson frozen with fear in her big blue eyes, shaking her head silently but vigorously at me in a surreptitious attempt to sway my judgement. "Of course you must have this precious worm as a class pet!" I cheerfully agreed. Well, I do think that Miss Townson needs to start facing her fears and there are clinics in London where you'd pay good money for this kind of therapy so I felt I was doing her a favour really!! The children became very excited but then it transpired that pets needed to be cared for in very specific ways and our 3 intrepid explorers hadn't a clue about raising worms; so a good deal of research ensued on Google (Logan pointed me in that direction!) and the trio left my office happily chattering about making the soil 'moist' and using their leftover fruit and vegetables to feed their newly adopted pet. I think Miss Townson, although reeling with shock, was rather relieved that no mention was made of breeding!!

Our new unisex toilets were officially christened this week; and, when I say christened, I mean quite literally when it came to the boys' side of the toilets! Yes, there was a considerable amount of 'splash-back' so, in a bid to take our education commitment to the next level, I'm investing in some target practice stickers for the toilet bowls to encourage precise and direct aiming! I'll keep you informed on progress as the weeks go by!

Our parents boogied through their keep-fit session **outside** this week because the weather was so beautiful - they just needed a pool and some cocktails and it would have been like a holiday in Benidorm! You really should come along - I believe the laughter suggests a good time is had by all

whilst maintaining a semblance of fitness! I think it's Mr Charlee's weekly highlight because this class understand his jokes!

Year 4 made their termly visit to the library this week and the number of books they return with is growing term on term. I'm rather dubious of their ability to read that number of books in a term but they absolutely assured me, in no uncertain terms, that every book is digested with voracity and delight. I threatened to test them on the content of the books at the end of the term but, still, they were adamant that such quizzing wouldn't faze them since they just **loved** reading with a passion! Well, I think those year 4 teachers have done their jobs rather well – in developing a love of reading and a passion to open those pages to a world of magic and possibility.

Now, I wonder if any of you have ever heard about benchmarking education systems around the world? You may have heard on the news that Singapore usually leads the international league tables along with Finland and Japan whilst the United Kingdom is gradually slipping down the table as less and less money is put into education. Have you ever wondered how they get those measures? Well, this week, we found out. We were selected by the DfE to take part in the testing process and, for our school, it was Year 5 children who were the proud participants in the international study. Our Year 5s had to take a maths and a science test on an ipad in test conditions and the results will be fed into a larger set of results taken from around the UK, analysed and then compared to results taken from around the world. So, when you next hear on the news where the UK rank in terms of international education systems, you'll know that some of our children can lay claim to being a part of those statistics! Exciting stuff!

Now that the KS2 SATs are finally over, it's the turn of Year 2 to show the world how great they are as they embark on their testing weeks. The system for KS1 SATs is not nearly so tightly programmed as the KS2 tests and the timing of the tests is largely up to us as long as we complete them before the end of May but the sacred SATs vault is still in operation until all the tests are over! So our Year 2 children have already started their tests but it's all very calm and peaceful – no stress here, just questions about how long it is until snack time....much as it should be!

And finally, we have some fabulous news. Last Friday, I told the children in assembly that we were £900 short of our target for Phase 1 of the playground improvements and that the non-uniform day had brought in a total of £350 – the children were quick to tell me that *that* meant we needed to raise another £550 to get our playground equipment and they were very excited when I told them about our sponsored bounce and coin wars ideas and the children led out of assembly galvanised to bring home the bacon!! And then Darcie's (R1) mum and dad came up to me to tell me how excited *they* were, themselves, about the playground improvements. They followed this up with a donation from their philanthropic local business, Income Max Community Interest Company, to meet the shortfall of the Phase 1 fundraising target. I was blown away by such generosity and felt like I was on one of those secret millionaire shows as I furtively searched for hidden cameras!! Mr and Mrs Healey were keen to point out, however, that they didn't want to dampen the spirits of the children who were so clearly excited about the coin wars and the sponsored bounce. Well, that's not a problem because the fundraising simply moves from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of our playground improvements! We'll be processing designs shortly and offering a choice to the children much as before but this time it will be for the infant playground – it's time that old pirate ship in the quad sank into oblivion and made way for a shiny new castle or some other such climbing paraphernalia. Bring on Phase 2! And a hearty thank you to Mr and Mrs Healey and *all* of you for your huge generosity and efforts to get this project off the ground.

Don't forget that the school is closed to children next Thursday as we are, once again, being utilised as a polling station but remember that the following day is non-uniform and sponsored bounce day.

