



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term

27th September 2019

Issue Number 3

Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

And so another busy week has come to an end in which we've welcomed many new members into our community. Most of these families are new to the area and many have very little English and so will find it a real struggle to start with to fit in and to understand all the rules, regulations and customs of school life. So, it would be great if you could keep your eyes peeled for any lost looking souls in the playground and just check in with them to see if they're ok or if they need any help. We do try hard to make all newcomers welcome but, amidst the busy day to day business of school life, it's often easy to forget that it takes a while to settle and to understand how things run, especially if the language is completely new to you. We've begun our induction of prefects and year 6 post-holders and they're all as keen as mustard to get going (if only that initial enthusiasm for litter-picking etc would last all term!!!). Mrs Waddington has taken on the role of overseeing the prefects this year and she, too, is keen as mustard (let's hope her enthusiasm is boundless and endless!)

This week, I was aghast to discover that we didn't have the appropriate recycling bins in our rubbish area and that our cleaners were thus forced to lump all rubbish into the same landfill bins! When I thought about all the teaching we do around looking after our planet and then, behind the scenes, we don't have the required bins to follow our own preaching, I felt a little queasy! So, Mr Dalton has been put to task to find 2 large recycling bins and our house captains have been tasked with collecting the recyclable rubbish each week and sorting it into card, paper and plastic. We'll do our bit for the environment and be proud about it!

This week, it was the turn of Year 5 to take a trip out and about visiting the Soanes Centre which provides fantastic, practical, hands-on learning in a scientific context. Children were really engaged and active learners as they explored the science of a variety of different materials. According to Teddy (5B), the best part was the exploding vinegar (now, why doesn't that surprise me?). Much of the learning takes place outside at the Soanes Centre so this week wasn't a great week for visiting it but all the children were really buzzing when they returned and the bad weather certainly hadn't dampened their spirits....Which is more than can be said for the rest of us who spent Tuesday working in sopping wet clothes and sporting drowned-rat hairstyles! And what is it about this place and water? No sooner have we started to give the school a face-lift in one part and other areas begin to slide into disrepair! Tuesday's torrential rain decided to visit us inside the building and the infant library was flooded, ruining a good number of beautiful books! Yet another repair to add to the long list of renovations! Then we had the saga of the 'named and shamed' wherein a list of names appeared on a very official-looking notice pinned to our gates. Well, I'd had no notification from the council that such a notice would appear so I wasn't able to warn you about it and, as you can imagine, all sorts of unfounded rumours began to circulate regarding the named persons on the list. If any of us had had the time or the inclination to read the long-winded document, we would have discovered the real reason for the notice. But, as most of us don't have an hour to spare to read a lengthy legal article of infinite fascination, we didn't discover the reasoning behind the document. In essence, it would appear that certain individuals, or communities, are known to pitch up on large areas of fertile land and use this land as a base from which to live and work. Now, some schools do have large areas of favourable land on which to settle and it has been known for such communities to turn up overnight and enjoy such hospitalities. Once ensconced, a polite request to vacate the premises is rarely effective and a legal battle will often follow. Without notices to ward off such visitors, the legal battle would be lengthy and unpleasant and so the list of names refers to such people who are known to have, in the past, availed themselves of a school's facilities without prior permission and the notice is a warning that such behaviour is prohibited on our grounds. Let's hope we never have to enforce the warning!

Excitement rained down on us this week as our new infant coat pegs arrived. Finally, coats and bags can be moved out of the classroom and into the corridor (or for KS1, into the new cloakroom - aka the infant library!). We all stood around for a good 30 minutes just stroking and admiring the sleek, new mobile coat racks with the shiny, fresh wood and posh, burgundy pegs (tough enough to hold the weight of a fully-grown man, if you're to believe the video hype!)

After all the excitement of new pegs, I was ready to take a relaxing wander around the year 5 & 6 classes; see what they were up to and check out the progress of our handwriting drive but I soon forgot 'relaxing' and adopted 'tense' as I reached the top of the stairs and noticed how hauntingly quiet it was on the top corridor. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm sure there must be something of worth in that old saying, 'Children should be seen and not heard' but, as a teacher (and a parent to be honest), one quickly learns to be suspicious of a chilling silence and that corridor was filled with an unsettling hush. And, as I nervously crept towards 6A's classroom, I began to hear soft groans and whimpers of fear – this did not bode well and I bravely strode into the room ready to face off any impending danger only to find a hushed and captivated group of Year 6 children sitting in stillness as a giant millipede crawled over hands, a snake slithered across arms and an enormous African snail (aptly called 'Nearly' as he only had one antenna) suctioned itself to palms. There was the occasional grimace and the odd yelp but, other than that, the Zoolab expert who'd brought her entire stock of Darwinian creatures with her, had a captivated audience. And, I have to say, I learnt a lot from her as I crept to the back of the class to join in with the fun but not nearly as much as I learned from Ibrahim (6A) who taught the animal expert a thing or two – fact after fact after fact - while the rest of us just sat there with our jaws on the floor!! Well, all except Debora who casually dropped into the conversation that the reason why millipedes had evolved into much smaller creatures since prehistoric times was because the amount of oxygen on earth had drastically reduced!! I know - we were shocked at such knowledge too (even Ibrahim didn't know that fact!) So, the Zoolab was a great hit although Miss Batt cautiously retreated out of the room as the zebra tarantula was brought out to play. She quietly informed me that, if the tarantula escaped, we wouldn't see her for a few months! Well, I can put your minds at rest – the tarantula went home with his owner so Miss Batt is happy to continue to turn up to work each day!

