



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 11th October 2019 Issue Number 5
Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of Week 5 and I don't like to shout about it but **THE PHONES ARE BACK ON!!!!!!!** We finally moved the Office out of the Foyer cupboard into our shiny new Reception Area. It's sooooo exciting and it's hard to stay mature and professional when all you want to do is jump up and down and giggle with glee!! Mind you, it's not without its challenges and I suppose I really shouldn't have found such joy in watching Miss Martin struggle to find which button to press to master the relatively simple operation of opening a gate – I think she managed to open **3** gates, none of which were the one our parent was stood at for 10 minutes waiting to exit the premises! What followed was a comedy of errors as Miss Martin pressed a button and Ms Haynes ran between 3 gates (in her corporate high heels), trying each in turn to match up all the buttons with their corresponding gates (and we **pay** these people to work here!) Couple that with Ms Haynes holding a phone up to each ear when answering the buzzing and talking into two phones at once because she can't tell which phone is buzzing and Mrs Spink bemoaning the fact that she has nowhere to hang her Jason Donovan (1980's pop idol) calendar, you get the chaotic picture that is our office at the moment! Mrs Hak just beavers away quietly and diligently while all the chaos reigns about her but that really sums up our office team at the current time if I'm honest - I promise their professional front will return by next week once everything is in its proper place, they all know what each button operates and they find where the coffee's been packed!!

The week began with our intrepid mathematicians, Shania and Alfie F from year 5 and Mitchell and Conor from year 6 visiting the Mawney Foundation School for a Maths Challenge Day. Mrs Kerr whisked them away for a stimulating day full of number challenges and tangram puzzles and they returned keen to set up some testing tasks for their classmates. Library Lady, Miss Scourfield, came to visit us to award with medals those children who had continued to read throughout the summer. It makes me so proud to see that group growing larger and larger year on year.

Our new topic-based curriculum continues to go down a storm with your children and Year 2's topic, Land Ahoy, incorporated a very dramatic lesson about Captain James Cook. When asked if anyone knew any interesting facts about Captain Cook, Bobby's (2A) hand shot up in the air and he proudly announced that Captain Cook's first name was 'Edward'. Miss Howard quietly pointed out to Bobby that 'Edward' was, in fact, the first name of Captain Blackbeard!! But we shouldn't judge - it's easy to get your Captains mixed up when you're just 6 years old!! The children enjoyed watching the play and then they acted out their own drama about life out at sea – it looked remarkably like my own life at the present moment!! Can't wait till those rocky waves stop knocking me off balance! And walking along the Year 3 corridor, I was astounded to see a plethora of mini iron men! The children have been reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and have been inspired to build their own iron men. Well, if I didn't know better, I'd think these models had walked straight out of the novel – they are blindingly good. Our Year 3 teachers were going to send them home with the children but I've persuaded them to put them on display for Parents' Evening just after half term so you can all have a look at the high standard of work that's being produced in year 3.

And while we're on the subject of high standards, Ms Lawson brought me Marnie's and James' stories about Hansel and Gretel which they'd completed as part of their Enchanted Woodland topic and, not only was the text and presentation out of this world, the children talked most eloquently about the pros and cons of eating a human being – gotta say, it was quite a surreal conversation to have with a 5 year old! Now, I know I shouldn't have favourites and I promise, it's not a trait I admire in myself but, when Mrs LeMay brought Olivia (1B) and Liam (1B) down to my office with **their** work on Hansel and Gretel, I did struggle to be objective and fair in my fondness for the work. As I tucked into the very sweet, candy-covered gingerbread house that Olivia and Liam had made, I struggled not to be biased!!! Talking of food, our cooking club made chicken nuggets and chips on Thursday and, whilst I may bemoan the unhealthy sound of such snacks, there's nothing better to return to after attending a long and boring course on Finance – thanks to Jone and Benita who pointed me in the right direction to snaffle a few of the leftover treats!!

This week, all our children have been working on their 'Innovate' projects and, as part of their 'Blue Abyss' topic, Year 4's Innovate project was to design and make a 3D piece of art work – well, I'm so proud that our drive to reduce the amount of plastic that gets caught up in our oceans has inspired Year 4 to design a huge 3D art sculpture promoting the cause. You can see it in all its glory on Parents' Evening but, for now, have a sneak preview below – you'll be blown away! And talking of awe and wonder, I really have to mention the excitement and amazement I saw on the faces of 2A last week as they discovered all by themselves how to make a circuit to light up a bulb. The beauty of a child's face when they discover something new is the reason I love my job so much.

