



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 7th February 2020 Issue Number 17
Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the next episode of the Harrow Lodge Primary weekly Soap! And it's been another eventful week ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous with all the usual 'schooly' things in between. It was 'Children's Mental Health Week' this week so in addition to our monthly well-being afternoon, teachers have spent time discussing well-being with children, the importance of self-esteem and how we can change our mind-sets so that we become more confident and more resilient. I have to say, I've really noticed a big shift in confidence with some of our younger children as they begin to realise that trying without success doesn't have to be a negative experience and it's lovely to see children build their resilience as they come to this realisation. Of course, it's harder for some than others but that's what they'll meet in life and it's a really good preparation for the big wide world. Our Reception children have begun to bring in their homework projects for the half term and I was delighted to receive 3 budding artists bearing their sculptures representing an environment fit for a reptile. Lilliah (R1), Hope (R2) and Lola (R1) produced amazing models depicting the correct environment for turtles, lizards and snakes respectively and they were able to talk with confidence about the materials they'd used, why they'd chosen certain materials and the part played by both themselves and mum and dad in building the project. Well, talk about confidence!! And what I loved about each of their explanations was how parents had explained things as they'd gone along. Well done parents – superb educationalists! Y2 have been busy making castles to keep the 3 little pigs safe from the Big Bad Wolf and writing letters from the wolf to the pigs airing his disgust at the defensive structures – the writing produced has been outstanding and worthy of any Carnegie Medal or Booker Prize! Today, Year 2 were testing the suitability of materials for building bridges and checking whether their designs would hold the Billy Goats Gruff. Sofia (2A) explained that the suitability of the material referred to how well the material could do the job expected of it and I had to applaud her use of the term as she worked away at testing a variety of materials to make strong bridges. As you know, Miss Harrison is our resident Performing Arts expert and the upcoming Lion King production is at the forefront of everybody's minds – in particular, the need for costumes and so our wonderful PTA decided to run a sponsored dance to raise money for the costumes. How disappointing it was, therefore, to find that the day before the dance was to take place, we only had 4 sponsor sheets brought in. We imagined it would be a rather solemn affair with just 4 children bopping their way around the school to the strains of 'The Circle of Life'. However, come Tuesday morning, a flood of sponsorship forms landed on our desks and the school was turned into a carnival of flailing limbs and shakin' booties!! And what a spectacle it was as they conga'd their way through the corridors and shimmied their way into the hall for a 15 minute stint of rockin' and rollin'! The best part? More than £700 was raised for the PTA who will fund the Lion King costumes and put the rest towards the Playground Fund. Talking of the playground, the children voted this week for their choice of activity equipment for Phase 2 of our playground improvements. And the winner was Option 2! Ta da! You can see the picture of the winning design below and we'll also pin it up outside for you to have a closer look. It's a very exciting design and, remember, it's for the infant playground which is why it's a little less challenging physically than the KS2 equipment. So, the target we need to reach is £9000 in order to order it. Now, I know that sounds steep and a mountain to climb before the end of June but I'm sure we can manage it with a few hard-hitting events. If you have any great ideas or you work for a company that's willing to donate to a good cause (every company should be doing this as part of their social corporate responsibility) then please approach them with your begging

bowl and they might just offer a sweet contribution to help us on our way. Miss Batt led our little choristers to the O2 once again this year and they were buzzing with the excitement of it – “I’ve never seen so many people together in one place,” was one comment uttered by a Year 5 child and, for most, this will be the only experience they’ll get of such a massive event (I know it’s the biggest event *I’ve* ever been to and I’m well into my forties (ok, ok, *just* into my fifties) (alright, so I’m very middle-aged!). Apparently the winner of The Voice 2018 was performing there and *that* made headline news for some of our children (seriously, do *not* ask me who that was – remember, I’m middle-aged!). We held our monthly Parent Council on Tuesday and this week the talk was all about the strengths of the school and the improvements that could be made with regard to our SEND offer and there were a lot of practical suggestions that we’ll be following up and incorporating in order to better serve our children and families. We’d love a few more of you to come to our Parent Council meetings as the Council has a big impact on school improvement and we need as many voices as possible in order to get a true cross-section of opinions. Year 3 have caused me no end of problems this week with their work on predators incorporating the smaller creatures that can be studied scientifically by handling and observing them closely. I’m talking about worms in the first instance and 3B, yet again, came into the spotlight as I could hear squeals coming through their classroom door. On entering, I witnessed a good deal of excited commotion but, equally, there was some rather serious observation going on. It was very busy and excitedly noisy and, as I looked around, everyone appeared engrossed and happy...except for one small boy (whose name shall be withheld for reasons that will become abundantly clear in a moment). I could see a look of anguish and consternation on his face as he carefully observed his worms wriggling along the surface of his board. Then he picked up his board and looked under it; then he bent down and spent a few moments under the desk. After popping up, he once again looked into his pot of worms and back to the wriggling worms on his board. The look of bemusement on his face was clear and so I sidled up to him to get a closer look at what he was doing. I asked him how he was getting on and he didn’t look at me but continued to stare at his pot of worms. I asked him if he was alright at which point he whispered in my ear, “I’ve lost one of my worms!” Of course, I remained calm and reassured him that we’d find the missing worm before anyone knew there was anything amiss. And, together, we searched and we searched. We counted again and again; we counted all the worms in everybody else’s pots but to no avail. And, to this day, that missing worm was never found and our little zoologist was so terrified that his adventurous worm would wriggle its way into Miss McLaughlin’s bag or onto her desk that he begged me not to mention that it was he who had mislaid the worm! And so, you see, that is the reason our friend shall remain anonymous and should anyone come across a stray worm that looks like it might be lost, well – you know where to take it!!

