



## Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Issue Number 1  
Visit [www.harrowlodgeprimary.com](http://www.harrowlodgeprimary.com) to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and to our first newsletter of the school year. I hope you had a wonderfully restful summer. I have to say, when I saw many of you last Friday in school buying uniform, you were all incredibly happy and joyful and I thought you must be enjoying your summer break immensely but then one of you skipped off, waving goodbye and said, "I can't wait till next Monday!" and then I fully understood the reason for your cheerfulness!!! Well, I have to say that *your* loss is *our* gain – we **love** having your children back and they've started the year with such excitement and enthusiasm that we're reminded every day why we love this job. And it's just as well, to be honest, because the sight that greeted us when we returned after the break was enough to plunge us into a catatonic depression! As you know, the plan was to renovate the infant side of the school to fireproof it as it was a very old wooden building, and this was immensely successful. Walking around the infant corridors was like walking through a brand new school - light, airy, clean and smart. The other half of the project was to move the Office/School Entrance to the car park side of the building in order to safeguard children from visitors during the day. We were assured that this could be achieved during the 6 week break but what we didn't bank on was 'builder-speak'! When I returned with just two weeks to go before the children started back, I walked into a building site; nay, a 'bomb site' would be a more accurate description and it was clear to me that there was no way our school would be ready to open on the 9th of September! You have no idea how close I came to sending out a parentmail postponing the start of term owing to health and safety! I realised that I would never be forgiven, that you were all eagerly waiting for that return to school day but what could I do? The place just wouldn't be safe to stand in. I considered decamping to Hornchurch High for a couple of weeks (or months!), I looked at church halls and community centres; I felt like an orphan looking for a home....for a very big family! I called the Trust and relayed my fears and they were down here like a shot and all over the contractors. They got things moving and were adamant that they'd get us safe and open in time although the job may not be complete. Well, as many of you have witnessed, we are having to be creative with our space at the moment but at least we were able to open and we can always walk down the infant corridors if we want a bit of cheering up – oh, but wait, no we can't. Two days after the beautiful new flooring was laid, we walked into a flooded Y1 classroom and flooded infant corridor! The radiator had leaked overnight and the Year 1 classroom was under 2 feet of water while the new flooring in the corridor was bubbling up as water seeped beneath it. Corridor flooring was pulled up to allow the floor beneath to dry out. Poor Mrs Lawson was distraught as many of her belongings were ruined in the flood. However, she and Mrs Ward put on a brave face and continued to set up the classroom in the hope that the carpet would dry out in time for the 9th..... and then came the smell! A musty, dank, indescribable stench emanating from the Year 1 classroom pervaded the entire school and it was clear that inviting children into such an environment would be cruel, bordering on tortuous, so the carpet was stripped and poor Mrs Lawson had to move the whole classroom to another abode! We've set her up in a temporary room until we can re-carpet her classroom and move her back. And, believe it or not, she's still smiling! Not only that but she has rejuvenated the Year 1 outdoor area so that year 1 have a smooth and gentle transition from EYFS. I'm certainly learning a lot from Mrs Lawson about positivity, true grit and resilience.

