



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 31st January 2020 Issue Number 16
Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a strange week for me this week as I've been out on a lot of courses so I've missed much of the goings on around the school but I've gleaned information from teachers and parents so I can still regale you with tales from the river bank as usual (reference to Wind in the Willows there – points if you can correctly name the author!)

First, however, I'd like to take you back to last Friday when Year 1 had 'the best day of our lives' according to Liam (1B). As many of you already know, Year 1 are studying 'Bright Lights, Big City' and are focussing on London as a big city to learn about. Indeed, the children enjoyed a visit from the Queen a couple of weeks ago and then, on Friday, they got the opportunity to sit in a real 'Black Cab'. The London Cabbie allowed our Year 1s to sit in the back of his cab as he entertained them with stories about driving in and around London. He was extremely passionate about his job and I believe that we now have at least 6 of our Year 1 children on the steep trajectory to 'doing the Knowledge' and becoming a 'cabbie'. Of course, you can't possibly carry out an in-depth study of London without discovering all about the Great Fire of London in 1666 and that's exactly what our adventurous little learners have done. While sitting in my office on Friday morning, I heard screams of "Fire, Fire!" and, poking my head out of the door, I saw a blur of office staff rushing down the corridor and out into the playground! I chased after them wondering why the alarm wasn't blaring out to warn the rest of the school about impending disaster only to find a row of Tudor-style buildings standing side by side in what could only be described as a perfect model representation of 'Pudding Lane'. I kid you not, I could have been standing in the street itself back in 1666 if it wasn't for the 2 buckets of water, bucket of sand and large fire extinguisher strategically placed in the background!! Intrigued, I sidled over to Miss Lawson and Mrs LeMay who were corralling their classes into the Year 2 garden area to stand behind the fence where they could look at the model town from a safe distance. 'Why did they need to be a safe distance away?', I hear you ask; well, here's the thing – we always like to **show** children history in **action** if we possibly can because we know they'll remember it better if they 'see' it or 'live' it rather than just be told about it. So, with that philosophy in mind, Miss Lawson and Mrs LeMay decided, in their infinite wisdom, to set fire to the end house (the bakery) and watch to see what would happen to the row of houses – would they really all catch alight just as history tells us they did on that fateful night in September 1666? And you should have seen the children's faces as the fire began as a smoulder and then took hold until it burned fiercely along the row of houses. Observations could be heard from the gallery of observers about the direction of the wind causing the fire to sweep unrelentingly from house to house. And then, softly at first but building to a crescendo, a chorus of 'London's Burning' filled the air. It was certainly a sight to behold and one that those children will never forget. Mr Welch was on hand in case of emergency but he wasn't needed as all necessary precautions were taken. Later that day, I had a visit from Liam and Eliza (1B) bearing a plate with two fresh bread rolls they had baked that morning in anticipation of the fire to come in the afternoon!! And let me tell you, those rolls were delicious (I doubt

very much whether the rolls baked in the Pudding Lane bakery were anywhere near as tasty as these but authenticity can only go so far!!!) All in all, our Year 1 children had a day full of historical learning and we'll wait to see the writing that comes from such adventurous lessons – it'll be outstanding, I'm sure. So, back to this week, which has been far quieter in comparison. The Romford Recorder photographer returned to retake the photos of our Reception children because the first photo had missed a poor child who'd been out working on a special phonics lesson. How kind of the newspaper to send their photographer out a second time so that this child didn't miss out. Sometimes humanity really comes up trumps!

We had our second visit from external head teachers this week - this time we were looking at the teaching and learning of Reading in KS2 and I'm thrilled to say that our visitors were just as impressed with our KS2 as they were with our EYFS and KS1 *last* week. And, following on from that review, I've had another head teacher contact me asking if she can come and visit to see what we've put in place for reading as they've heard that it's extremely good! And so, our reputation continues to grow. Well done to all our teachers and support staff who work so hard to get the very best results for your children. It's ghastly and stressful to have people come into your class to watch your lessons and yet our teachers go through it time and time again in a bid to either prove themselves (ie OFSTED) or to share their great practice with visiting teachers. It's no wonder there's such a shortage of teachers in the country with such stress put on them – we're just lucky that we've got some of the very best.

