



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 24th May 2019 Issue Number 32

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a beautiful week it's been – warm sunshine and balmy breezes! This week saw the return of Miss Harrison after her defection to Crowlands for a few weeks. She has assured me that she missed us the entire time she was away and has no plans to leave us again! Our Year 6s heard that they are going to have their writing moderated/checked by the Local Authority (which happens every 2 or 3 years) so they were disappointed that they have to spend the next few days working extra hard to make sure they have enough pieces of writing for the inspectors to judge. It's very soon, though, so they'll have plenty of time after the moderation to work on their end of year play and more enjoyable curriculum tasks. Personally, I'm excited to show off their hard work and let the inspectors see just how great we are. Speaking of 'great', our EYFS children's work was also moderated this week. The inspectors went through their work with a fine tooth comb and were very pleased with what they saw. Well done to the whole Reception team who work their socks off in that department just trying to keep up with the energy and speed of those little ones. The really big news, however, was the visit we had on Tuesday from a couple of Local Authority inspectors and a group of 6 Head Teachers who came to the school for a meeting and asked for a tour of the school. I was so proud showing them around our extensive grounds and newly painted building but my proudest moments were walking into classes and talking to the children who were polite and confident and really happy to see us all! They shared their learning with us and were totally unfazed by these very important looking strangers wandering around their school. Walking into Reception is always a gamble because, as you know, 4 year olds have very thin filters and you never know what they're going to say but, luckily, on this day, they were so engrossed in their potion-making that they turned a blind eye to the large and impressive intruders in their classroom. Indeed Madeline-Mae (R2) was so serious about her potion-making that she was quite incensed by the fact that Bonnie (R2) had put a cockroach leg into her potion when she had specifically wanted to add a **spider's** leg. I feel her pain – it's very annoying when other people mess with your well-planned recipe! Well, our visitors were blown away with our school – firstly, our vast and beautiful grounds and secondly, our displays of work – the Head Teachers were so impressed with the quality of the work and of the displays

themselves. It's unusual to see such wonderful displays in schools these days because of the amount of other work that's expected of teachers so we're extremely lucky to have such a dedicated staff. The biggest WOW for our visitors, though, was the EYFS area which Miss Goodwin and her team have worked on tirelessly, making resources from offcuts of wood and bits and bobs found here and there but you'd think they'd spent a fortune on new resources because it's all so well made and well-organised. I'm extremely pleased to say that one of the Head Teachers asked if she could send her EYFS teacher over here after half term to learn how to set up a truly inspiring EYFS setting! And so our reputation builds!!

Year 6 missed our visitors because they were off to the zoo – the children returned high as kites, excitedly chattering about the day's events whilst the teachers dragged themselves along the floor, holding themselves up by the walls, believing that they would truly never be able to walk again! Goodness – no resilience those Year 6 teachers!!

Once all the excitement of our visitors died down, I thought I'd have a quiet end to the week so imagine my surprise when I started to hear moans and groans from the Year 3 corridor! Quiet and sporadic at first, I thought perhaps I was mistaken but the moans began to build and laughter joined the moans to the point where I felt duty bound to investigate the strange sounds. As I walked closer to the Year 3 classrooms, the volume increased and the noises could be identified as distinctly pleasurable and, on peeking through one of the windows, I immediately understood the reason. There, before me, were a class so engrossed in their work, so utterly intent on perfecting their craft that they didn't even notice me walk in and look over their shoulders to view their masterpieces – silky smooth blends of milk chocolate lovingly mixed to the perfect consistency to produce the crumbliest, flakiest, milk chocolate in the world...oh no wait, that's another chocolate altogether! So, year 3 have designed their own bars of chocolate and designed their own packaging to pack them in but, judging by the amount of chocolate smothering those little faces, I'm guessing there wasn't much chocolate left to *make* the bars!

And finally, to today, the springiest day of the year when your children bounced for dear life, each one determined to be the speediest bouncer in the school – although I think some confused 'speedy' with 'zany'; I've seen some pretty odd sights today, I can tell you!

And so, the end of the first half term looms – it's been a short one but very busy. We end the half term on a high and look to the holiday which is promising to be warm and dry. Just in case you're wondering – some of you asked for bigger font – how's this? All feedback gratefully received!

Have a wonderful week full of picnics and games and warm, family fun.

With best wishes & kind regards, Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 17th May 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	95.8
Year 1	96.3
Year 2	96.9
Year 3	95.4
Year 4	94.4
Year 5	97.5
Year 6	100.0

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

6A & 6B - 100%

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

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.

Diary Dates

Monday 27th – Friday 31st May
HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 3rd June

Return to school

NO year 5 swimming

9am-10am Stay & Learn Week (**not year 1**)

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

3.30pm Mini Medics

7pm PTA Open Air Cinema (KS2 Field)

Monday 10th June

Year 5 Swimming resumes

Friday 14th June

Father's Day Stalls

Year 3 Tate Project photographer in school

Monday 17th June

Year 6 PGL Residential Holiday

9am-10am Stay & Learn Week (**Year 1 only**)



PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to

Lou Lou (4B) who entered a gymnastics competition recently. She did amazingly well and came 2nd on the vault, 3rd on the bars (which she hates) 2nd on the floor and came 3rd place overall in the entire competition. Go Lou Lou!



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 **£180.77**.

From **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.



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Your Child's School

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on your child's school**

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