So, you might think that, really, we'd had our fair share of trials by now but, no, of course not; there were still things that could go wrong so why should our bad luck stop there, I hear you ask. Well, it didn't! I remember last year, we started the year without tables in many classes and the children stoically forged ahead working on the floor or on their laps. Well, this year we have no coat pegs! Having taken the old ones down to paint the walls, the new ones have yet to arrive. Once again your children are coping valiantly while we adults are tearing our hair out! And, as many of you have discovered, we have no phone lines!! So Mrs Hak, Mrs Spink and Miss Martin are all cooped up in a tiny, temporary office (for 'office' read 'cupboard'), nobly sharing one mobile phone between them and the phone is so quiet that everyone has to 'freeze' if one of them is on the phone otherwise it's too noisy to hear anything. It's like watching something out of a cartoon comedy show. Meanwhile, we're welcoming new children to the school whose parents must think they've walked into a mad-house!! Now, I've looked from cover to cover but nowhere in the 'Head Teachers' Guide' does it outline how to deal with any of the above issues. I'm just kidding.....there *is* no Head Teachers' Guide but, if there *were* – none of the above situations would feature in it; of *that*, I'm certain! Well, at least we have our new play equipment and that's really going down a storm, I'm thrilled to say. And this first week back has seen some exciting work being carried out already. I stumbled across a wizard-like alchemist in Year 5 attempting to cast some magical spell to conjure up a pot of gold (I'll have some of *that*, thank you very much!) and the squeals emanating from Year 6 could only mean one thing – yes, of course, they were sketching real creatures (and parts of creatures).... alive and dead! When I overheard Miss Batt talking about thawing out her chicken feet, I imagined she had some kind of unfortunate medical condition; but it turns out she was talking about *real* chicken feet, specially obtained for the purposes of scientific enquiry and artistic licence. On closer investigation of the Year 6 block, I found a rather interesting assortment of snails, worms and dead rats ready to be thoroughly examined by eager young scientists and creative young artists. And, gingerly hovering in the corner, a safe distance away from any of the action, I found Miss McAuliffe – she was extremely convincing as the 'designated aide for squeamish children'! And, our new little 4 year olds have started to arrive! There have been a few tears and tantrums but nothing major and I've told the teachers to pull themselves together and just get on with the job! The children, on the other hand, have settled beautifully and are enjoying the new challenges that 'big school' brings! Indeed, Daniel (R1) came into my office on Wednesday and read a whole book to me about a horse falling into a trench (he also helpfully explained to me what a trench was and, randomly, what a black hole was!) So, we clearly have some very accomplished reception children joining our happy family which is most exciting. And Year 2 have already learned the skilful art of tracing which they proudly showed me when I visited them on Wednesday afternoon. Indeed, there's an air of happiness and contentment generally around the school which gives me a much-needed lift. So, as we begin the year with all our good intentions and hopes for the coming months, I'm starkly reminded that this is the year we're expecting the dreaded inspectors to come in. From March onwards, we'll be waiting for the call so we need to get ourselves ready, pull together and make sure they see the real Harrow Lodge Primary – the well-behaved, hard-working, children; the supportive, happy parents and the dedicated, nurturing staff who, together, lift our children to heights they never imagined they could reach.

On that note, I wish you a wonderful weekend with your lovely children full of family fun and garrulous games – a true bonding weekend.

With kind regards and best wishes,  
Mrs Searle

As many of you may be aware, one of our families was involved in the Crow Lane Fire incident.

Hayley Clark and her son George Tucker were in their flat on the night of the fire and they had to evacuate with only the clothes they were wearing. All their belongings were destroyed by either fire or water although George told me that a few of his toys were salvageable!

They have been rehoused to a flat in Upminster but, barring a small selection of toys, they have absolutely nothing to set up home with.

We are looking for ways to help them and Lorraine Fisher has set up a Gofundme page to raise some much-needed funds to help the family buy some basic essentials.

If you would like to donate, please go to the following link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/crow-lane-fire>



[Fundraiser by Lorraine Fisher :](#)  
[Crow Lane Fire helping Hayley](#)

Unfortunately a good friend of mine and her sons lives in the flats at Crow Lane Romford that sadly set alight last night. She had to leave the home literally with only the clothes that she was wearing.  
[www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com)



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## DIARY DATES

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September

EYFS start full time

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Year 1 trip to Ingrebourne Valley  
Year 2 trip to Leigh on Sea

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September

Year 3 visit to Harrow Lodge Park

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Jeans for Genes Day

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

School Council visit to Parliament

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

9.30am EYFS Parents' Meeting -  
*How to help your child in school*  
5A trip to Soanes Centre

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September

5B trip to Soanes Centre  
Year 6 - Zoo Lab UK

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September

6pm PGL talk to Year 6 parents

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

McMillan Coffee Afternoon

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Year 4 visit to the Sea Life Centre

### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Individual School Photos  
Year 2 Captain Cook Drama Workshop

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Flu inoculations

## sQuid

The amount already owed on sQuid for school dinners this week is currently **£130**.

Once a sQuid debt reaches **£6.75**, 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.**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE - ABSENCES

Until the new office is up and running and the phones are working properly, please can you **email** the school office by **9am EVERY** day on [office@harrowlodgeprimary.com](mailto:office@harrowlodgeprimary.com) if your child is going to be off school for any reason, 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.

**We have some wonderful pupils here at Harrow Lodge Primary who are already aware of the importance of charity.**

**We love to hear about your children's achievements. Please let us know about them so we can share them with the whole school community.**

**During the summer holidays Beau (4B) raised sponsorship and donated her beautiful long hair to the Little Princess Trust who make wigs for children suffering with cancer. Well done Beau!**



**Lola (3B) had lots of fun with her family and friends in a Charity 5k Bubble Run and they raised a grand total of £2,637 for Richard House Hospice. Amazing!**

