



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 10th January 2020 Issue Number 13

Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I trust you all enjoyed the break as much as we teachers did – though I suspect it wasn't quite as restful for you as it was for us!! 2020 is an exciting year for us as it's the year we're hoping that Ofsted will declare us as a 'Good' school – to be clear, we **are** a good school but we just haven't got the rubber stamp from Ofsted yet!

But I really need to begin this week's newsletter with a shout out to all the parents who rallied round on Wednesday after school when the worst nightmare for any parent *actually* occurred for one of our own. One of our Reception children was collected by their adult at home time but, as the adult walked through the playground towards Rainsford Way gate, he suddenly noticed that his ward was no longer by his side. He returned to Miss Goodwin in the hope of finding him back at his class but he wasn't there. At this point, panic set in for our parent but I have to applaud our staff (teachers, TAs and office staff) who immediately set off to search for our little adventurer. Not only did staff step into gear but so did all the parents still left in the playground. Parents ran around the school grounds, staff ran around the school building, parents *and* staff went out on foot and in cars searching the streets for any sign of our missing child. Police were called and we heard the sirens within a couple of minutes. Parents came up to me one after the other offering assistance. Eventually our worried parent received a call from his sister to say that our little traveller had made his way home all on his own! Panic over and we all breathed a sigh of relief but many things were learned from this incident – firstly, children aren't frightened of going it alone and don't see the dangers of the big wide world so keep your eyes on them **all** the time; secondly, the police are amazing when it comes to swift response for missing children; thirdly, it's said that you find out who your real friends are when you're in a crisis and *you* all proved yourselves to be loyal and firm friends during this crisis and I feel honoured to have friends like you. Everyone just dropped everything and took action – although a horrible event, it certainly showed what incredible parents and staff we have and I'll never have to worry about a crisis again since I know you'll all be there for our community! A huge, huge heartfelt thanks.

So, this week got off to a great start – I reminded children about the importance of smart appearance and reiterated the necessity to wear correct school uniform at all times. One of our enterprising year 5 boys had caught me in the playground at lunch time with a bright idea to encourage children to keep up our high standards of uniform – he suggested that we carry out random spot-checks every now and then to check uniform compliance. Now, much as I'm against Gestapo-type techniques to enforce obedience, I do like to encourage an entrepreneurial spirit and this young boy had clearly thought out the logistics of this process with dedicated rigour as he spent a good ten minutes explaining to me exactly how to carry out said spot-check (only falling short of producing a rule book and a whip for use during the inspections!) So, in order not to thwart his robust plans or impede the growth of an emerging leader, I agreed to try out his idea (minus the 'stoning' and 'burning at the stake' for insubordinations!). So, next week, I'll be carrying out the spot-checks (in a very low-key and light-hearted fashion) but don't be surprised if your children suddenly take a greater interest in wearing the right uniform – actually, I suppose that's the whole point of it isn't it?

I talked about New Year's Resolutions with the children and suggested that a good habit to start forming would be to keep more informed about current affairs. I talked about BBC Newsround and how this was a good program to watch in order to hear about the main topics of the news. Well, imagine my shock and genuine pleasure when Katie (2A) marched into my office the next day with her own report on the week's news? She had written a journalist's report on the main stories of the day including the fires in Australia and Megan and Harry moving to Canada... hang on, what??? I wasn't aware of this – are you sure you've got this right Katie. Katie looked a little worried that her news might be wrong but she assured me that mummy had heard it on the news and had shared it with her. I remained sceptical but praised Katie for her initiative and journalistic drive. Well, all hail Katie's mummy is all I can say when I woke up this morning to the news that

Megan and Harry were stepping back from royal duties and moving to North America!!! Katie had, albeit unwittingly, furnished me with breaking news and I hadn't appreciated the significance of her report! Well done Katie!