Y1 visited London this week – where else? And enjoyed a trip on the Thames Clipper. It was a freezing day and I did worry that being on a boat in that weather would be a disaster but I think adrenalin took over and everyone was so excited and in such a state of enjoyment that the cold ceased to be a problem at all.

Tuesday evening, we held our usual KS2 SATs Information Evening and I was thrilled to hear that so many of our Year 6 parents turned up to find out how they could support their children at such a critical time in their school career. Thank you for supporting us (and your children) – it makes a world of difference to children's progress when they know that their parents value education. Wednesday brought a very special visitor to the school in the form of Richard the Reptile Man – no, he wasn't some kind of 'mutant' as one small 5 year old was expecting but a fully grown human with a truck load of reptiles that he brought along to a meet and greet session with our Reception children. As part of their topic, 'Why don't snakes have legs?', EYFS children have been looking at all sorts of creatures that don't have legs and comparing them with creatures that do. To see the creatures up close and personal was a real treat and, boy, did they enjoy meeting and greeting those slimy creatures. Unfortunately, a rumour had circulated that Richard the Reptile man was bringing a crocodile on a lead and some parents had to be reassured that this wasn't the case and their children were perfectly safe. But there was a huge variety including lizards, tortoises, bearded dragons, snakes, the famous hissing cockroaches (available from all good pet shops for £2.50!), and Charlie the Chinchilla! (not strictly a reptile but a very welcome addition!) Some children, of course, were reticent and preferred to keep their distance but most couldn't get enough of them.

And, most exciting of all, we've finally had the designs through for Phase 2 of our playground renovations. Just like before, we're going to give the children two options to choose from and hold a vote to find the most popular design. Phase 2 is for the infant playground (or Quad, as we like to call it) and, once the final choice is made, we'll pin up the design in the playground for you all to see. Then it'll be a case of save, save, save as our goal is to get this built by the end of the school year! So, watch this space – voting will take place next week and then we need to get moving on it. And with that exciting news in mind, I leave you with this quote:

“More dreams die because we fail to seize the moment. Do it now!”

Let's get that play area built!

With kind regards and best wishes, Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 24th January 2020

Year Group	Attendance %
R1	98.8
R2	85.6
1A	97.7
1B	91.7
2A	98.6
2B	96.8
3A	94.5
3B	99.3
4A	97.2
4B	97.1
5A	97.0
5B	98.6
6A	97.8
6B	96.5
6C	97.5

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

3B - 99.3%

Overall School Attendance (year to date) – 96.3%

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.

DIARY DATES

Monday 3rd – Friday 7th February

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 3rd February

Royal Opera House Trip
(selected children only)
Years 5 & 6 Road Safety Show

Tuesday 4th February

Sponsored Dance
Young Voices at the O2
2pm Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 6th February

Years 5 & 6 Girls' Football Tournament

Friday 7th February

Year 6 trip to Kidzania

Saturday 8th February

11am - 3pm Performing Arts Rehearsal

Monday 10th February

Year 5 - First Aid at Hornchurch High School

Tuesday 11th February

Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 12th February

Hockey Competition

Thursday 13th February

'The Lion King' performance at Hornchurch High School

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

Monday 2nd March

Book Week



PICTURE OF THE WEEK

by
Kairyn
(3A)

Sponsored Dance – Tuesday 4th February

As you are aware, the PTA have organised a Sponsored Dance next Tuesday. This is to raise money primarily to buy costumes for Performing Arts but any money left over will be donated to the school playground fund.

To take part in this event, your child's sponsor form and sponsorship money must be handed in to the school office or class teacher by Monday. Unfortunately, only sponsored children will take part.



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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.



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.



Supporting



SHAPE UP YOUR FAMILY!



- 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.

IMPORTANT

We know you receive numerous parentmails and letters from us! However, it is important that you check these on a daily basis to keep up to date with what's happening in school, in order that your child does not miss out on something.

Please could you also check your child's school bag regularly - your child may not always remember they have something important inside it to give to you.

Thank you for your continuous support.



Battle of the Bands Results

Winning Classes

3A

4B

5A

6A

Individual Winners

Year 3 - Justin

Year 4 - Lewis H

Year 5 - Muktar

Year 6 - Bogdan

Congratulations!



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 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.

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



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.

