



## Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Issue Number 1  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a brand new academic year – a year that will be like no other gone before and a year that has already been riddled with trials and challenges. Thankfully, it's been an amazing start to the year and your children have been unbelievably resilient and extraordinarily diligent in their approach to the return to school. I hate to say it, but I think they'd had enough of being stuck at home!!

I faced the first staggered intake with trepidation, it has to be said, as I'd heard some horror stories from other head teachers about chaos in the playground but I stood in our playground and couldn't believe how smoothly the whole process went – everyone was quick, slick and out of the gates in the blink of an eye. Children were happy and chomping at the bit to get into school and parents were a little taken aback at how happily their little ones trotted into school. I did notice *one* parent with tears in her eyes and I sympathetically commented how I understood how hard it must be for her to part from her 'babies' after having them at home for so long and she replied, "Oh no, I'm not crying about *that*, I'm crying because *now* I have to go back to work!!!" Well, there's winners and losers in every game!!! Home time wasn't quite so smooth because the whole system relies on keeping a very tight rein on timings and, when children are involved, – as you're all *extremely* well aware – sticking to strict timings is not especially high on their agenda. It needs to run like a military operation and we've decided now that it's easier if the Teaching Assistants bring the children out to meet you whilst the teachers remain inside to maintain order and coordinate the next leaving party! If you need to speak to a teacher, you all have access to their year group email addresses and can ask for a meeting, a phone call or an email reply regarding your issue. I know teachers found communicating with you via email and phone during lockdown was a big success and they felt they had more communication with you during lockdown than ever before! Transition for the infants into their new classes was a triumph with children having the opportunity to say goodbye to their old teachers and their new teachers having an opportunity to talk 1 to 1 with them, assess their reading and get to know them on a personal level before coming together as a whole class. I know the teachers LOVED having the chance to get to know the children in such a relaxed atmosphere. So, lockdown has had a few positives for us as a school.

Week 1 back at school was a relaxing one where children studied an artist and all their work was connected to their year group artist and, I have to say that some of the resulting displays are amazing. I wish we could invite you in to see them but, as we can't, I'll take some photos once the displays are all complete and share them with you in a later newsletter. Week 2 brought some exciting activities as topics were started with memorable moments. Year 2, in particular, stood out – as part of their Movers and Shakers topic, children were asked to come to school dressed as a character that has been influential on our lives in some way or another, bringing about positive changes for society and, my goodness, did you ever go to town with your research. I met Albert Einstein, Florence Nightingale, Rosa Parks, Yuri Gagarin, Emmeline Pankhurst, a few footballers and celebrities whose names escape me and Margaret Thatcher! Now, I know what you're thinking – how on earth can we suggest that footballers and celebrities have a fundamental and long-lasting impact and influence on the world and society in general? Well, the whole point about this unit of work is to study what it really means to be influential and, by the end of the unit, perhaps children will understand the difference between celebrity and influential figures. But the star of that day has got to be Alexander 2B who dressed up as Margaret Thatcher and played the part to the full. I don't know how much Alexander really knows about Margaret Thatcher but he's convinced that she had very smooth legs for some reason (might be something to do with the tights he was wearing!) – check out the picture below to see his outstanding effort.

Walking around the school during Week 2, I saw extraordinary sights including bread-making, cross-stitch samplers and Victorian peg-dolls in Year 6 and real fish examinations in year 4 – gotta say, the fish stank out the lower junior corridor but the squeals of excitement from the children suggested to me that those children didn't notice (or care about) the stench!! There was clay modelling going on and an array of painting and, at one point, I lost year 1 altogether only to spy them far across the field having a picnic as part of their Enchanted Forest topic starter. Year 3 took their learning out onto the field as they studied science through sport – that's *my* kind of science! I think we're well and truly back into the swing of things especially as week 2 also saw a lot of testing going on as part of our assessment process. We're now going to see where all the learning gaps are and form plans to fill them!

Tuesday was an exciting day for all of us as we had a visiting photographer in to take some professional photographs around the school. He remarked on the excellent behaviour and politeness of your children which made me very proud indeed. However, I do think we may have pushed our 'confidence' core value a little too far as I heard Grace 5B call out to the photographer, "Hang on, just let me turn around so you get my good side!" We're hoping to use some of the photos on our website and Facebook page as well as on canvasses around the school (although this last one may have to wait until I can find a little more funding!!)

