



## Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term

20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Issue Number 14

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we've made it to the end of the term and for **us**, it's a sigh of relief while for **you**, it's time to put on your armour as you face two weeks of mayhem and madness such is the Christmas season with over-excited children usually high on chocolate and cherryade! It's been quite the term for us with our new curriculum package causing excitement and delight (and *that* was just the teachers!) along with all the chaos of the new build that brought consternation and bewilderment to many a child and *all* the office ladies! Ms Lawson has made it to the end of term without losing her mind (although I *did* find her rocking in the corner of Santa's Grotto this morning in his rocking chair – she insisted she was just keeping it warm for him!) but she still hasn't made it back into her classroom as the floor has yet to be re-laid!

So this week saw the last of our Nativity plays which delighted parents and staff alike – those Year 2 children never fail to surprise me with their ability to learn words and perform like stars. Our wonderful PTA have become part of the fittings and fixtures this week with so many Christmas Events organised, the first of which was the children's Christmas party. Well.....hmmm....what can I say? Did they have a good time? Yes! Did they enjoy the music and the food? Yes! Did the KS2 children turn up fuelled with something akin to sugar-topped jet-power? YES!!! My goodness, what did you feed those children before they came back for the party? They were bombing all over the place and, although they were enjoying every second of it, our poor PTA were run ragged trying to make sure everything was under control. 20 minutes in and a decision was made by the DJ to stop the head-banging music (which wasn't helping the situation to be perfectly honest) and to start playing some musical games. Once he took matters in hand like that, our PTA could relax and enjoy the smiley faces! A great time was had by all and I would imagine your little cherubs slept well that night!

Wednesday was our big day of the year – we faced it with trepidation; 'twas a feat only a fool would attempt – to take a whole school of children into Hornchurch, some on public transport, some on foot, to experience the wonder of the Great British Pantomime in a Great British theatre! So, the organisation of such a herculean task was a major operation and Ms Lawson and Mrs Kersey outdid themselves in a superhuman fashion by trying to ensure that every single child got the opportunity to come along with their school family to the theatre. We are unbelievably lucky to have such a dedicated duo (much like Batman and Robin) who work their socks off to achieve great things for our children – and, Holy Moly (Batman reference!), did they ever deliver with this event! First of all, not only were *all* our children super well-behaved on the journeys there and back, we even had 4 separate elderly adults *comment* on the excellent behaviour and good manners of our infants – “a true credit to your school community” was one comment. Another adult asked the name of our school because he'd never seen such well-behaved children when out in a large group. But that's not even the best part of the story! Our children moved the theatre staff to tears with their awe and wonder when entering the building and their whoops of joy and cries of, “He's behind you!” as they joined in with all the fun and

frolics of the show. Evie (R2) even modelled the dance moves for Robin Hood's song to the entire theatre. This was truly an awesome event, made even more special by the fact that the whole school went together as a close and united community. More than half of our children had never been to a theatre before, let alone a pantomime, and to give them that opportunity and to see their faces light up with sheer glee and enchantment as they talked about it, is worth all the tea in China! This is **exactly** why being a teacher is the very *best* job in the whole world!

Santa paid us another visit on Thursday morning (although this time he left his reindeer at home with Mrs Clause) and the children were treated to a scrummy breakfast of croissants with hot chocolate and marshmallows followed by a story-time with the great man himself. The atmosphere tingled with festive spirit as Christmas music played out while the children danced and sang along after finishing their morning feast. As Santa left school at the end of the morning, he gave me a nod and a wink and a cheery smile saying, "Did you know, Mrs Searle, that the children in this school are a credit to you and their parents? I've visited many schools for breakfast, as you can see from my rotund belly, but no children have made me feel as welcome as yours!" And, with that parting shot, he disappeared ~~up the chimney~~ (sorry, I'm getting carried away!) out the door, off to visit another school and another set of beautiful children (not as beautiful as *ours*, though!).

Thursday afternoon was set to be another brilliant Christmas event as we prepped the playground for our annual 'Carols round the Christmas Tree' only to be thwarted by our great British weather. Now, I love the fact that we live in a 'green and pleasant land' (answers on a postcard if you can identify that reference!) and I know our greenery is a direct result of our high levels of rainfall but when that impacts on our plans to get festive round a Christmas tree, I have to confess that I'm not quite so happy about it! And I know it spoils the day for many of you as well. And I'm truly sorry that I had to call a stop to it but, with many of our children without hoods to their coats, I couldn't risk them getting ill just before 'the most wonderful time of the year' (more postcard answers please!). So, I had to make the call and some parents didn't get the cancellation message so they, of course, had to be let inside out of the rain. Now, we had no idea how it was going to work out with the whole school in the hall standing round a Christmas tree – 'would there be room?' was our first concern but we needn't have worried – as it happened, there was plenty of room and a lot more besides for parents to join us. We couldn't have known that before which is why I cancelled parent visitors but, now I know, we won't be cancelling parents joining us for any of these 'standing events' – who knew that standing children would take up about half the space of 'sitting' children? And the singing was amazing, putting us all into a real Christmas spirit. A big thank you to Mr Welch, who carried the tree from the hall to the playground, from the playground back to the hall and then into the KS2 hall at the end of the day. What a trooper! And a further thank you to Mrs Rice, Miss Batt, Miss Harrison. Mrs Waddington and Millie Mae who all helped to set up the dining hall in the most decorative manner.

And today, some classes decided to have class Christmas parties just to make sure that every child experiences the full extravaganza that is the Christmas Season so it's been slightly on the noisy side as I walked the corridors today. But the atmosphere has been kind, loving and happy – just what the season of goodwill should be all about.

As the term now comes to an end, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support to making our school a great place to be and to thank you for your most generous presents and cards. And as I wish you a very Happy Holiday, I leave you with this final thought,

***"Christmas is not so much about opening our presents  
as opening our hearts."***

With kind regards and best wishes and a very merry Christmas,  
Mrs Searle

## Attendance

w/e 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
R1	96.5
R2	94.5
1A	92.9
1B	96.4
2A	95.7
2B	96.1
3A	99.6
3B	93.5
4A	95.7
4B	93.3
5A	97.1
5B	94.2
6A	96.6
6B	91.8
6C	97.9

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

**3A - 99.6%**

**Overall School Attendance (year to date) – 96.1%**

## DIARY DATES

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

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**  
Back to School

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**  
Year 5 trip to London Zoo

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**  
Year 2 trip to Leeds Castle

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**  
Maths Competition – Explore Learning  
Year 5 – Art Attack at Hornchurch High

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January**  
Years 1 & 2 – Road Safety Show

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**  
Year 3 – Zoolab

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**  
Year 1 – London Riverboat Trip



**We wish you a  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year**



**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>

# **OLIO The Food Sharing App**

Share more.  
Waste less.

One of our parents, Yvonne Pollard, has made us aware of this app where you can give and get surplus food for free. Yvonne is actually a volunteer who helps collect and distribute food.

## **What is OLIO?**

OLIO is a free app connecting neighbours with each other, and volunteers with local businesses, so food can be shared instead of thrown away.

## **Why use OLIO?**

### **Fight food waste**

Homes in the UK waste over 25% of their weekly grocery shop, food which could have been shared, eaten and enjoyed.

### **Meet your neighbours**

Turn strangers into friends, by sharing food with your community.

### **Choose who you share with**

Check out a user's profile and star rating before sharing with them.

Why not download the app and find out more. Please share this information with your friends and family so we can reach people who could benefit from this service.