



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 18th October 2019 Issue Number 6
Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of half term! And what a crazy half term it's been with all the building disasters and phone catastrophes – but we're back on track and things are finally reverting to normal. I have to say, there's a jovial element to the office staff now – where once (inside the cupboard) I was met with grumpy grimaces and sullen scowls, I now walk into loud laughter and sunny smiles – a much better atmosphere in which to spend our 50+ hours a week!!

Monday saw the first of our Prospective Parent Tours which was very well received despite the fact that we have bare walls and still look a little like a hospital along the corridors. Ms Browne and I have been spending our evenings researching display boards, door numbers and a variety of furniture pieces for our new Reception but it all takes a long time (and a lot of money – so I'm hoping the Trust are feeling generous!!!) We had a few concerns over the closure of the Barton Road Gate during the day but I think most parents now understand the safeguarding element to the whole project.

So, here's the thing, I'm now on such high alert for detecting strange sounds or foreign smells that I'm jumping up and down out of my chair several times a week, running out to see what's gone wrong now. This week, there have been plenty of sensory emergencies to keep me fit! You may have noticed that your children have been coming out of school particularly red-faced recently as the heating has been on full blast in school and I've been running up and down to the boiler room checking the heating thermostat and checking the timer to try and understand why. Mr Dalton assured me that the heating was going off at 10 am but that the radiators were just retaining their heat. Well, for a few days, my naivety got the better of me and I actually believed him. By the time we'd all sweated several pounds away, though, I realised that there was something terribly wrong and I just turned off the heating altogether - so our next project would seem to be to fix the heating thermostat and timer!

Having sorted out the over-heating (albeit temporarily), I settled down to get on with my work when there came the most pungent and noxious smell from outside my office. At the same moment, Mrs LeMay knocked on my door and asked me to help her investigate a worrying smell – so there we were, the two of us, walking up and down the infant corridors sniffing the air like a couple of bloodhounds. Nothing revealed itself and yet the smell lingered. I returned to my office intending to file a report of yet another mysterious problem with the building after finishing my work in hand. Now, poor Mrs Waddington has been quite unwell this week so, that afternoon, I decided to visit her class just to see how they were getting on and, as I opened her classroom door, I was almost knocked out by the putrid odour! 4A didn't even look up as I entered the room, they were so engrossed in their study of what looked to me like a giant lobster and, when I say 'giant', I mean 3 or 4 times the size of a very large lobster! The claws on this creature wouldn't have seemed out of place in the Cretaceous Period! The children looked excited, engrossed and thoroughly enthused about this activity while Mrs Hart walked around carrying the unnaturally large shellfish looking bedraggled, revolted and thoroughly nauseated. My heart ached for her..... but not enough to keep me in that room for any longer than a few seconds!! Silver lining, though – I think we can safely say we'd discovered the origin of the mysterious aroma permeating the halls of Harrow Lodge!

I'm telling you, these new topics are throwing everything at the children, giving them experiences they'd never have in their ordinary lives. Goodness knows what's in store for those Year 4s next half term – their topic is 'Burps, Bottoms and Bile' – good luck with **that** one, Mrs Hart!

So, I was finally able to settle down to work when a huge cacophony of noise broke the silence of my office. Up I jumped (*again*) and out I went to investigate – this time it just *had* to be murder if the shouts and screams were anything to judge by but, oh no, it appeared to be some sort of frantic race as I witnessed little Year 2 bodies shooting past me, no interest in stopping but waving what appeared to be maps in my face as they sped past shouting indiscriminate words like, 'treasure', 'long beards' and 'clues'. Now, I know what you're all thinking – that no proper teaching ever seems to go on in this school but you'd be wrong, you see, because right there, amidst all that excitement and chaos, those year 2 children were learning to read and follow a real map (now don't tell me *that's* not a skill worth learning!!!) Turns out they weren't looking for long beards, though. Apparently, **Captain** Longbeard had hidden some treasure around the school – who'd have thought?