This week, our parent governor, along with a band of other parents, ran the first coffee morning of the term. I donated some French Fancies as I figured there'd be quite a few toddlers there and a good French Fancy never stays around for long when there's toddlers about but, when I arrived, I found **one** toddler amongst a sea of babies – French Fancies don't go down well with babies so we adults had to demolish them (otherwise they'd have gone off, so I was told)! It was lovely to take some time out to chat with parents over coffee and cake. Next week, I hope to see even more of you – but I can't guarantee a repeat of the French Fancy, I'm afraid – that was strictly a one-off!!

Thursday saw a sea of yellow descend upon the school as we raised money for Mental Health Awareness. I had a very interesting conversation with one of our year 6 boys who told me that 'wearing yellow day' hadn't turned out to be as bad as he was expecting. On further discussion, he revealed to me that non-uniform days are often spent listening to his peers boasting about the expensive designer clothes they're wearing but Mental Health Awareness day didn't give him that same feeling of not fitting in or not matching up to others. Well, if ever there was validation for my obsession with uniform (as one year 5 child described my insistence on uniform compliance), **that** is surely it! This week also saw our little ones learn to ride their bikes and the determination of some of those children puts us adults to shame – they certainly showed our core value of Aspiration as they struggled to wend their way around the bendy course! And Aspiration was also on show this week as our students put themselves up for Student Council Elections. Voting took place today so we'll expect the results on Monday. And, I don't think I'm going too far when I say that I'm sure that the elected student coucillors will do a better job of making things happen than our current MPs trying to sort out Brexit!!

And, on that somewhat controversial note, I wish you all a wonderful weekend full of Aspiration and Innovation – try making a 3D model or two or venture into an enchanted forest for a family bike-ride. With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 4th October 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	98.4
Year 1	97.9
Year 2	96.3
Year 3	96.3
Year 4	97.5
Year 5	97.2
Year 6	94.8

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

6A - 98.7%

**Overall School Attendance
(year to date) – 97.1%**



Star Of The Week

1A: Alexander
1B: Andrei
2A: Pavel
2B: Brody
3A: Parker
3B: Karina
4A: Marie
4B: Shaun
5A: Eshan
5B: Hayden
6A: Johnny
6B: Cameron
6C: Jack

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.

If you do have reason to come in during the daytime, please remember to use the Rainsford Way entrance only between 9.30am and 3pm.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Writer of the Week

1A: Arina
1B: Darcie
2A: Katie
2B: Patricia
3A: Luca
3B: Lexi R
4B: Harvey
5A: Mahdhe
5B: Riley
6A: Johnny
6B: Kai



Coffee Mornings take place on Wednesday mornings from 9am-10am in the Oak Room.

We ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p each week. If there is any money left over at the end of the term this will be donated to the PTA Playground Fund.

Please come along and join other parents for a chat and a cuppa.

On 30th October the School Nurse will be available during the Coffee Morning as a drop in and particularly to discuss any issues parents are having with toilet training their children.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who wore yellow on Thursday and donated money for the mental health charity Young Minds.

A total of £194.42 was raised.



Year 4's Innovate Project



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 14th October

6pm-7pm EYFS Prospective Parents' Meeting

Wednesday 16th October

2.30pm Year 5 Harvest Assembly (year 5 parents invited to attend)

Thursday 17th October

PTA Spooky Disco

Monday 21st – Friday 25th October

Half Term Holiday

Monday 28th October

Year 3 Ancient Greece Workshop
Year 5 visit to The Royal Observatory

Tuesday 29th October

3.30pm - 6pm Parents' Evening

Wednesday 30th October

4pm - 7pm Parents' Evening

Thursday 31st October

EYFS Prospective Parents Meeting

Monday 4th – Friday 8th November

Stay & Learn Week

Tuesday 5th November

PTA Firework Spectacular

Wednesday 6th November

9.30am EYFS Phonic Workshop for Parents

Thursday 7th November

9:30 am Parents Restorative Behaviour Meeting

11th – 15th November

Anti-Bullying Week

11th November

2.30pm Remembrance Service

sQuid

The amount already owed on sQuid for school dinners this week is currently **£111**.

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.

Parents' Restorative Behaviour Meeting

Did you ever wish you knew how to stop that challenging behaviour your child displays from time to time? Well, as a Restorative school, we are training our staff, pupils and parents in the Restorative Approach to managing challenging behaviour. Come along on 7th November from 9.00-11.30am to find out all about it.