



## Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term

13<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Issue Number 13

Visit [www.harrowlodgeprimary.com](http://www.harrowlodgeprimary.com) to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week! Drama should be our middle name here at Harrow Lodge Primary – there's never a dull moment. But, before discussing this week's exciting events, I really must mention the unmentionable Rocking Reindeer episode! As many of you have pointed out, my efforts to stay on the reindeer have been widely shared so you will have seen my very humbling attempt at riding that reindeer. I still insist that 36.3 seconds was a world record at the time of the attempt despite most children beating that record after me. I like to think that I simply set the benchmark for later competitors and I purposely set it low in order to encourage further attempts to beat me!! You may wish to believe that or not – as you please!! However, the real win out of this was the £500 raised from that rodeo ride for the PTA and I'd like to thank all you lovely parents for donating your money in order to witness my fight for survival. And, in answer to the question many of you have been asking me - no, I will **not** be jumping out of a plane for the next fund-raising event!!!

All in all, the Christmas Bazaar was the best ever and raised a whopping £1600. Well done and thank you to everyone. I've asked the play equipment company to draw up a Phase 2 plan so, hopefully, we'll have something to view some time in the New Year.

Tuesday was an interesting morning as many of you will have witnessed first hand. It was 8:15am; I, myself, was just pulling up at a venue in Chelmsford for a course when I received a panicky phone call from Mrs Browne, "The fire alarm is going off and the alarm service man is asking me for a code to deactivate it....do you have a code?????" Well, of course, I had no such code (other than the one we use for practice drills and *that* one wasn't working!) so poor Mrs Browne had to rush around closing gates (preventing many of you from entering the playground) and making sure everyone was out of the building safely while trying desperately to locate a code of some kind to stop the bells from ringing! Unfortunately, the code wasn't discovered until the Firemen turned up (Mrs Browne wasn't complaining **then** was she?) and were able to disarm the alarm. No fire was discovered so it was just our usual habit of fire-alarms having lives of their own! As far as I'm aware, all correct practices were carried out and normal service was resumed in a calm and efficient manner – well that's what Mrs Browne *told* me at any rate!!!!

Tuesday afternoon saw our first EYFS and Y1 Nativity show. Well....what can I say? These nativities always hold the potential for disaster and amusing calamities but, in all honesty, those occasions occur quite rarely. Usually, we simply witness the most delightfully cute interpretation of the Christmas story delivered by a group of children mostly shouting, rather than singing, the songs. This particular performance, though, was one of those rare occasions where misfortune struck as one of our adorable 6 year olds was overcome with nerves and was sick all over Mrs LeMay as he stepped onto the stage. Now, I know I always say how our teachers go above and beyond the call of duty (and they *really* do!) but this was another level as Mrs LeMay stoically sat there as the vomit ran down her leg and across her iPad, Miss Goodwin kept the rest of the children focused on her so they didn't scream or get upset, Mrs Ward caught the rest of the sick in a shepherd's headdress and Mrs Stanley whisked away our young, stage-frightened boy to clean him up and comfort him! A good job, extremely well executed, I would say. The following morning, the Nativity was repeated for parents with toddlers and the production went off without a hitch.

A wonderful, warm and moving start to the Christmas season. Well done to all the little stars and a huge thank you to all the teachers and TAs who worked tirelessly to put the show together. A big thank you, also, to Henry (R1) who saved the day by matching every Christmas jumper to the child who owned it! Miss Goodwin was beside herself when she saw that her class had all thrown their Christmas jumpers in a pile on a table and none of them were named! But Henry was able to match every jumper to the correct child! How's that for a talent? Well done, Henry!

It was lovely, also, to see Reverend Julian once more who came along to watch the nativity and invited us all to the Christmas Services at Holy Cross Church. He told me that he's been visiting schools for over 20 years in his role as a minister and our children are the nicest children he's come across. He thinks our school simply radiates love and kindness which made my heart swell with pride.

Year 2 held their Christmas Carol performance this week and I was blown away by the standard of singing. Those children have got some amazing voices – not a flat note between them (which is rare in ones so young) – I can see a choir forming!! A beautiful performance of songs which followed the Christmas story and culminated in songs we sing to celebrate Christmas. I have to mention Freddie (2B) who portrayed Santa in the most perfect fashion with the greatest Santa wave known to man!! It was a truly delightful performance and a huge well done to all the children as well as the teachers who put the whole piece together. I really do need to mention Miss Wisbey who, besides working for Santa as one of his part-time elves, also stepped up as a last-minute music director. She did a sterling job despite having to work with sub-standard tools (the CD player wasn't functioning according to the rules on that day!). Well done, Miss Wisbey!

Thursday was a bonus holiday for most of us – I did pop into school but not till lunch time so I grabbed a very welcome, mid-week lie-in! And, after a desperate, last-minute plea for help which was really just too late in the day, we received no takers but Mr Welch whizzed around the school putting up all our new display boards so the school will soon be back to looking like a school rather than a hospital!!

Today was a feast of Christmasness! We all dressed in our festive best with Christmas jumpers galore and made our annual trip to Holy Cross Church where we heard the Christmas story anew and sang our Christmas songs, followed by a Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Yes, I know we're an educational establishment but this is all part of our children's education as they learn what it means to be British with our very British traditions!

