



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term

20th September 2019

Issue Number 2

Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

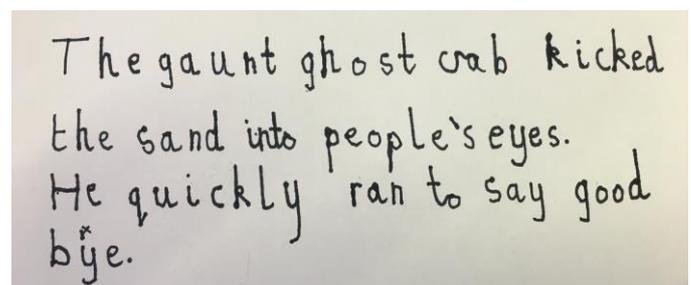
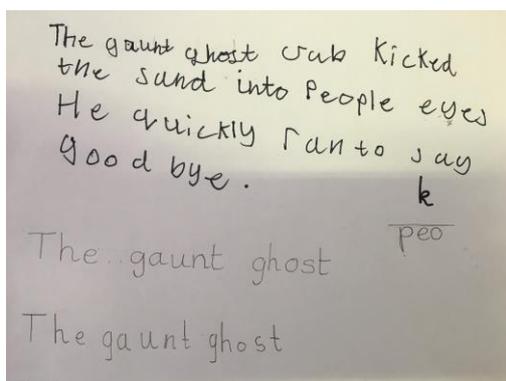
Dear Parents and Carers,

So, the start of another fine week saw the builders make mere intermittent appearances in the school although the contractor is still saying, "It'll all be finished by Friday, Luv!" That's 3 consecutive Fridays I've heard the same promise so far! I'm personally placing my bets on Friday 20th December at the earliest, and I reckon those are very short odds! On the bright side, we've only had a **couple** of electrical power cuts this week (sending the office staff into a frantic panic as hours of work disappear before their very eyes) so that's an unexpected silver lining! You can tell I'm a 'glass half-full' type of girl can't you? It's funny how, as adults, we forget how confusing the new building-works must be for our little ones. As I was walking past Miss Howard's classroom (Y2) today, I met a small boy looking lost and confused; on enquiring if he was alright, he explained that he wasn't quite sure where he was because "all the walls look the same now!" (we were standing right outside his classroom door!) From his viewpoint, all he could see was grey flooring, grey walls and burgundy doors – no wonder he was confused – it must feel like being in a maze (with nothing exciting to discover in the centre)!!

Our EYFS children started full time this week and our teachers have been busy assessing them for a baseline level – yes, folks, we're now testing our 4 year olds so we can later see whether they've made enough progress by the time they reach year 6. Now, whether you think this is a sound idea or not, it has to be done and Miss Goodwin, Mrs Harding, Miss Pocket and Mrs Welch are doing a sterling job settling the children enough to begin assessing their 7 year potential! I've posted a short video on the Parents' page of the website explaining the Baseline process for your information and infinite pleasure! Beware, though, there's no way the children in that video are reception age children and I don't want any of you going away thinking that your child falls way short of the mark compared with the model students portrayed in the film – they're not natural, I tell you and, if you ask me, they're end of year 1 age at the very youngest!!

While we're talking about reception children, I was reminded of **my** age this week as I watched our 4 year olds investigate their historical corner in which the teachers had placed a telephone, a similar type of which I last used when I was in my teens! To see those little minds confused and befuddled by a simple dial telephone was comical to say the least, particularly when they tried to talk into the handset as if it were a microphone!

As you know, this academic year should see our visitors from Ofsted making an appearance so we're having an extra push on presentation and handwriting. Everyone is spending 10 minutes of every day learning good presentation and handwriting techniques so you should start to see a difference in your child's handwriting pretty soon. Today I was blown away by a piece of work brought to me by Lenny (Y4) – the 'before and after' was unbelievable – see below to view the transformation!



Wednesday morning brought with it an air of excitement as year 1 and 2 prepared for their trips. Year 1 visited an enchanted forest and enjoyed den-building, leaf rubbing, bird-watching and sculpting with nature. I'm awaiting a photograph but, apparently, Boe, Alex, Sade, Louie, James and Mikail made a hedgehog that couldn't be rivalled in terms of its authenticity and its systematic arrangement of flora and fauna! I believe there were activities galore for the children to experience but, on their return, the screams of excitement that greeted me were all about sitting on the top deck of the bus!! Well, who am I to judge? – I adore sitting on the top deck whenever I take the bus – but I have stopped waving at the drivers in the cars below now – my children told me I was embarrassing them!! Year 2 kicked off their 'Land Ahoy!' topic with a trip to the seaside and a boatyard. They were expecting to sketch boats but they encountered so much more – they were still, this morning, excitedly discussing the pirate treasure they unearthed and the ship they spotted which they were convinced belonged to pirates. I believe the trip was exhilarating but exhausting and Miss Howard was grateful to remove her eye-patch and wooden leg upon her return (our teachers do go that extra mile to immerse our children into a world of imagination and discovery). Talking of outstanding commitment, our Year 3 teachers took their classes to the park this week in order to study forces. Now, don't get me wrong, I truly believe that Mrs Law and Miss McLaughlin planned the trip with all good intentions of ensuring the children received an excellent learning experience but I'm not sure it was entirely necessary for Mrs Law to swing that high for that long in order to demonstrate the forces of forward and backward motion. She said she didn't *want* to do it but that her commitment to teaching outweighed her personal preferences – I remain respectfully suspicious!