So the next extremely disconcerting sound to greet my ears filled me with consternation – rattle, rattle, clink, clank coming down the corridor (I thought the Tin Man was about to enter my office). The door was flung open and 3 very proud looking Year 3 children strode inside and said, "Mrs Law thought you'd want to see the next great fashion statement about to hit the streets of Milan!" And, boy, was she right. The Iron Man topic had struck gold once more, sorry I mean silver, no I mean metal! Leah, Prakhar and Luca swanned around my office as if it were the London catwalk showing off their amazing, brightly coloured, scrap-metal necklaces but there was nothing scrappy about *these* artistic masterpieces– clearly, they'd been through a long process of 'design, refine and create' culminating in 60 miniature works of art! Well, on top of all this wonderful work, I simply have to share with you the most beautiful, intricate and delicate houses built in Year 1 – fairy houses - and, when you see them on Parents' Evening, you'll want to live in one of them – they're **that** good. The Year 1 Homework projects have just blown me away – home-made books about Forests of the World, 3D Hedgehog portraits, Woodland Project Books, Riddles and Poems and a plethora of nature-inspired art sculptures. Do check out the KS1 Hall on Parents' Evening where they'll all be on display – it'll blow your mind!! On Wednesday, our Year 5 children paid homage to the humble harvest and presented us with a wonderful performance of songs and original poems and I was as proud as Punch to see such a polished recital. A huge thanks to Mrs Byrne and Miss Cormenzana who worked extremely hard to put the presentation together amidst all the other work they had to keep going! And a big thank you to all of you who donated food for our Harvest Celebration – there are so many less fortunate people who will be helped by your kind generosity. And another great sporting outing for us this week as Mr Charlee took our Cross Country team out to their first competition. We haven't got the full results yet but let's just say that Mr Charlee had a big cheesy grin on his face when he returned! Full results to follow soon. And to top off the week, we were all frightened out of our wits as wicked witches, gruesome ghouls and scary skeletons danced the night away at the PTA Spooky Disco. Judging from the happy faces leaving the disco, I would say a wickedly wonderful time was had by all.

On a final note, I'd like to share with you a wonderful observation made by one of our Year 4 girls who used her understanding of using root words to help her work out the meanings of new words when the class were asked what they thought the School Pastoral Team did as their job. With the beautiful innocence that comes with being just 8 years old, she quite confidently whispered to her partner, "I think they're in charge of making Pasta!" If only that were one of the jobs in school!!! And on that note, I wish you all a wonderful week – have fun, play hard and eat lots of pasta!

With kind regards and best wishes,
Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 11th October 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	94.8
Year 1	92.8
Year 2	95.9
Year 3	97.1
Year 4	96.9
Year 5	95.2
Year 6	94.8

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

2A - 99%

**Overall School Attendance
(year to date) – 96.8%**

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.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

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. The Barton Road entrance is only open for morning and afternoon drop off/pick up and will not be opened at any other time.

Thank you for your co-operation.



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.

sQuid

The amount already owed on sQuid for school dinners this week is currently **£91.75**.

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.



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 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

9am-10am School Nurse attending Coffee Morning
4pm - 7pm Parents' Evening

Thursday 31st October

1.30pm – 2.30pm EYFS Prospective Parents Meeting

w/c 4th November

Stay & Learn Week

Tuesday 5th November

PTA Firework Spectacular Doors open at 6:00 pm

Wednesday 6th November

9.30am EYFS Phonic Workshop for Parents
Year 4 Cinema Trip
2:00 pm Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 7th November

9:00-11:30 am Parents Restorative Behaviour Meeting
Year 3 Cinema Trip

Friday 8th November

Year 1 Cinema Trip
Y4 Body Dome

11th – 15th November

Anti-Bullying Week

11th November

2.30pm Remembrance Service
6:30 pm PTA Meeting in The Harrow

12th November

Year 5 Cinema Trip

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

MONDAY 21st – FRIDAY 25th October
Back to school Monday 28th October



Welcome back to the start of a new school year. We have lots of exciting events coming up for your children. We are always in need of more helpers, so if you can help at our events then please do come and let us know.

PTA Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 5th November	Fireworks Spectacular
Friday 6th December	Christmas Bazaar
Friday 13th December	Film Night
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Parties
Wednesday 18th December	Whole School Panto visit
Thursday 19th December	Breakfast with Santa

We look forward to seeing more of you.

Miss Lawson
Chair of PTA