Great news for our Year 5 & 6 Girl footballers who made it through to the third round of the League Cup with a resounding 4-nil win - I swear they’re unstoppable! Well done girls (and Mr Charlee!)

Today, our Year 6 children visited Kidzania – reputedly the very best trip our children go on – and, as I write this, they are still there having the time of their lives whilst trying out as many different professions as they can fit into the time available. Let’s hope some come back with their career choices all mapped out!!!

Now, as educators, we realise that it’s important to offer a diverse variety of activities to our children in order to broaden and develop their cultural capital through a range of planned enrichment activities designed to open their eyes and offer them experiences that they might otherwise not have had the opportunity in which to participate. And the opportunity to participate in one such activity took place this week at the Royal Opera House. We were allocated some cut-price tickets for our children to visit the theatre to watch an operetta. We couldn’t pass up the chance to take some of our children to the opera to show them exactly how beautiful and interesting the opera can be. And, to be fair, the opera house was exceptionally beautiful and the displays of historical costumes were extremely interesting but, despite Miss Harrison preparing the children for a cultural performance of Alice in Wonderland and despite the considerable good intentions of our children to follow and enjoy the story, 6 of them fell asleep (one of whom had a very loud snore) and Armani (5A), after concentrating extremely hard for 5 minutes, turned to Miss Harrison and whispered, “Why are they singing in a different language? I can’t understand them!” Well, you never know, we may have inspired a child to take a greater interest in opera and, if not, at least they saw Covent Garden at its best and most interesting.

And, on that note, I wish you a wonderful weekend full of new experiences and exciting adventures – preferably ones you don’t sleep through!!

With kind regards and best wishes, Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 31st January 2020

Year Group	Attendance %
R1	93.5
R2	94.8
1A	91.8
1B	95.0
2A	98.9
2B	98.9
3A	99.0
3B	97.0
4A	97.9
4B	96.8
5A	100.0
5B	97.2
6A	96.5
6B	95.7
6C	97.5

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

5A - 100%

Overall School Attendance (year to date) – 96.2%



Star Of The Week

- R1: Lillah, Mia & Ali
- R2: Harrison
- 1A: Lana
- 1B: Bonnie
- 2A: Lyla
- 2B: Brody
- 3A: Delia
- 3B: Jenson
- 4A: Mason
- 4B: Kitty
- 5A: Madeeha
- 5B: Emily
- 6A: Noemi
- 6B: Alfie
- 6C: Seidra



Writer of the Week

- 1A: Isabella
- 1B: Mason
- 2A: Amelia
- 2B: Lily-May
- 3A: Brian
- 3B: Hayley
- 4A: Benita
- 4B: Zachary
- 5B: Skylar
- 6A: Mia
- 6B: James