And so we roll into the final week of the term with even more Christmas events – the great British Panto and Christmas parties as well as Breakfast with Santa and Carols round the Christmas tree. St Mary's school, just round the corner to us, all went to the pantomime last week and I've been reliably informed that we have a wonderful treat to look forward to. And so, as you rush off to do your last-minute Christmas shopping this weekend, I leave you with this thought,

**"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."**

Have a wonderful weekend full of shopping and wrapping and list-making and a lot *more* time put aside for family fun and cosiness.

With kind regards and best wishes,  
Mrs Searle

## Attendance

w/e 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
R1	97.6
R2	93.2
1A	97.8
1B	92.9
2A	97.9
2B	95.9
3A	97.6
3B	97.4
4A	99.3
4B	91.1
5A	99.3
5B	94.3
6A	97.3
6B	90.4
6C	95.4

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

**4A & 5A - 99.3%**

Overall School Attendance  
(year to date) – **96.3%**

## DIARY DATES

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

9.15am Y2 Nativity to Parents

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

PTA Christmas Parties

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Whole school Pantomime trip

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

PTA Breakfast with Santa  
2.30pm Carols around the Christmas Tree  
(all welcome)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**2pm School finishes for Christmas**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

INSET DAY

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

Back to School

## **Congratulations .....**

**to Josie in 6C who won the hampers for the 'Guess the Teacher' competition at the Christmas Bazaar last Friday.**

## BREAKFAST CLUB

Just a reminder that children attending Breakfast Club should arrive by 8.15am at the latest, which is when the gates are closed.

Thank you.

## **1<sup>st</sup> HORNCHURCH BROWNIES**

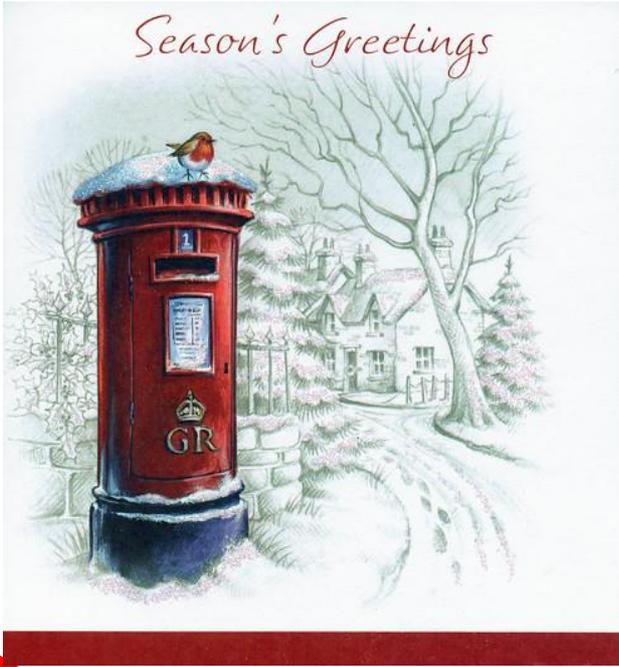
There are currently spaces for 7 to 10-year-old girls to join this Brownie Unit.

If you would like further details please contact

Tanya Maidment at

[tanyamaidment28@gmail.com](mailto:tanyamaidment28@gmail.com)

## Christmas Card Post Boxes



If your child wishes to send Christmas cards to their friends in school, they can post them in the School Post Boxes. These are located in the Foyer and in the KS1 ramp area.

Please ensure they write both the recipient's name and class on the envelope.

The Year 6 Prefects will be emptying the boxes on a regular basis and delivering the cards to the classes.

## CHANGES IN CONTACT DETAILS

Please remember to inform the school office if you change your contact telephone numbers or have moved house. It is vital we keep our records up to date.

Please use the Change of Detail forms which can be found in the Foyer.

Thank you.

## Drop Box

A 'Drop Box' for lunch boxes, water bottles and all ad hoc items which otherwise might be handed into the school office during the day, will be placed inside the Rainsford Way entrance every day. We have taken this measure for the convenience of parents and to alleviate the number of visitors coming into the school office. Any item you leave in the box must be labelled with your child's name and class.

# Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

# School will finish at 2pm.

## sQuid

The amount already owed on sQuid for school dinners this week is currently **£138!**

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.

There is an auto top-up facility available on sQuid. If you need help setting this up, please come to the school office.

**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/login?destination=give-your-views>

## FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOL

The Sun has teamed up with HarperCollins to provide primary schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland a free pack of 106 books, worth more than £600!

Tokens will be printed in The Sun and The Sun on Sunday until Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020, with bonus tokens printed on ad hoc days.

If any of you buy these newspapers we would be very grateful if you could let us have the tokens! Please send them in with your child or hand them in on the gate in the morning.

**Thank you in anticipation for your help!**



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:

<del>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</del>	<del>Film Night</del> <b>POSTPONED</b>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Parties
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Panto visit
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Breakfast with Santa

Payments for events can be made on

[www.pta-events.co.uk/harrowlodgeprimarypta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/harrowlodgeprimarypta)

or at the Uniform Shop (located in the Foyer) on  
Mondays & Thursdays, 3pm-3.30pm.

We look forward to seeing more of you.

Miss Lawson  
Chair of PTA

Coffee Morning



**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.