



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term

24th January 2020

Issue Number 15

Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I don't know how much more pride my heart can cope with but the pride just keeps overwhelming me and here's why. On Monday, I invited a visitor into school to look at the possibility of building some 'troughs' (for want of a better word!) in the Junior corridors to hold all the children's bags because, currently, coats swim all over the floors as there isn't enough room on the peg for a child's coat as well as their bag. I also wanted him to look at 1A's classroom to see if he could rebuild the units that were ruined in the flood. So, our carpenter arrived around lunchtime – not the best time to tour the school as there are so many children wandering around the corridors as they go in and out of the lunch hall. Nevertheless, we needed to walk the corridors so he could take the necessary measurements to enable him to give us a quote for the work. So, off we set and we hadn't gone more than two steps before we met our first child; "Good afternoon, Mrs Searle" said Liam and Matthew (3B). Now, I do often talk to the children about politeness and saying good morning or good afternoon when meeting someone in the corridor and they're getting better and better at it but on this day 'Mr Carpenter' and I met about 15 children on our travels and every single one of them greeted us with a 'Good afternoon' and stepped back for us to pass through first if we met at a doorway. Well, now you can see why my heart swelled with pride. My goodness, your children are amazing and you, too, should be so proud of them. I really wish you could have seen each of them and, actually, now you know how polite they are in school, you can insist on it at home – win, win!!! Every now and then, we get the opportunity to send some of our high achieving writers to a Writers' workshop and this term Molly and Victoria (4A) and Luke and Tyler (3B) got the opportunity to visit Mawney Primary to take part in just such a workshop. Now, it won't surprise you to know that these 4 authors are prolific readers (as you know, the more you read, the better you write) and our 4 writers produced some fantastic work on Tuesday and each of them was confident enough to stand up in front of a room full of strangers and read out their creative masterpieces. "What makes these children so confident?" you may ask and the answer is, of course, "The more you read, the more empowered you are" – that was the main message behind the writers' day and I couldn't agree more. If there's one message I could get across to every child in our school, it's to read, read, read because reading gives you wings to soar to success.

This week has been littered with exciting events. Our Reception children had their first Newspaper photo taken on Tuesday so look out for your fresh-faced cherubs in an upcoming Romford Recorder issue. This is a lovely memento to keep so make sure you buy yourself a copy. Mr Charlee took our Girls Y5 & 6 Football Team out to the West Ham Foundation Tournament and it was the usual story – great behaviour and great team spirit – and I never tire of hearing it!! Now, you'll remember that our Boys' Team put up a good fight in this tournament but sadly failed to make it through. Well, our Girls' Team is a different story altogether. 4 wins and a draw with 2 matches played against teams with 2 more players than us because we were scoring so many goals!! Our Girls are a force to be reckoned with and they've smashed their way through to the next round! Well done girls and thank-you, Mr Charlee, for organising the trip. I had an interesting comment from one of our parents this week who told me that, whilst we're getting a great name for ourselves on the sports front, we still look rather scruffy in our kit compared to other schools. This concerned me, somewhat, and I asked Mr Charlee to shed some light on the matter. Mr Charlee agreed with this general consensus and he said that it was to do with the fact that our children all wear different coloured T.shirts rather than all looking the same with the same colour tops. So, after lengthy discussions, we decided that we need to buy a T-shirt and track-suit kit so that we look as smart as we play!! Therefore, we've formalised a plan for new kit and we'll begin to look for ways of funding it in the coming weeks. Year 3 have been learning all about Predators in their spring term topic and they had a visit from the Zoolab on Wednesday. Well, excitement, fear, awe and wonder are all

terms that could be used to describe the atmosphere in year 3 as they were introduced to some small but fairly unusual predators (and prey) and were able to handle them to get better acquainted with their features. There were squeals galore and many of the children were just too fearful to go anywhere near the creatures at first. Hayley (3B) went missing during the commotion only to be found under Miss McLaughlin's desk! Of course, Miss McLaughlin did what any dedicated and noble teacher **would** do in these circumstances and she offered to show the children how safe it was to handle the creatures by doing it herself! And, to be fair, she **did** manage to keep smiling as the snake slithered over her neck, the giant African snail slimed its way up her arm and the hissing cockroach scurried across her fingers in a bid to reach freedom. But all the children *really* wanted to see was Miss McLaughlin meeting the giant tarantula up close and personal! Mrs Mallinder was sure she detected beads of sweat across Miss McLaughlin's brow as the tank holding the offending object was brought ever nearer and I'm not sure whether 3B noticed the 'fight or flight' stance taken up by their intrepid teacher but what I **can** tell you is that Miss McLaughlin collapsed with relief when the Zoolab handler told her that Fluffy (the tarantula) wouldn't be allowed out to play that day as he was a bit jumpy and would most likely escape and scuttle away into some dark corner of the classroom! That's what we call a lucky escape for Miss McLaughlin and a bitter disappointment for 3B! Harry's (3B) mum will be proud to hear that her son played the hero that day, calming down all the screaming children and reassuring them that snail slime is actually *good* for your skin and nothing to be disgusted by – I don't think many of our 7 year olds were much bothered about the anti-wrinkle benefits of snail-slime to be honest but what a gentleman we have in Harry!! Mind you, he'd better not try to sell the benefits of snail-slime to his mum or she might feel ever-so slightly offended!! On a more practical note, Miss McLaughlin has asked me to warn you that the Zoolab handler told the children that the hissing cockroach (and believe me, it could hiss for England!) was available to buy in all good pet shops for a very reasonable £2.50. 3B all sat up and took a keen interest in this fact so, parents, be warned – check your children's pockets when leaving the pet shop – a hissing cockroach fits very neatly in a trouser pocket (and is the perfect ingredient for teasing little sisters!!!!) But Year 3's journey into the life of predators didn't stop there and, on Thursday, every child was furnished with a lab-coat, goggles, gloves and a pair of tweezers before being handed a lump of Owl poo (or owl pellets, to give the poo its correct and scientific term)!! Year 3 went on to dissect the delicate faeces and, oh my goodness, I could hear the excitement and squeals of delight all the way down the corridor into my office! As it happened, I was in a very important and corporate meeting but the oohs and aahs coming from Year 3 distracted me considerably as I sat trying to act in a very professional and grown-up manner when all I really wanted to do was run out and join the owl pellet party! Mrs Law prepped her class on what remains they may find in the excrement but, when Mubaraq (3A) said he'd discovered the skull of a rat, Mrs Law had to make it clear that most rats' skulls would be slightly larger than half a centimetre wide! Nevertheless, skulls were indeed found (but not those of a rat!) as were 'femurs' and 'tibias' according to Macy (3A) who was thrilled to be able to identify the bones. In fact, dissecting the remains of half-digested animals proved to be quite the crowd-puller and the interested looks on our children's faces makes me think that we may have a few future scientists in our midst (or forensic detectives at the very least!)

