



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 4th October 2019 Issue Number 4

Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been quite an exciting time with one thing or another this week as yet more 'sensational starts' to topics have taken place. But the week kicked off very nicely with our MacMillan coffee afternoon on Monday. Miss B set up another fun-filled afternoon full of sticky buns and fruity cakes and I must say that you outdid yourselves this year with your tremendous donations of home-baked treats – I expect to see some of you on the bake-off next year if Monday's delights were anything to go by! Not so impressive were some of your estimates for the weight of the cake – how can one average cake elicit guesses ranging from 500g to 10kg? Congratulations go to Jone's mum (6C) who was not only star baker this week but also won the 'Guess the weight of the cake' competition with a remarkable 'spot-on' guess of 2.5 kg. Huge thanks to Mrs Millard for providing the sensational cake which must have been divine if it tasted as good as it looked! Thanks also to all those who helped in the organisation of the event and those who helped to make it so successful by turning up and joining us for a natter and a nibble. It was lovely to be able to chat to so many of you on an informal basis. A total of £191.64 was raised and the staff made short work of the leftovers which were devoured the following day for a further shared donation.

This week the tiny patter of little feet graced my office on several occasions as Reception children visited me on their trips around the school to discover what we all do in our jobs on a daily basis (Ms Pockett had to ask me to stop when I got to number 150 on my list of jobs with no immediate end in sight!) but I was rather disappointed to discover that the main thing these young padawans remembered about my job was that I turn on the lights in the school first thing in the morning – please don't be fooled if your child reported back to you that *that* was what the Head Teacher does in her job! But my favourite moment was when Ms Browne was talking about *her* duties as deputy head and she mentioned that if I was ever away, she would step into my shoes for the day; well, David A (R1) looked down at Ms Browne's size 6 feet with utter scepticism forcing poor Ms Browne to try to explain that she didn't *literally* try to fit into my size 4 shoes – try explaining *that* idiom to a 4 year old without losing the will to live! But it was a very interesting activity for our reception children – all part of our new Cornerstones Curriculum which is proving to be a real hit with all the children. Do visit our website and have a sneaky peek at all the exciting activities planned for the term in each year group.

I've managed to visit a *few* classes this week to see the great work that's been going on and Mrs Law's class, in particular, was a real treat seeing the huge difference in handwriting in just a few weeks – our new handwriting drive is already paying dividends.

Wednesday saw the first of our special theatre trips where children got the amazing opportunity to see 'The Lion King' in the West End. Now, you may not know this but Mrs Hak in the office is, like Miss Harrison, a huge fan of musical theatre and so she jumped at the opportunity to join the group as a volunteer helper on the trip. In hindsight, I suppose it was cruel to let her go along under the misconception that she would get to see the play when, in reality, she saw more of the toilets than the stage – still, apparently she enjoyed the opening scene before the trips to the lavatories began in earnest!!

Back on home turf, we experienced our *own* drama on Wednesday morning just before school began (although it was very much NOT of the musical kind!). I stood on Barton Road Gate as usual (bemoaning the premature dawn of wintry weather) when I became acutely aware of a certain commotion taking place over by the Year 1 classrooms. I couldn't quite see what was going on but you get a sense for unfolding drama in this job and, as soon as the gates closed, I decided to investigate the incriminating scene. And what a scene it was!! Clustered around one of our football nets stood a posse of parents and a stampede of staff (ok, a bit of a stretch at alliteration there!) and, as I moved closer, I could see that the net had been decimated. Of course, my first thought was that intruders had paid us a vandalising visit in the night but, on closer scrutiny, I was aghast to see a frightened and badly injured fox cub huddled up in a cage and Mrs Rice running over with a blanket to cover the cage. Apparently, Ethan (4A) had spotted the cub trapped in the football net and had alerted the other parents and children to the fox's plight. A flurry of activity ensued to free the terrified creature but every attempt to loosen the net resulted in the netting tightening further around the cub's neck. Miss Goodwin, Thomas' dad (R2) and Hope's mum (R2) were the heroes of the morning and, together, they held the fox and cut through the netting to release it and keep it safe in a cage until it could be taken, by Hope's mum, to the South Essex Wildlife Hospital in Orsett where the cub was tended to. In order to seize the day and use this catastrophe as a great learning opportunity, Mrs Harding and Miss Goodwin invited an RSPCA rep in to talk to the children about respect and empathy for animals – this resulted in a snail with a broken shell being placed on Miss Goodwin's desk the following day...awaiting a plaster!! A huge thank you to all the parents who stood in that freezing weather making call after call trying to locate an agency that might come and collect the poor vixen cub. We've since moved the net which was standing close to a fox den on the KS1 field so, hopefully, no more animal mishaps will ensue on our turf!

Thursday saw our Year 4 children visit the Sealife Centre in London and that, too, brought its own dramas with the train home being cancelled owing to some fracas or other involving police and a couple of villains (you couldn't make this stuff up if you tried!!) Well, our poor year 4 children had to take 4 trains home instead of 1 and, believe me, changing trains and platforms with 60 excited 8 year olds is no mean feat. I *believe* all the children had a very enjoyable visit to the Sealife Centre but, since most of the talk once back home seemed to be about the police chase, it's not overwhelmingly clear! A big shout out to Laila (4A) who turned to Mrs Waddington before leaving and said, "Thank you so much for taking us to the Sealife Centre, Mrs Waddington. I had an amazing time". That, right there, is what we're aiming for in our Harrow Lodge children!

Phones are now receiving messages so we're a step closer to normality on the office front and the KS2 pegs have arrived – that'll be a long, slow process getting them all drilled in but at least we're on our way!!

And, another amazing achievement – our attendance has already broken through the 96% mark! Woohoo! Wait till Ofsted see *that!* I hope we can keep it up until the inspectors arrive after March – that's one box we can tick for a 'Good' judgement – no holidays between now and then *pleeeeeeease!*

And so, on that positive and uplifting note, I wish you all a wonderful weekend full of rainhats, wellies and umbrellas and several opportunities to jump in some puddles – go on, it's amazing how liberating it can be!

With kind regards and best wishes,
Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 27th September 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	87.8
Year 1	96.9
Year 2	99.5
Year 3	92.5
Year 4	96.4
Year 5	94.5
Year 6	97.9

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

6C - 100%

**Overall School Attendance
(year to date) – 96.2%**



Star Of The Week

1A: Leni Rae
1B: Tia
2A: Sofia
2B: Hannah
3A: Spencer
3B: Jorge
4A: Isabelle
4B: Harry
5A: Iriana
5B: Dia
6A: Ewan
6B: Freddie
6C: Jamie

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.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Writer of the Week

1A: Baris
2A: Iyaz
2B: Oscar
3A: Macy
3B: Scarlett
4A: Ellen
4B: Lenny
5A: Jessie
5B: Lou Lou
6A: Bogdan
6B: Ellie



Sarah Cole, our Parent Governor, is starting up a Coffee Morning on Wednesday mornings from 9am-10am in the Oak Room.

We will be asking 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.

We hope as many of you will be able to come along.

The first Coffee Morning will be starting next week

Wednesday 9th October

See you there!



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

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 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

Parents' Evening

Wednesday 30th October

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

EYFS Phonic Workshop for Parents

sQuid

The amount already owed
on sQuid for school dinners
this week is currently
£77.70.

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.