And so I bid you farewell as we make our way into another weekend which looks like it's going to be a 'stay at home out of the rain' weekend; so collect together the ingredients to make a cake or a painting, an indoor fort or a junk-modelled castle or, *I* know, how about a *wormery* together with your little ones! Wishing you a *fabulous* weekend full of high jinks and revelry.

With kind regards and best wishes, Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 10th May 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	95.1
Year 1	98.0
Year 2	97.1
Year 3	99.4
Year 4	94.2
Year 5	93.7
Year 6	98.3

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

2/3C & 3B - 100%

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



Star Of The Week

R1: Isabella
R2: Olivia
1A: Lilli-Mae & Yafeya
1B: Dolcie
2A: Kairyn
2B: Mollie
2/3C: Macy
3A: Benita
3B: Hallie
4A: Skylar
4B: Mario
5A: Shafi
5B: Denis
5C: Amadou
6A: Aringas
6B: Alfie H



**Hot Chocolate Friday
Drinkers**

R1: Sahar
R2: Aisha
1A: Demi
1B: Leo
2A: Lexi
2B: Orest
2/3C: Molly
3A: Tisha
3B: Layla
4A: Benita
4B: Sienna
5A: Maurette
5B: Mia
5C: Finley
6A: Kacey
6B: Ariyan



Writer of the Week

R1: Sade
R2: James
1A: Lyla
1B: Bobby
2A: Elena
2B: Hayley
3A: Tilly-Mae
3B: Danish
4A: Pratyush
4B: Tia-Leigh
5A: Um-E-Miya
5B: Uwaye
5C: Johnny
6A: Lewis

Diary Dates

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 &
Non Uniform Day

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)

Wednesday 5th June

Years 3 & 4 Bikeability

Thursday 6th June

Years 3 & 4 Bikeability

Year 2 Maypole Dancing

Year 5/6 Quad Kids

Year 6 Air Quality Project

2pm Parent Council Meeting

Friday 7th June

Pyjamarama – wear pyjamas to school

7pm PTA Open Air Cinema (KS2 Field)

1, 2, 3, 4

We declare a coin war

**Here are the current amounts
collected by each year group:**

EYFS - £82.49

Year 1 - £155.08

Year 2 - £153.47

Year 3 - £77.48

Year 4 - £52.45

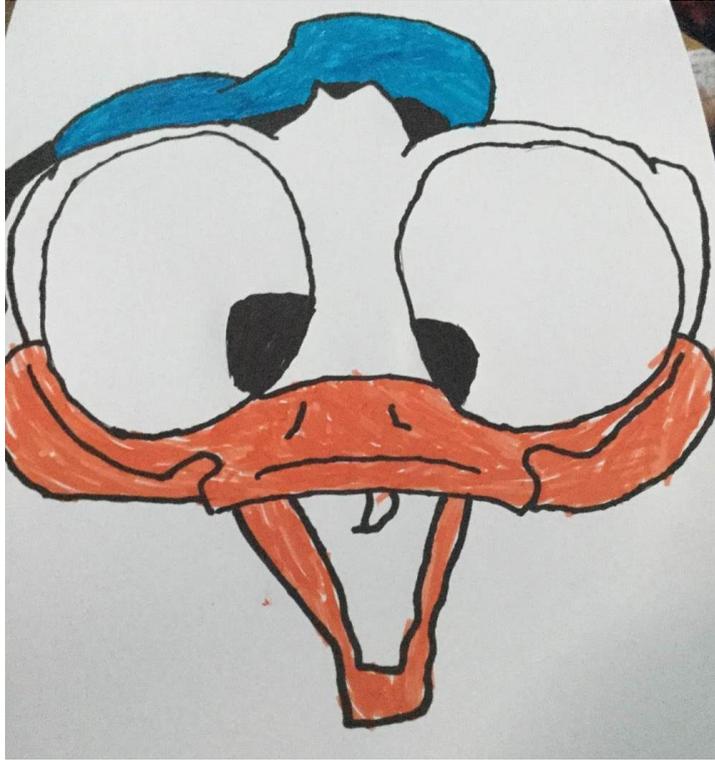
Year 5 - £25.99

Year 6 - £40.00

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.



**PICTURE OF
THE WEEK**

BY

KAIRYN (2A)

This week's
Presentation Award
goes to
Alexie (6A)
for presentation in
Writing



Parent View
Your Child's School

**Give Ofsted your view
on your child's school**

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/link-to-us>

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!

sQuid

The amount owed on sQuid for school dinners is currently **£240**.

Starting on **Monday 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.

LOST PROPERTY

The Lost Property box has moved!!

For your convenience, the Lost Property box has moved to the playground, just along from the office entrance.

There is a huge amount of lost property in there, so please take a look & claim back your items.

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.

Please follow this up with a note on your child's return.

Thank you for your co-operation.

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.