In other news, our EYFS children have been let loose on the woodwork station this week and I was delighted to see Frankie and Daniel A (R1) busy perusing the monster truck books to help them design and build a monster truck of their own. When you see a child independently pick up a book to help them solve a problem, you know you're doing a great job as a teacher!

And we rounded the week off on a high note. As you know, each term, head teachers and senior leaders from other Partnership Learning schools are invited into school by us in order to have a look at the teaching and learning that's going on across all our classes; this week, it was the turn of our EYFS and KS1 teachers and children and the visiting leaders were blown away with both the teaching and the learning of reading in all classes and groups. In fact, those Head Teachers and senior leaders left us armed with all our ideas and resources to take back and use at their own schools because they were so impressed with the learning that was going on in every classroom. Well done to everyone – no wonder we have such great reading results in our school – both teachers and children work really hard to achieve the very best possible outcomes!

And finally, with reading in mind, I leave you with this:

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads, lives only one.”

Have a wonderful weekend full of many lives and many adventures.

With kind regards and best wishes, Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 17th January 2020

Year Group	Attendance %
R1	94.6
R2	88.0
1A	96.4
1B	98.1
2A	95.2
2B	98.6
3A	95.9
3B	97.4
4A	94.5
4B	96.1
5A	96.0
5B	99.3
6A	91.3
6B	97.8
6C	98.8

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

5B - 99.3%

Overall School Attendance
(year to date) - 96.3%



Star Of The Week

R1: Henry
 R2: Neve
 1A: Baris
 1B: Darcie & Daisy
 2A: Arthur
 2B: Rosie
 3A: Patrick
 3B: Kevin
 4A: Victoria
 4B: Corey
 5A: Mahdhe & Alex
 5B: Hazel
 6A: Ibrahim
 6B: James
 6C: Devon



EYFS Awards

R1

Maths - Martynas
 Handwriting - Mia
 Kindness - Malik

R2

Maths - Riley
 Bookworm - Michaela
 Handwriting - Nicole
 Kindness - Louie



Writer of the Week

1A: Joshua
 1B: Ariana
 2A: Pavel
 2B: Stanley
 3A: Delia
 3B: Tyler
 4A: Yabets
 4B: Alfie
 5A: Jonnie
 5B: Austin
 6A: Ibrahim
 6B: James
 6C: Namra

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 28th January

Year 1 - London Riverboat Trip
6pm SATs Meeting for Parents

Wednesday 29th January

Years 1 & 2 Indoor Athletics

Monday 3rd February

Years 5 & 6 Road Safety Show

Tuesday 4th February

Young Voices at the O2

Thursday 6th February

Years 5 & 6 Girls' Football Tournament

Monday 10th February

Year 5 - First Aid at Hornchurch High School

Tuesday 11th February

Safer Internet Day

Friday 14th February

Break up for Half Term

Monday 17th - Friday 21st February Half Term Holiday

Monday 24th – Friday 28th February

Stay & Learn Week

Tuesday 25th February

Year 1 trip to Colchester Zoo

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.

Medication

If your child needs to take medication of any kind during the school day, please make sure you fill in a medication form (from the Foyer) and hand it in to the office or a member of staff on the gate.

They must not keep medication in their bags.

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 **£87.30!**

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.

Younger children are welcome too for 'stay & play'.

Supporting



YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY



SHAPE UP

YOUR FAMILY!



Buy A Lottery Ticket
This Half-Term &
WIN A Family
**FITBIT
BUNDLE**

- WIN a FITBIT Bundle (FITBIT Inspire HR + Ace 2 Kid's Fitness Tracker)
- Support your local school
- Play for £1 per week
- Win up to £25,000

To start supporting, visit:

yourschoollottery.co.uk

and search for: **Harrow Lodge Primary**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Sign up before 22nd February 2020
Terms and conditions apply – see website.



Every School Day Counts

Attend today, achieve for a lifetime!

Reporting Absences

Any absence from school due to illness, appointments or any other reason **MUST** be reported to the Office by 9.00am at the latest.

Please call **01708 448187 Option 1** and leave a message or email **office@harrowlodgeprimary.com**

Absences should always be followed up by written confirmation from the parent/carer. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement – how can your child learn if they are not here?

Attendance is important because your child will not make progress if they do not attend school.

If your child receives an attendance figure of 90% every year of their school life, they would miss over a whole year of their schooling.

We need your help to raise whole school attendance.