And we continue to ensure that our children learn the rules of the roads in order to keep themselves safe when out and about. This week was the turn of Year 3 & 4 who were treated to the high energy of Peter the Road Safety Magician. Well, this man must have been a child's party entertainer in a former life – he had your children mesmerised with his tricks and his boundless energy and high jinks! I really hope your children came home and showed you his website as it was a truly excellent show. If your children mentioned not one word to you about road safety when they came home on Wednesday, perhaps you could visit www.schoolmagic.co.uk to see what it was all about.

5A had their first swimming lesson this week and there appeared to be a mixture of excitement and trepidation rippling through the class but, on their return, all the children were smiling and happy, if a little worn out. A big thank you to those parents who have volunteered to help out on swimming days – especially as some of you don't have children actually going swimming at the moment; we really appreciate your kindness and generosity of time. And this week has seen the inauguration of our new prefects and other posts of responsibility; see below for the full list. A huge congratulations to those children who have shown themselves worthy of such positions. We will be changing all the posts termly (except Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl) although some children *may* retain their posts in special circumstances. I'm looking forward to working with them to present our school in the best possible light.

Finally, today we all had the opportunity to raise some money for a much-needed cause - Jeans for Genes raises money for research into genetic diseases and abnormal conditions. I must say that our school community is lucky in that we rarely have sufferers of such conditions but that is all the more reason to highlight the issue with our children who may have little awareness of such problems. Days like today serve to raise our children's awareness and empathy and perhaps start to nurture the growth of future researchers, geneticists, doctors or nurses etc. I'm so proud of our community, how we rally to help one another when needed but also how we reach out in kindness and generosity to support charities and the needy. And, on that note, I wish you a weekend of love and charity, remembering how fortunate we are to have each other in our small school community. May your weekend be filled with sunshine and laughter (and a bit of handwriting practice if you can fit it in!!!).

With best wishes and kind regards, Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 13th September 2019

| Year Group | Attendance % |
|------------|--------------|
| Reception | 92.2 |
| Year 1 | 91.7 |
| Year 2 | 87.1 |
| Year 3 | 98.6 |
| Year 4 | 96.9 |
| Year 5 | 98.5 |
| Year 6 | 94.6 |

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

3B - 99.3%

**Overall School Attendance
(year to date) – 94.3%**



Star Of The Week

1A: Joshua
1B: Mason
2A: Isabella
2B: Rosie
3A: Karis
3B: Luke
4A: Nassar
4B: Harvey
5A: Sienna
5B: Skylar
6A: Ibrahim
6B: Shane
6C: Shafi

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to safeguarding reasons it is very important that we have as few visitors during the school day as possible.

Therefore, please do your best to remember to bring everything your child will need for the day as you leave in the morning i.e. lunch boxes, PE kits, after school kits etc.



Writer of the Week

1B: Amber
2A: Riley
2B: Hannah
3A: Alyssa
4A: Yabets
4B: Kitty
5B: Chloe
6A: Kian
6B: Catalina
6C: Maurette

Student Posts of Office

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Head Girl | Catalina |
| Head Boy | Mathavan |
| Deputy Head Girl | Maurette |
| Deputy Head Boy | Bogdan |

House Captains

| | | |
|------------------|--------|-----------|
| Griffins | Janvi | Jack |
| Phoenixes | Ayesha | Christian |
| Centaurs | Lucia | Denis |
| Dragons | Josie | Uwaye |

Play Leaders

Prefects

| | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|--------|
| Alfie | Johnny | Jimmy-Dean | Leiba |
| Amelia | Katie | James | Devon |
| Scarlett | Madalin | Dovydas | Harry |
| Shane | Henry | Sydney | Ellie |
| Mia | Christiana | Ela | Seidra |

Librarians

| | |
|-------|--------|
| Rosie | Katie |
| Jone | Debora |

Technician Prefect

Conor



Parent View
Your Child's School

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

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

DIARY DATES

Monday 23rd September

School Council visit to Parliament

Tuesday 24th September

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

Wednesday 25th September

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

Thursday 26th September

2pm Parent Council Meeting
3.30pm PTA AGM Meeting
6pm PGL talk to Year 6 parents

Monday 30th September

2pm – 4pm Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Thursday 3rd October

Year 4 visit to the Sea Life Centre

Tuesday 8th October

Individual School Photos
Year 2 Captain Cook Drama Workshop

Friday 11th October

Flu inoculations
EYFS/Year 1/Year 2 – Learn to Ride

Monday 14th October

6pm-7pm EYFS Prospective Parents' Meeting

Wednesday 15th October

2.30pm Year 5 Harvest Assembly

Thursday 17th October

PTA Spooky Disco

Tuesday 5th November

PTA Firework Spectacular

sQuid

The amount already owed on sQuid for school dinners this week is currently **£167**.

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.

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

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.