



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term

14th February 2020

Issue Number 18

Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I begin by wishing you a very happy Valentine's Day. I hope you've been spreading the love today a little more than usual (in a purely friendship based way, you understand!). Here, in school, I'm always trying to educate the children about 'Agape' – universal love – but I'm still met with stifled giggles at the mere mention of the word 'love'! I'll keep working on it!

School was in session at the weekend this week as Ms Harrison, Ms Batt and their troop of merry singers and dancers descended on the dining hall for a full-blown practice session and costume fitting session for the Lion King production (more of that later). The dedication of these teachers is formidable and we're so lucky to have them on our staff.

We also tried to do a little work on our ancient heating system at the weekend. As you know, we have daily struggles with our fickle heating system, one of which is that the radiator valves have been painted over so they can no longer be turned to regulate the heating and those valves that *haven't* been painted over appear to have lost their ability to regulate *anything!* So, the system was drained at the weekend and 4 old valves were replaced with shiny new ones – not the valves we'd asked to be replaced, of course, but a couple of random ones (just for the jauntiness of it, I assume!). However, at least we had a few working....or so we thought. Monday arrived and we walked into a boiling Junior side of school (with new valves that wouldn't turn down the heating) and a freezing infant side where nothing appeared to be working whatsoever. It was a motley crew of staff we met that Monday morning with half of them dressed in bikinis and flip-flops and half swathed in hats, scarves and balaclavas! Heating engineers visited throughout the day and I'm relieved to say that the unworkable conditions were corrected by the following morning.

The car park gates were another matter altogether – they appeared to be in a state of permanent unresponsiveness as they remained open all week despite numerous attempts to discover a cure. The ridiculous nature of such high-tech machinery means that there are multiple crews needed to detect a simple problem – one team for the electric motors, one team for the connection between gate and school, one team for the opening, one for the closing, one for reading the instructions!!! And they all blame each other - just like a playground altercation!!! As I write this, the gates are still open to the wide world but Mrs Browne did come into the office on Wednesday looking rather sheepish as she explained that it was *she* who had set the gates open in the first place by flicking a switch in the office!! Well, we shall have to wait and see if that's all that was needed to fix them because all the 'teams' have to return today to reconnect **their** part of the system before we can see if Mrs Browne's venture into the world of mechanics was the real reason for the breakdown of an entire automation system!!!

Our year 5s, this week, became expert first-aiders after their visit to Hornchurch High where they were trained in the art of basic first-aid. I did try to simulate a 'faint' in front of them on their return to see if any of them jumped into action but I

was sadly met with a cacophony of laughter as I fell to the ground and no empathetic first-aid response whatsoever was delivered to me! So don't rely too heavily on expert help from your Year 5 child if you find yourself in a critical state of emergency but I'm sure that they'll all be more than capable of phoning for emergency services! In all seriousness, though, they really did learn a lot and it's great for them to have those kind of life skills. Tuesday was 'Safer Internet Day' (I know, crazy, right? We should be internet safe **every** day!) and children have been reminded about the various aspects of keeping safe online. However, I'm shocked that, despite being reminded about internet safety on almost a *daily* basis, I still come across children every week who have broken one or other of the safety rules. So, please do monitor, monitor, monitor – no child is exempt from the possibility of being tripped up on the internet.

I've had very little time to wander around the school this week but I did get a sneaky peak at some wonderful predator art work going on in year 3 and I had the privilege of visiting Miss Batt's science lesson in which the children were exploring how they could use their knowledge that light travels in straight lines to direct a laser beam onto a target when the light source begins pointing **away** from the target. I was impressed with their perseverance, to be honest, since that laser beam was a very tricky little imp that jumped around at the slightest movement!

On Thursday, we were visited by a Head Teacher from another Primary School within our Trust – Eastbury Primary – and she commented on the lovely feel of the school and the politeness of our children but she was *really* overwhelmed and impressed by the support we have from our parents (*you!*) When she saw the playground equipment and the plan for Phase 2 and I told her about all the bottles and chocolate and coloured gifts that you donate, she couldn't believe it. You, as a body of parents, are a real strength of our school and we're incredibly lucky to have you – thank you so much; I felt extremely proud as this visiting head teacher was praising your incredible support.

But, actually, Thursday was all about the Lion King performance by the Performing Arts Group and, oh my goodness, it was an honour and a privilege to sit in the audience watching a show that wouldn't look out of place on the West End stage! A huge thank you must go to Ms Harrison who has worked tirelessly with the Performing Arts children to get them to such a high standard. What a treat it is to have this club in the first place but to be able to stage performances like that is just outstanding and we're unbelievably lucky to have such a talented and dedicated teacher at our school. A big thank you, also, to Ms Batt who gives up so much of her time to help and support Ms Harrison with her vision. And those costumes and make-up!!! I had a hard time identifying some of the children because their transformation was so complete! Those costumes were able to be purchased because of *your* generosity so, once again, thank you for your support.

