



## Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 Issue Number 29

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Dear Parents and Carers,

May I begin this newsletter by welcoming you all back to the summer term. I hope you had an enjoyable break and are now ready for the early mornings, homework-filled evenings and the hassle of washing and ironing that uniform on practically a daily basis (depending on how much rolling around on the grass your particular child chooses to do!)

My Easter break was great although, as you will have noticed, much of my time was spent here chasing builders and hassling painters! The first trauma of the spring break came by way of the infant toilet doors which arrived looking great but barely came up to my shoulder (and you know how short I am)!! I guess they would have been fine for single gender toilets (infants) but these were the doors for the unisex toilets – not appropriate in the least! So, the doors had to be sent back. Next, the wash-basins had to be lowered as the modern style came out rather deeper than the old-fashioned style which meant that shorter infants wouldn't be able to reach the taps!

Next, we had 'burgundy-gate'! Now, I don't know about you but I never realised just how many versions of 'burgundy' actually existed. We've now painted the KS2 hall doors in 3 different colours of burgundy, none of which match our uniform; the first was too brown, the second too purple and the third was too pink! In the end, I plumped for a fourth colour which all the painters insisted was red not burgundy but it's not red in my colour-world so that's the final decision.

The outside walls have been painted a nice bright white and that's still continuing but it's just like when you paint inside your house – when you paint one wall, it shows up the wall next to it and so the job goes on and on and on. The outside of the infant building has been painted grey and now looks like we've stepped onto the set of 'Little House on the Prairie' which is slightly incongruous with the Junior building but there's not much we can do about that. At least it looks less like it's ready for the scrap-yard and more inviting to those of us who spend our daily lives there.

I'd be interested in your opinions of the front of the junior building which was jet-washed over the break. I do think it looks much cleaner but the cracks need filling to really make a difference. We have to decide whether to jet-wash the second half of the building now.

It's very odd that so much of my time as a Head Teacher seems to be about taking care of the buildings and site management, gas leaks and broken boilers etc – no one ever warns you about that when you take on a Headship – you mistakenly believe it's all about teaching and learning!!!!

And talking about learning, we've made a great start to the new term. The children have come back eager to learn, knowing that it's only a few weeks until they move up into the next year and preparation for such a leap is crucial. We've appointed a new Playleader and 10 new Prefects for the summer term and I'm really excited to see how they get on as they're all as keen as mustard which usually means they'll be really successful (see their names below). On the theme of responsibilities, I was blown away today by the sheer depth of empathy shown by our deputy head girl, Manisha, who came to my office asking to pass an idea by me. She said that she often watches the Year 6 playleaders playing with the infants in the quad and they look so sweet playing together but she said that she'd noticed that some of the year 3 children in the KS2 playground seem to wander around looking rather forlorn and, as she was thinking about this, an idea suddenly popped into her head. She thought it would be good to appoint some playleaders for the KS2 field and playground specifically to play with the year 3 children, "And that would make us a much happier school, Mrs Searle!" Well, there's no arguing with that and we can all do with a little more happiness in our lives. Thank you, Manisha, what a brilliant and thoughtful idea. We'll be appointing some Year 5 children for the roles very soon to start preparing them for the rigour of Year 6 duties. Year 1 classes enjoyed a trip to the park this week where they slid down the slide, rotated on the roundabout and swung on the swings (nice bit of alliteration there for you to point out to your children!). Oh and they did a bit of mini-beast hunting too. I was intrigued to hear which mini-beasts they encountered and Feroz was literally bursting to tell me about the ones he'd encountered, "There were lots of really interesting mini-beasts, Mrs Searle. Lots and lots of.....ants!" So, a fascinating find by all accounts! But Lily-May assured me that there weren't just ants – there were wasps too!

We had a visit from an Ofsted inspector on Tuesday (don't panic, he wasn't there to inspect us!). He works for the Partnership Learning Academy Trust, helping all their schools prepare for their next inspection. On this particular visit, he was looking at safeguarding – whether all cupboard doors were locked, whether any cleaning liquids or sharp objects were within reach of children and whether all our staffing records were in order showing that all appropriate legal checks had been carried out on anyone working in the school (workmen, cleaners, volunteers and teaching staff). As part of this check, he spoke to a selection of children from each year group to ask them if they knew about stranger danger, safety and personal space or if they knew who they could talk to in school should they be upset about something. Well, Mr Moazam was extremely impressed with the confidence with which your children answered him and how honest they were (great core values!). He asked them if they had a magic wand, what would they change about the school – 2 of them said 'nothing' because they love the school the way it is (I swelled with pride on hearing this!) and a third said that he would use his wand to make every child wash their hands after going to the toilet! Ok..... some serious thinking has gone on there! I'm glad to say that our new unisex toilets will be up and running next week with shiny new taps and soap dispensers – what's the betting that there'll be plenty of hand-washing going on then? Talking of toilets.... a big thank you to Luca (1A) who has been our toilet accessories quality controller today! He sat on a toilet and told our builders where to position the toilet roll holders and he stood at the sink and advised the builders where to position the soap dispensers. We're calling him Foreman Luca from now on!

