



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term

29th November 2019

Issue Number 11

Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the end of yet another week. I'm ageing by the minute here – the weeks go by so quickly! It's been a really quiet week this week – and by quiet, I don't mean that nothing much has happened; I mean it's been really *quiet* (as in, not very noisy!). Yes, it's been Test week! The week before we start on Christmas preparations (although I *have* heard the distinct sound of bleating sheep coming from the hall so I have a sneaky feeling that the infants have started their preparations a little early!) And that would also explain why, when passing the hall today, I heard Mrs Lawson say, with a slight air of frustration, "Would the trees *please* stop talking!" Now, either the Nativity practices have begun or Mrs Lawson has finally lost her sanity owing to the constant moving around of classrooms! Miss Goodwin gave another wonderful masterclass on phonics and maths in the Early Years on Monday evening and, although it was a small but select audience, it was pleasing that we could offer those workshops in an evening for parents who work and can't make the day workshops.

This week was the turn of 2B, Miss B's class, to visit MOD pizza and there was a delightful buzz of excitement as they left school followed by an excited buzz of anticipation on their return as they awaited the moment of testing out their produce! No anchovies this week, I'm told. I popped in to see 2B later in the week to ask them about their pizzas but I was side-tracked by the children asking me riddles, showing off their use of conjunctions and ability to give detailed descriptions using an array of adjectives to describe a type of food. I have to say, the descriptions were original and imaginative and I was able to solve most of them.

Staff had their own classes this week as we were all trained in administering life-saving medication by the school nurse. Such training is vital in case of children suffering an allergic reaction to something or other dangerous attacks. We're lucky to be kept up to date with such training.

This week also saw the return of the indoor athletics championships. Years 5 & 6 did exceptionally well coming a close 3rd behind two primary schools whose names shall not be mentioned (I'm in my Harry Potter mode now). And our Years 3 & 4 children came 2nd, only narrowly missing out on 1st place to.... They that shall not be named! I've told Mr Charlee to spy on these schools to discover their training regimes and Mr Charlee told me that he wasn't about to be drawn into such underhand tactics but I noticed he was wearing a deerstalker hat while carrying a clay pipe and magnifying glass as he left school last night!!! Read into that what you will! But Mr Charlee, himself, flew the Harrow Lodge flag for us on Thursday as he entered the Havering teachers' javelin competition. Amidst a multitude of burly looking teachers sauntering up to the ~~oeh~~ javelin line thingy (I have **no** idea what I'm talking about!!), Mr Charlee stood, unassumingly, waiting for his turn while throws varied between 5 and 10 metres. But, when Mr Charlee threw the javelin, it took flight and crashed into the back wall of the 30 metre long hall – he didn't even break into a sweat and then he sauntered off with the trophy!!!

So, on my travels around the school this week, there were few classes that I could actually visit since I obviously didn't want to disturb children carrying out their termly tests but I did get to see a few sessions that were pretty exciting. Year 2 were getting dirty yet *again* making clay thumb pots this week, designing them and painting them. And, as I

slipped past year 2 in full swing with this art lesson, I was really surprised by how quiet the class were. To be honest, a teacher is always prepared for a noisy afternoon when art is on the timetable but the children in Year 2 were quiet as mice as they rolled out their clay, created a hole with their thumbs and moulded a pot shape around the hole. Tongues poked out of pursed lips as patterns were etched into the clay with fine tools and paint was carefully applied to the finished article. The concentration was so heavy, it was almost tangible! And *that's* why it was so quiet in year 2!

And what a warm feeling spread through my heart as I passed 3B's classroom one morning and saw all the children immersed in their reading books. What a joy to see so many heads buried deep in wondrous novel adventures. 3A meanwhile had me quaking in my boots as they informed me that they were making Pandora's Boxes. Now, I don't know if you know the legend of Pandora's Box but it was full of evil, nasty things like hatred and jealousy, unkindness and greed. I really didn't think this was an appropriate model to be constructing and yet the boxes looked so beautiful covered in gems and flowers, butterflies and lace and the atmosphere in the classroom was one of gentle calmness – not what you'd expect during an activity centred around misery! But Mrs Law put her arm around me and told me not to worry because 3A had decided to make Pandora's Boxes with a twist – *their* boxes were being filled with all things good and wonderful like happiness, kindness, joy and pleasure, friendship, love, compassion and care. Well, *that* was a relief! Beautiful boxes, inside and out.