EYFS Awards

R1

- Maths - Daniel A
- Reading - Shayan
- Kindness - Riley

R2

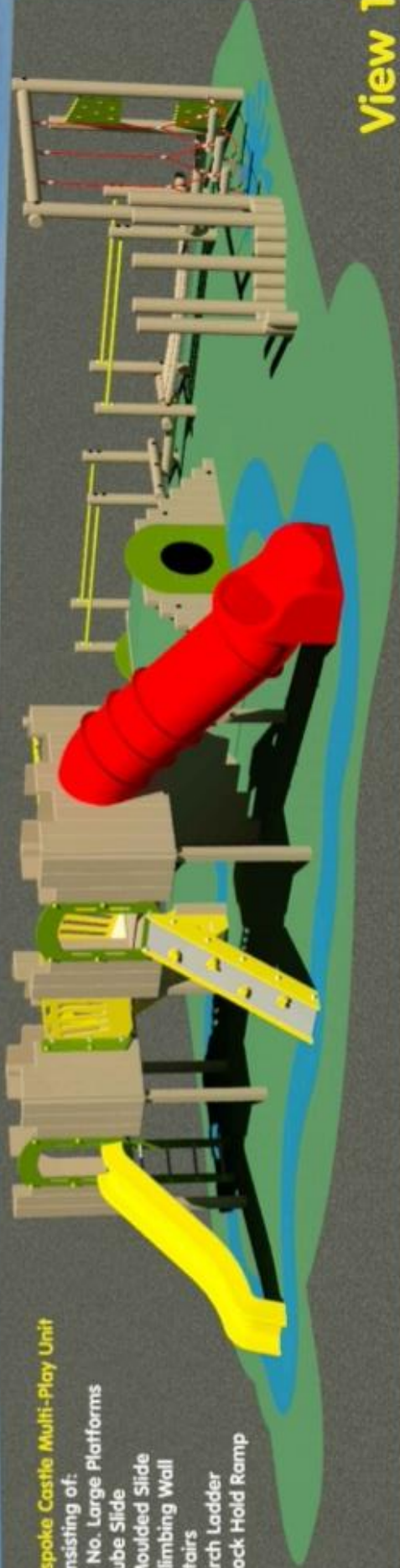
- Maths - Lily
- Bookworm - Savelly
- Handwriting - Malaysia
- Kindness - Aronas

Option 2

Bespoke Castle Multi-Play Unit

Consisting of:

- 2 No. Large Platforms
- Tube Slide
- Moulded Slide
- Climbing Wall
- Stairs
- Arch Ladder
- Rock Hold Ramp



View 1

View 2

Bespoke Combination Trail

Consisting of:

- Log Snake Weaver
- Log Crossing
- Traverse Wall
- Log Balance x 3
- Suspension Bridge
- Tighrope
- Monkey Bars



Tunnel Mound

View 3



DIARY DATES

Saturday 8th February

11am - 3pm Performing Arts Rehearsal

Monday 10th February

Year 4 visit to Elm Park Library
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

Thursday 27th February

Year 3 trip to Eastbrookend Country Park

Friday 28th February

Non-uniform Day

Monday 2nd 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

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.

Coronavirus - Advice for parents/guardians

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus. There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period. If so, please refer to the FCO's latest travel advice via the link <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

A UK wide campaign has been launched to provide clear advice on how to slow the spread of Coronavirus.

Please help to support the campaign which promotes basic hygiene practices, such as regularly washing hands and always sneezing into a tissue, to stem the spread of viruses.

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.

Supporting

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

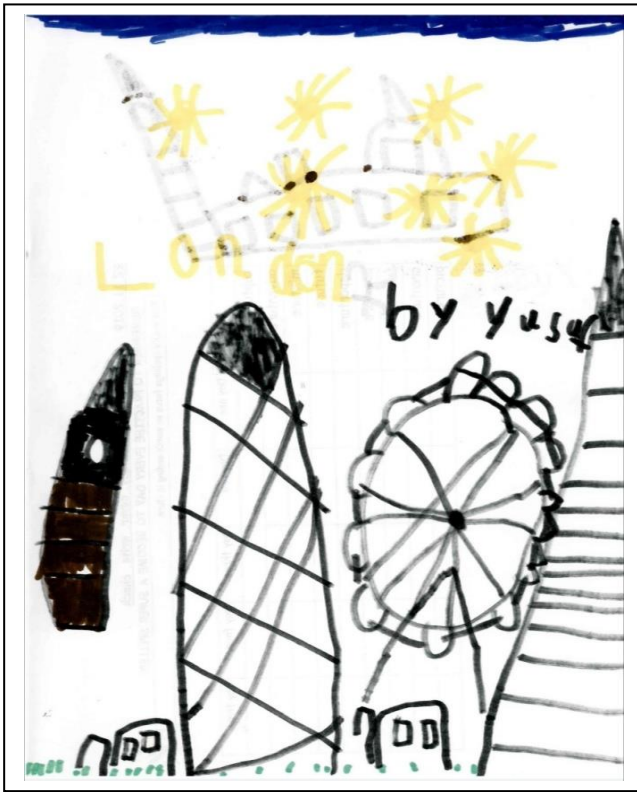
SHAPE UP YOUR FAMILY!

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.



PICTURE OF THE WEEK

by

Yusuf

“London”



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'.



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.