Staying on the royal theme, we had our very own regal visitor this week in the form of Queen Elizabeth the second whose royal PA had requested a visit to our school and, specifically, our Year 1 children. As part of this term's topic, 'Bright Lights, Big City', Year 1 are learning all about our wonderful capital city and, to kick off their topic, they had a visit from the Queen. Well, to say she bore more than a passing resemblance to Mrs Ward would be an understatement but the children were, nevertheless, convinced of her queenly credentials when they saw her sparkly, gold shoes (with a 6 inch heel which probably *wasn't* the Queen's *usual* choice of footwear) and gold handbag along with her majestic jewels and stately crown! The children were an absolute credit to you, executing their curtsies and bows with noble aplomb. At first, they were nervous, hesitant to speak having been drilled in the correct protocols when in the presence of the Queen but Mrs Ward her Majesty was so welcoming and friendly that they soon relaxed and began firing questions at her about her likes, dislikes, pets and hobbies. My personal favourite, however, had to be the question from Leni-Rae (1A) who had been closely examining the Queen's attire for several minutes before asking, with sincere empathy on her face, "Do you have a lot of blisters?" 'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings comes truth or wisdom' as they say!!

Another sensational start to their topic, 'Beast Creator', took Year 5 to London Zoo on Wednesday. The children had a wonderful time but could have done with an extra 2 hours or so at the zoo to really get the most out of it – although, judging by the state of the teachers on their return, I would say that, for *them*, the day was long enough!! There were plenty of smiles, though, and behaviour was impeccable as usual (and the children were good, too!) This was followed up by observational drawings of mini-beasts that were so good, you'd be forgiven for thinking they were photographs!

And today, as I walked down the Year 3/4 corridor, I heard some excited tittering and giggling coming from 4A's room. Tittering always makes me nervous so I slid in to see what mischief was afoot and, sure enough, there was mischief brewing – in the form of the production of 'Luuurve' potions! As I walked in, I was under siege by children demanding that I sample their Love Potions. Now, don't get me wrong, I am the greatest promoter of love in the community but these potions had instructions, cautions and effects on their labels and, it would appear that, if I tried them, I would fall into *romantic* love with the first man I set eyes upon after drinking them. Now, you may think that this could be rather exciting for me at *my* age, probably a long time since I was hit by cupid's arrow you might be thinking and you might be right but, when you consider that the only men in our school are Mr Charlee and Mr Welch (who is one of our parents), I think you'll agree that drinking one of those potions could put me in a very dangerous position.... So I declined!! But the potions were superbly written out and the clay work to make the designed bottles for the potions was so good, I would seriously be tempted to buy a potion simply for the bottle alone!!

I'd like to welcome and introduce you to Mrs Putrini who is our new cover teacher. Mrs Putrini is a very experienced HLTA who will be covering most of your children's classes at some point during the term so, if you see a new teacher's face in the playground, you'll know who it is.

And finally, may I wish you a wonderful weekend full of hot chocolate and shared stories – a partnership made in heaven. Remember – 'A child who reads will be an adult who thinks!'

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle

Attendance

w/e 20th December 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
R1	92.8
R2	92.0
1A	91.3
1B	89.0
2A	90.0
2B	93.1
3A	95.5
3B	94.4
4A	95.2
4B	98.6
5A	96.0
5B	94.0
6A	99.1
6B	96.5
6C	97.5

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

6A - 99.1%

Overall School Attendance (year to date) – 96.1%

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 14th January

Year 2 trip to Leeds Castle

Wednesday 15th January

Maths Competition – Explore Learning
Year 5 – Art Attack at Hornchurch High

Friday 17th January

Years 1 & 2 – Road Safety Show

Wednesday 22nd January

Year 3 – Zoolab

Tuesday 28th January

Year 1 – London Riverboat Trip
SATs Meeting for Parents

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.

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.

sQuid

The amount already owed on sQuid for school dinners this week is currently **£130!**

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.

January Feast

Thursday 16th January

Chicken Korma Curry

Fish Fingers

Cheese & Tomato Pizza

Curly Fries or Rice

Sweetcorn & Peas Baked Beans

Ring Doughnut



£2.25

Free for all KS1