Mr Welch has been very busy over the summer and the last two weeks building a 'Yellow-brick Road' for EYFS children and parents so that we finally have a dry path for the children to walk on when that fire alarm sounds and they all have to evacuate – for many years, those poor children have had to tramp through long, cold and wet grass before standing out in the cold while waiting to be let back in. A big thank you to Mr Welch for putting in the time and effort to build the path for us – he even gave up some of his weekends to do it – that's dedication for you! You'll notice that he's even built in some social distancing lines to help us distance ourselves whilst queuing. The major event of week 2, though, is the welcoming of all our new little starters in EYFS. We were expecting tears and tantrums but got smiles and giggles and Miss Goodwin breathed a sigh of relief as she realised that our EYFS children were going to settle in very nicely indeed. They're ready and raring to go and can't wait to start full-time school next week!

Now, you may remember that a few of our trophies went missing before lockdown and Mr Charlee came in for a bit of grief over the beautiful Sports Day trophy that couldn't be found – well, the good news is that the missing trophies have all turned up and Mr Charlee has been exonerated much to his relief!! Ms Haynes would like it to be known that it was *she* who unearthed the trove of trophies and I'm extremely appreciative of it but I do wonder how she knew *just* where to look for them – just curious, that's all!!

Another big thank you must go to Mrs Squibb who has offered to tend to our front entrance planter. It's all very well having a beautiful planter but, if all that grows are weeds, it defeats the object really so I'm supremely grateful that Mrs Squibb (Jimmy's 4B mum) has come to my rescue! It's important that our high standards reach across every area of the school – talking of which, do check out today's Romford Recorder in which there's a feature piece about our school. I know I may be biased but I think we sound great – which we *are*!!

Before I end this epic newsletter, I thought I'd share with you an extraordinary fact – our huge Lost Property Box is already full!!! So, if you're missing coats, jumpers, cardigans or ties, do have a look in it (housed in the Parent Foyer); there's a wealth of treasure in there and some of it may well be *yours*!

And so I'll bid you a fond farewell and wish you a happy weekend full of sunshine and laughter and, as we re-teach our children about the expectations of school life, I leave you with this:

***"Every day is a chance to begin again. Don't focus on the failures of yesterday, start today with positive thoughts and expectations."***

*With kind regards and best wishes,*

*Mrs Searle*



**Alexander (2B) dressed as Margaret Thatcher**



## **Star Of The Week**

- R1: Jessica & Drey
- R2: Josh
- 1A: Lily-Rose & Omari
- 1B: Leah
- 2A: Sahar
- 2B: Louis
- 3A: Lyla
- 3B: Ronnie
- 4A: Tawheed
- 4B: Kayla
- 5A: Tilly-Mae
- 5B: Audrey
- 6A: Laila
- 6B: Hayden



**Our golden achievers for the last 2 weeks are...**

- Katie (3A)**
- Ava (3A)**
- Emmanuel (3A)**
- Riley (3A)**
- Bobby (3A)**
- Leo (3B)**
- Preston (3B)**
- Alyssa (5A)**
- Alfie (5A)**
- Tilly-Mae (5A)**
- Corey (5A)**
- Lewis H (5A)**

## House Points

- 1st - **Centaurs** - 170 points  
2nd - **Griffins** - 158 points  
3rd - **Dragons** - 154 points  
4th - **Phoenixes** - 153 points



To our pupils who have birthdays  
1<sup>st</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> September.....



Madeeha (6A)	Marnie (2B)	Evie (1A)	Henry (R1)
Kairyn (4B)	Harry (4A)	Daria (1B)	Riley (3A)
Drey (R1)	Maherul (6B)	Harry (5A)	Feroz (3A)
Halimat (R2)	Hazel (6B)	Mason (R2)	Jaxon (R1)

### Absences

If your child is going to be off school for any reason, please call 01708 448187 and leave a message on the absence line by 9am, if possible.

Unfortunately, if your child has been sick or has had diarrhoea, our school policy is for you to keep them at home for 48 hours after the last bout.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

### 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.

### Barton Road Entrance

Please be reminded that, for safeguarding reasons, the gate at Barton Road is **not** in use during the school day.

If you have any need to come to school during the day, please use the Rainsford Way entrance.



**Parent View**  
*Your Child's School*

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