A big thank you to HHS as well for allowing us to use their premises once again – the children just relish the chance to perform on a 'proper' stage.

And so, at the end of a very eventful spring half-term, I wish you all a wonderful week's holiday full of sunshine and laughter, and I leave you with this quote – 10 points if you can name the author:

***“All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players”***

Let's make sure we all play our parts as well, and with as much dedication, as your children did this afternoon!

With kind regards and best wishes, Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 7th February 2020

Year Group	Attendance %
R1	95.4
R2	91.6
1A	92.7
1B	95.0
2A	97.1
2B	96.1
3A	94.5
3B	95.9
4A	98.6
4B	95.4
5A	95.3
5B	96.9
6A	96.1
6B	99.6
6C	97.9

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

6B - 99.6%

Overall School Attendance (year to date) - 96.2%



Star Of The Week

- R1: Jude
- R2: Nicole
- 1A: Alex
- 1B: Teddy
- 2A: Bobby
- 2B: Stanley
- 3A: Momore
- 3B: Almeer
- 4A: Audrey
- 4B: Danielius
- 5A: Mason
- 5B: Kieron
- 6A: Soran
- 6B: Alfie
- 6C: Isla



Writer of the Week

- 1B: Tia
- 2A: Pavel
- 2B: Oscar
- 3A: Alyssa
- 3B: Luke
- 4A: Ethan
- 4B: Kristian
- 5A: Bleu
- 5B: Hayden
- 6A: Bogdan
- 6B: Ela



EYFS Awards

R1

- Handwriting - Lola
- Reading - Mabel
- Kindness - Frankie

R2

- Maths - Levi
- Bookworm - Hope
- Handwriting - Ben
- Kindness - Malaysia

DIARY DATES

Monday 17th - Friday 21st February
Half Term Holiday

Monday 24th February
Back to School

Monday 24th – Friday 28th February
Stay & Learn Week

Tuesday 25th February
Year 1 trip to Colchester Zoo
Year 6 - Elm Park Library visit

Thursday 27th February
Year 3 trip to Eastbrookend Country Park

Friday 28th February
Non-uniform Day

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th March
Book Week

Tuesday 3rd March
Year 3 & 4 Tag Ruby
3.30pm - 6pm Parents' Evening

Wednesday 4th March
World Maths Day
Auditions for Talent Show
4pm - 7pm Parents' Evening

Thursday 5th March
World Book Day
(dress up as your favourite character)

Friday 6th March
4A trip to Tower of London

Thursday 12th March
4B trip to Tower of London

Wednesday 18th March
Year 5 trip to Museum of London

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.

Letters in the Foyer

Just a reminder that, for your convenience, the following can be found in the Foyer :

- ❖ Uniform order forms
- ❖ Medication consent forms
- ❖ Leave of Absence forms
- ❖ Leaving forms
- ❖ Breakfast Club forms
- ❖ Change of details forms
- ❖ Parent letters (trips etc)
- ❖ PTA Events
- ❖ Parent Diary Dates
- ❖ School Term Dates
- ❖ Newsletters
- ❖ School Dinner Menus

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

The advertisement features a background image of a child's hands holding a small object, with two Fitbit fitness trackers (one black, one blue) shown in the foreground. The text is in various colors: purple for 'SHAPE UP', red for 'YOUR FAMILY!', and white for the main promotional text.

School Dinner Change

On Tuesday 25th February, the dessert of the day will change to a pancake with various toppings:

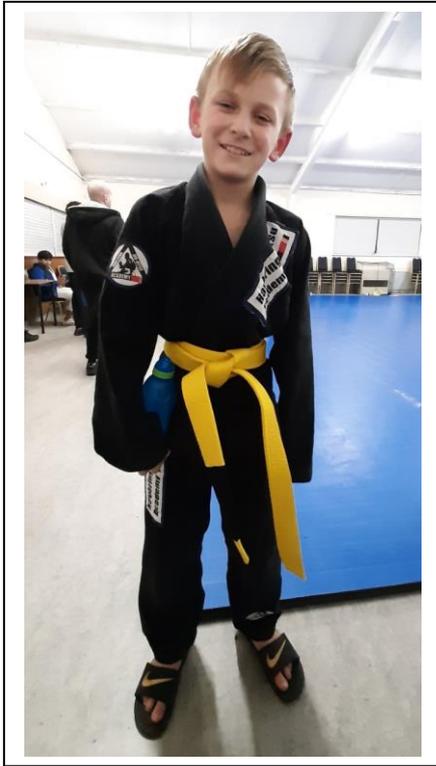
- Plain
- Lemon
- Honey or Golden Syrup

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.



CONGRATULATIONS

TO

**Christian
6C**

**who recently gained
his yellow belt in
Brazilian Jiu Jitsu!**



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>



After half term, **Coffee Mornings** will take place on
TUESDAY 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'.