I'm continually impressed by your children and their enterprising ideas for clubs or for fund-raising but none so much as this week's pair who came to me with an idea to make a better Christmas for mothers and their families living in refuge homes. Sienna-May (5A) and Laila (5A) spoke to me very knowledgeably about the plight of women living in refuge homes and they created a detailed plan outlining a fundraising drive with a twist. Look out for a letter coming to you from the girls next week when they'll pitch their great idea to you. Kieron (5B) has decided to launch a Comedy Club on a Monday lunchtime with his two assistants, Aidan and Alarna (5B) where children can share jokes and practise being stand-up comics so I'm banking on Harrow Lodge producing the next Michael McIntyre in a few years' time!

This week, we held our first Parent Council meeting of the year and it was a very productive meeting with a decision being made to allow children to wear PE kits to school on their PE days. Year 5 do this already and the Parent Council voted to roll this out to all other year groups. There were abundant reasons cited for doing this which can all be found in the minutes posted on our website and on Facebook.

The PTA also held their AGM this week and it was lovely to see so many parents attending with such enthusiasm. A big shout out to Miss Goodwin and Miss Howard who volunteered (with no arm-twisting whatsoever) to supervise the children playing in the quad whilst the AGM took place. It's kindness like this that allows us to run such meetings so successfully. Not only that but the news that we're almost half-way towards raising the money for Phase 2 of the Playground development was music to everyone's ears! This time, next year, we might be seeing the infants playing on new equipment!! (I want to make some kind of reference to Del-Boy here but I fear it may fall on ears far too young to appreciate the parallel!)

And we finished the week with our first Mental Health afternoon where children have been experiencing the joy of mindfulness. Where on earth has this month gone? We really need time to slow down and let us appreciate the beauty of life at a slower pace so I urge you to spend some quality family time together this weekend. Why not visit the Natural History Museum and check out the fascinating 'Spirit Collection Tour'? You'll meet Archie, the 8.62-metre-long giant squid and see specimens collected by Charles Darwin himself. There's nothing quite like a family zoology trip!

On that note, I wish you a wonderful weekend full of trips and activities and maybe some encounters of the zoological kind!

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 20th September 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	94.0
Year 1	90.5
Year 2	97.9
Year 3	96.8
Year 4	98.1
Year 5	93.1
Year 6	97.9

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

R2, 6A & 6B - 100%

**Overall School Attendance
(year to date) – 95.5%**

Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you for your generous donations last Friday for Jeans for Genes Day.

A total of £264.74 was collected and will be sent off to this wonderful charity.



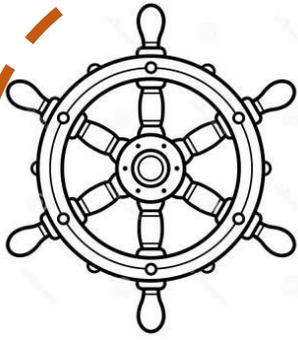
IMPORTANT NOTICE

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.

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.



Columbus Day

Thursday 3rd October

Census Day Dinner Options

American Burger with Fries

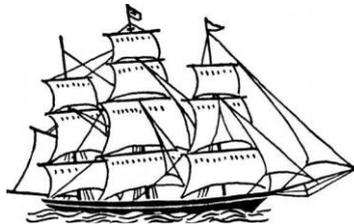
Brazilian BBQ Chicken with Savoury Rice

Argentinian Cheesy Nachos

Sweetcorn Coleslaw

Italian Ice Cream Tub

£2.25
(free for all KS1)



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 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 immunisations
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

21st – 25th October

Half Term Holiday

Tuesday 29th October

Parents' Evening

Wednesday 30th October

Parents' Evening

Thursday 31st October

1.30pm-2.30pm EYFS Prospective Parents'
Meeting

Tuesday 5th November

PTA Firework Spectacular

11th – 15th November

Anti-Bullying Week

sQuid

The amount already owed on sQuid for school dinners this week is currently **£108**.

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.

Flu Immunisation Forms

Please remember to return your immunisation forms asap.

If you have mislaid yours there are a few spares in the office.