Thursday brought me a fabulous treat when I was given the opportunity to teach Ms Browne's Year 1 Read Write Inc group. Those amazing children were able to blend and segment, read and spell some very tricky words but I was having too good a time with them and it was time that ran away with me! All of a sudden, Ms Browne was standing at the door telling me that my time was up and I was barely through half of my plan! Ms Browne was *not* a happy lady. "What have you been *doing*?" she asked and I had to be honest when I replied, "Having a great time!" I'd forgotten how rewarding teaching was as you see children making progress before your very eyes!

And, as for 4A, they were engrossed in ribbons of material making yards and yards of intestines, pockets of salivary glands and bags of stomachs as they represented the digestive system in art-form! And they could all tell me what each part of the digestive system was for – of course everyone's favourite was the anus but that's not a surprise now, is it?

So today, we had another non-uniform day in aid of the Christmas Bottle Stall and, as usual, you were generous to a fault and the bottles were overflowing (not literally, of course – that would just be weird!) That bottle stall at the Christmas Fair is going to be amazing!

And I had the privilege of leading the EYFS Star of the Week Assembly this week. Now, I know I'm no Miss Goodwin but I do love an EYFS assembly and I tried to fill in for her as best as I could and it was just wonderful to see all the great work the children had been doing over the week and hear about the kindness they'd shown to each other.

And so, as we come to the end of November (yikes!), I wish you all a great weekend full of Christmas trees and decorations and I leave you with a final thought – What is small and juicy, long and soft, goes well with a bun and ketchup makes it tasty? If you can't guess it, then I suggest you ask Logan (2B) but I think *that* description sells it well enough!

With kind regards and best wishes,
Mrs Searle

Attendance

w/e 22nd November 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
R1	92.8
R2	92.8
1A	98.7
1B	93.3
2A	94.5
2B	97.6
3A	95.9
3B	96.5
4A	99.7
4B	95.0
5A	97.7
5B	94.3
6A	97.7
6B	96.8
6C	95.8

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

4A - 99.7%

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



EYFS Awards

R1

Star of the week - Jude
Maths - Tyler
Reading - Yatniel
Handwriting - Diana
Kindness - Shakira

R2

Star of the week - Aiden
Maths - Michaela
Reading - Lily
Handwriting - Aronas
Kindness - Penelope

GENERAL ELECTION

The school will be closed on Thursday 12th December as it is being used as a Polling Station for the General Election.

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.

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 18th 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!

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.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas dinner slips must be returned by:

Monday 2nd December

No orders for Christmas Dinner can be made after this date, as cook has to place the food order.

Spare forms can be found in the Foyer.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Orders for Christmas cards need to be made via the website or by downloading a QR scanner app and scanning the code on the front of the card given out to your child.

sQuid

The amount already owed on sQuid for school dinners this week is currently **£154**.

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>



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.

DIARY DATES

2nd – 6th December

Anti-Bullying Week

2nd December

9am Years 1-4 Anti-Bullying Show
10.15am Years 5 & 6 Anti-Bullying Workshops
Book Fair after school
Deadline for Christmas Dinner orders

3rd December

Book Fair after school

Wednesday 4th December

Year 6 trip to the Ragged School Museum

Friday 6th December

Year 3 Greek Day
3.30pm PTA Christmas Bazaar

Tuesday 10th December

2pm EYFS & Year 1 Nativity to Parents

Wednesday 11th December

9.30am EYFS & Year 1 Nativity to Parents
2pm Year 2 Nativity to Parents

Thursday 12th December

General Election – school closed

Friday 13th December

Christmas Jumper Day
Holy Cross Church – Christmas Service
Christmas Dinner
PTA Film Night

Monday 16th December

9.15am Y2 Nativity to Parents

Tuesday 17th December

PTA Christmas Parties

Wednesday 18th December

Whole school Pantomime trip

Thursday 19th December

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

Friday 20th December

2pm School finishes for Christmas



Christmas Service at Holy Cross Church Friday 13th December

9.45am

If you are able to assist with walking the children to and from the church we would very much appreciate your help. Please let the office know. Thank you.

SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

**The School Uniform Shop
(located in the Foyer) is
open at the following times:**

**Mondays and Thursdays
3pm – 3.30pm**

Drop Box

A 'Drop Box' for lunchboxes, 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.



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:

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

Payments for events can be made on
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