



## Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term

6<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Issue Number 20

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week of drama and spectacle has unfolded in Harrow Lodge Primary this week and, as usual, nothing has been straightforward. However, as Mrs Lawson said to me, it would be a boring life if everything were straightforward – Mrs Lawson, ladies and gentlemen, the eternal optimist and glass half-full individual who always keeps me from sinking into despair!

So, Monday began with an enjoyable visit to 1A and 1B who were following a 'Votes for Schools' lesson. Basically, these are lessons that elicit discussion around current affairs or current issues. This week was all about relationships and treating people with kindness – in the wake of all the media coverage around being kind to all. It's a shame that it's taken a celebrity's tragedy to bring about an understanding of the importance of kindness but I'm so pleased that people are finally realising the damage that unkindness can do. It was lovely to hear our Year 1 children talking about what makes a happy family which involved lots of cuddles, reading stories together and, oddly, 'having a Frappachino as a treat'! Baris (1A) is certainly a 'modern man'!

Tuesday was another great win for Harrow Lodge Primary as we steamed ahead in the Year 4 Tag Rugby Tournament only to walk away as outright winners! Go Year 4! This tournament involved every Primary School in Havering. Our team played around 10 matches losing only 1! Poor Mr Charlee missed out on seeing the win, though, as he was needed for teaching in school so Mrs Kerr had the joy of walking away with the trophy!! Life's unfair sometimes, Mr Charlee, but you'll be at the next one, hopefully. Well done to all the Year 4 team and a big thank you to Mrs Kerr who stood in as coach at the last minute. Sympathy to Mr Charlee who waved goodbye to the team with a tear in his eye!!

Tuesday and Wednesday were our Parents' Evenings and it was lovely to see so many of you coming in and looking at the wonderful homework displays. The work is of such a high standard – you must be very proud parents. I hope you managed to get a look at *all* the homework – it's great to see the progression from EYFS to Year 6 in all aspects of the work. And how amazing was the Parentview set-up? All the laptops working, all the log-ins working (well, after the first 1 or 2 hitches) and everyone able to access the new set of questions with ease! Now, there's a first!! Thanks to all of you who completed the survey – if you didn't get to do it, you can still go on at home, login with your own details and complete the survey to allow other parents to see what you think of the school. Furthermore, you can go onto the Parentview site and click 'Ofsted Parent View results' for our school. If you click 'print results', the results for each question come up and you can see what outsiders will see about Harrow Lodge Primary when they're browsing for schools. I have to say that the picture is looking very good overall but there are still a few parents who wouldn't recommend the school to others which is rather concerning for me as those parents are obviously not happy with some aspect of the school and yet I'm not aware of it which means I can't improve it. As our strategic plan is to have the very best school in the area, I do need to know what the problems are if I'm going to be able to put them right. So, I have a plea to make – if you are one of the parents who *wouldn't* recommend the school to outsiders, do please come in and speak with me so that we can work together to make your child's experience at this school the best it can be for the 7 years, hopefully, they spend with us. Wednesday saw the best Fire Drill **ever** – 2 minutes 48 seconds all out and in silence. We had a visitor in the school on that morning and she said, "I've been in many schools when they've had fire drills and this is by far the best one I've ever seen – the children were so well-behaved and so quick!" And she was right – a few little measures to improve where allocating jobs is concerned but, other than that, a nearly perfect drill. I say 'nearly' because we did have to wait an extraordinarily long time in the freezing cold (after we were out so quickly) while Ms Haynes tried to figure out how to *stop* the fire bell – at one point, I thought we were going to end up having our lunch out there on the playground! All was sorted, though, I'm glad to say, and *that* little problem shouldn't occur next time (fingers crossed)!! Following that excellent drill, I sat in my office trying to warm up my bones and I was disappointed to hear what can only be described as a 'rabble' of children racing past my door. I put it down to the excitement of the fire alarm and continued with my work only to hear, twenty minutes later, a stampede of little feet accompanied with excited high pitched squeals. Well, I'm sorry but no fire drill is an excuse for such deafening hyperactivity within a calm working space! So, out I marched, following the

large, disorderly mob straight into the KS2 hall ready to reprimand them for such outrageously excitable behaviour, only to find Miss Harrison, clipboard in hand, carrying out auditions for our talent show! That stopped me in my tracks – clearly, the overzealous, wild-like behaviour was down to the nervous state of children on a mission to impress with their singing, dancing or baton-twirling talents. I returned to my office and ignored any further comings and goings of tense and anxious children racing past my door. It's a small price to pay for such a wonderful show – coming to our screens on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April in a High School near *you* (that's Hornchurch High, in case you were wondering)! Wednesday was a busy day, actually, because we also celebrated World Maths Day by carrying out activities linked to the theme 'Maths is Everywhere'. There were a plethora of activities including activities using budgets, timetables, timezones, weighing, discounting, statistics, map-reading, converting measures and, *my personal favourite*, recipes (a rather tasty spaghetti bolognese graced my table at the end of the day)!!