So, our visit from the inspector was very helpful and he thought your children were delightful which simply reinforced what one of the builders said to me on Wednesday, "You've got really nice children here, you know. I've worked in loads of schools and I've never come across children as well-behaved and polite as these." I asked him to put that in a google review for us!!!

Talking about reviews, I very proudly showed Mr Moazam how our parent satisfaction surveys were improving term on term and he quite bluntly told me that our paper surveys would mean nothing to inspectors because we could easily manipulate them however we pleased (I was both offended and devastated in equal measure at this blow) and he said that we have to get parents completing the Ofsted Parent View online questionnaire if we want inspectors to see that parents are satisfied with the school! So, we're back to square one – trying to find a way to get parents to complete the online survey. Our parent council came up with a few good ideas to encourage you all to go online and vote so watch this space for reminders galore! Here's the link if you're feeling generous and have 2 minutes to spare (apparently, that's how quick it is). Remember, more than one parent or carer can complete the form so share the love and get voting!

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

Mr Moazam said that inspectors will look at Parent View before they step inside the doors of the school so it's worth completing it for this current school year as they'll be keeping an eye on it!

And, most exciting of all, we have finally got a design for Phase 1 of our Playground Makeover. This first phase will be for part of the KS2 playground but we'll make sure that all children get a chance to try it out and we hope it will be completed in time for our Year 6 children to get some decent play time on it. Today, we held our own mini-selection process whereby the children voted for their favourite play equipment. I know the winning choice but I'm sworn to secrecy since the results will be revealed in assembly on Wednesday (see below for the 2 designs on which your children voted). Unfortunately, for this first phase, we're still short of the cost for the equipment by £900 so we've got 6 weeks to raise the shortfall. The PTA have swung into action and they're drafting some quick-fire fund-raising activities to see if we can get to our target within the time-frame. One of the first ideas is a Bouncy Castle competition bounce which we're trying to book for May 24th. There'll be a prize for the child who does the most bounces in a minute and a prize for the child who raises the most money. It's a slight twist on the sponsored bounce theme. Money will be collected before the event so that we can pay for the Bouncy Castle and so that we know who will be taking part. Furthermore, we're going to war! One, two, three, four, we're going to have a penny war! It's the War of the Year Groups – children will be given a bag to fill with pennies or loose change which will go into a year group pot and the year group who raises the most money in 6 weeks will be the first to try out the new playground equipment (I'm tempted to put in my own donation so I can get on it before anyone although I might have a few teachers fighting me for the privilege!!).

And on that exciting note, I wish you a wonderful bank holiday weekend with warm weather and a great deal of relaxation.

With kind regards and best wishes,  
Mrs Searle

## Attendance

w/e 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019

| Year Group | Attendance % |
|------------|--------------|
| Reception  | 94.2         |
| Year 1     | 96.0         |
| Year 2     | 94.3         |
| Year 3     | 96.7         |
| Year 4     | 97.2         |
| Year 5     | 92.7         |
| Year 6     | 96.3         |

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

**3B - 99.1%**

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

## Diary Dates

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

Year 5 visit to National Portrait Gallery

**w/b Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

Year 6 SATs week  
(breakfast at 8.15am)

**w/b Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Walk to School Week

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Year 6 trip to Colchester Zoo

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

**Return to school**

**NO** year 5 swimming  
9am-10am Stay & Learn Week

## Year 6 Summer Term Roles

Play Leader

Levi

Prefects

Henry

Lewis

Divine

Olivia

Lillie

Kristiana

Daisy

Ronnie

Sophie

Noemi



## PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

*Congratulations to .....*

- ❖ Alfie (5C) for winning a medal for his kickboxing recently.



**PICTURE OF THE WEEK  
BY PHILIA (6A)**

## sQuid

The amount owed on sQuid for school dinners is currently **£242**

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.**

# PLAYGROUND DESIGNS

## Option 1



## SCHOOL CLOSURES

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – European Elections**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June  
HALF TERM**

## BOOK FAIR

Just to let you know that, at our last book fair in March, we raised £540.52.

**This gives us £264.32 to spend on books for our school!**

Thank you to everyone who came to the Book Fair.



**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!

## 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.