Thursday, of course, was World Book Day (I do think the World should start planning its days rather more carefully – 2 major days in the same week is just thoughtless if you ask me!) Well, the effort that some of you and your children go to for Character Day just fills me with admiration – it's a testament to your commitment and dedication in the extreme. Everyone looked wonderful and Ms McLaughlin organised a green screen event for Year 3 – we await the results with bated breath! I had the wonderful opportunity to read a story to Year 3 & 4 – I chose one of my favourites, 'Midnight for Charlie Bone' which is about a boy who hears voices – I think I can relate to him since I hear voices all day - "Can you do this Mrs Searle? Have you done that Mrs Searle?" Each teacher also swapped their class with another teacher so classes could hear stories read to them by different teachers. The children *loved* it – the teachers.... Not so much! It's daunting facing 30 unknown faces full of hope and expectation awaiting a performance of epic proportions!! Still, the likes of Miss Howard, Mrs Law, Mrs Millard, Miss Harrison and Miss Goodwin need no encouragement at all and it's a delight to be entertained by them! Now, you may or may not be aware that each class is competing for a large hamper of books for their book corner which they'll win if they produce the most imaginative 'Extreme Reading Pose' so yesterday was a hive of activity as children searched high and low for unusual places to sit and read their books. Well, it won't be hard to imagine my surprise when I walked into my office to find Olivia (6B) sitting by my bin, Catalina (6B) atop my tall cupboard, Ellie (6B) upside down (yes, *upside down!*) in a back bend on my table while James and Andre (6B) crossed swords in the corner of the room, all engrossed in reading their books! It was a sight to behold, *I* can tell you and I have no doubt that Miss McAuliffe (6B) has her eye firmly on that prize!! Now, many of you have noticed our new Core Value signs in the outside entranceway but what I bet you *didn't* notice was the deliberate mistake! I'm not going to tell you what it is – let's see how long it takes you to spot – it took *me* 10 minutes and Ms Browne didn't spot it at *all*. The company are making a new one as we speak so that will be delivered in a few weeks time. On top of that, one of the Core Value characters *inside* the school had his arm broken so *he'll* have to be replaced as well. We've also got a new board to display our student leaders and student councillors so we're just waiting for their beautiful photos to put up. Talking of photos, we've finally got our staff board in the Entrance Hall – we all look like models, of course, which is great but the best thing about those pictures is that we're all holding one of our favourite books (mine is Charlie Bone, of course!) – I'm going to challenge the children to see how many of the teachers' favourite books they can read themselves! Nothing's ever straightforward, though, and we've ended up with missing photos and not enough pockets to put them in (they'll come with the new core value and new character, I expect!). But I'm most excited about our school prayer which is proudly displayed in the Entrance Hall – it's beautiful and really states what we want our school to be like.

Finally, today, 4A are on their visit to the Tower of London as part of their 'Off with her Head' topic – here's hoping none of our teachers lose their heads on the trip – that would be a disaster! But, while 4A have been away, 4B are putting in extra practice with their times tables – they're determined to annihilate 4A at Timestables Rockstars and they've made a jolly good start. Today's total stands at 4A – 1,925 points and 4B – 31,607 points. Come on 4A – time to catch up!!

And so, at the end of a really busy week, I wish you a wonderful weekend full of kindness and extreme reading (a prize for the most extreme!) and I leave you with this thought:

***"When life throws you a curve ball, remember this:  
A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity;  
an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."***

With kind regards and best wishes,  
Mrs Searle

**Attendance**  
**w/e 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Year Group	Attendance %
R1	98.5
R2	95.0
1A	95.9
1B	92.2
2A	96.8
2B	96.1
3A	97.9
3B	88.9
4A	98.6
4B	93.6
5A	96.0
5B	93.1
6A	93.0
6B	97.4
6C	97.9

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

**4A - 98.6%**

**Overall School Attendance (year to date) – 96.2%**



**Star Of The Week**

- R1: Amber
- R2: Feryal
- 1A: Olivia
- 1B: Eliza
- 2A: Isabella
- 2B: Ionut
- 3A: Sophie
- 3B: Noah
- 4A: Ellen
- 4B: Tilly-Mae
- 5A: Gabriella
- 5B: Erin G
- 6A: Bogdan
- 6B: Catalina
- 6C: Josie



**Writer of the Week**

- 1A: Alexander
- 1B: Tianna
- 2A: Lyla
- 2B: Sotonte
- 3A: Alyssa
- 3B: Maci
- 4B: Shaun
- 5A: Armani
- 5B: Emily
- 6A: Dovydas
- 6C: Seidra



**EYFS Awards**

**R1**

- Kindness - Yatniel
- Bookworm - Logan
- Maths - Daniel A

**R2**

- Kindness - Daria
- Bookworm - Louie
- Handwriting - Thomas
- Maths - Liam

## DIARY DATES

### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

9am County Lines talk for Parents  
Year 6 – Knife Crime Talk  
Swimming Gala

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

Football Festival  
2.30pm County Lines talk for Parents

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

8.45am - 4B trip to Tower of London  
Year 3 trip to Eastbrookend Country Park  
2pm Parent Council Meeting

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

Sports Relief

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

Year 5 trip to Museum of London

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Mother's Day Stalls  
World Poetry Day – Poetry Slam

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

Book Fair

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Girls' Football Festival  
'So you want to dance' dance competition

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

Years 5 & 6 – African Drumming

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Harrow Lodge Has Talent at Hornchurch High

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

Year 5 – No swimming  
Year 4 Easter production to parents

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

Break up for Easter

## 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.

10 ways to become a better reader...

1. Read
2. READ
3. Read
4. read
5. READ
6. Read
7. Read
8. read
9. Read ☺
10. READ



## 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

### Dates to remember:

**Easter Holidays: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**Inset Day: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**Polling Day: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**Bank Holiday: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

### Reminder

School gates open at  
**8.30am.**

Children come into school  
at **8.40am.**

Lessons start at **8.50am.**

## sQuid

The amount owed on sQuid for school dinners is currently **£38!**

Once your sQuid reaches **£0**, 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 your account is in credit. If anyone is struggling to pay, 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 **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'.**