



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term

13th November 2020

Issue Number 8

Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been one of quiet contemplation as we have turned our thoughts to those who sacrificed their lives or quality of lives for us and those to whom we said our final goodbyes. On Wednesday, we were blessed with fine weather (unlike the tornados of latter years!) which allowed us to celebrate Remembrance Day in a newly adapted way with each year group bubble separately visiting the Armistice Memorial (otherwise known as the gazebo in the KS2 Quiet playground) to present their class wreaths and lay their individual painted pebbles around the cenotaph. It was a moving ceremony with no words but filled with solemn reverence and respect and a background of appropriately poignant music. The children, from Reception to Year 6, were outstanding in their behaviour and showed me that, in times of great solemnity, they can be trusted to act in a suitably courteous and deferential manner. I was so proud of them and, I must confess, that my bursting heart gave way to tears at one point. It was a shame that we couldn't include all our parents and carers in our celebration since I know that, for many of you, there is personal significance to Remembrance Day but we can only pray that, next year, we'll all be supporting one another together in remembrance once more. My thanks must go to Miss Harrison who, once again, set up the sound system in the playground and monitored the music to accompany the procession of wreaths. Thanks also to Miss B who put up with the loudest rendition of 'Bring him home' on continuous repeat right outside her window as she tried to teach the laws of addition and subtraction to fidgety 6 year olds! And many thanks to Mr Charlee who basically spent the whole morning running from class to class in order to bring them out on time for their processions. If you'd like to see a snapshot of the processions, the Year 3 Facebook page has a short film showing their own procession which will give you a flavour of the proceedings. Thanks also to Miss Martin who filmed each year group.

After the ceremony, we conducted a zoom assembly which was planned with precision. The importance of this assembly weighed heavily on my mind and it was of utmost importance to me to get it just right. I was determined to get the right balance of solemnity (sharing the traditional poems of John McCrae and Laurence Binyon against the background music of the famous Nimrod) with a clear and child-friendly understanding of why we celebrate Remembrance and why we wear poppies. I spent many hours researching and planning the perfect assembly and poor Mrs Browne sat through an interminable number of practice zoom assemblies as I tried to perfect the sharing of pictures and music and my own cheery face! Well, I felt prepared and we had carried out a fairly successful zoom assembly last Friday so I was feeling confident as I began with an introduction of suitably contemplative music and launched into that perfectly planned assembly. I reached the point where I was reading a story about Flanders Field; I could see the classes of children in the little rectangles at the side of my screen, all riveted, silent in expectation and I threw myself into actress mode, driven on by the enraptured faces of those innocent children when, suddenly, the screen went blank and a message flashed up saying, "Your free session has expired!" WHAT? I'd only been going for 5 minutes! I stared at the screen, not quite believing what I was seeing, unsure whether to continue (as one might when on stage – the show must go on etc) or whether to stop and try to rectify a spiralling disaster. I pressed a lot of buttons – not sure which ones nor having a clue what I was doing if I'm totally honest but I tend to live by the mantra, 'When in doubt, turn it off and on again!' so that's what I did! In desperation, I quickly went through the process of setting up a new meeting and Mr Charlee came bursting into my office, "What's happened?" he cried, "Every screen has gone down and the children are asking where you've gone!" In my panic, I'm afraid Mr Charlee was ignored as I scabbled about trying to reset everything and then I asked him to run around to every class and ask them to join the new meeting I'd set up. Well, I know it was a lot to expect but he's young, fit and healthy with legs so long that he takes half the amount of strides than anyone else needs to get around the whole school so I'm done feeling bad about that!!

I'm pleased to say that normal service was resumed and we finished our assembly including the 1 minute's silence which, because of the catastrophe that befell the assembly, actually turned out to be held at exactly 11 o'clock! Divine intervention? Who knows, but I'm not partial to it if it causes me that amount of stress, thank you very much!!

Today, we also waved a sad and final farewell to Natasha Brind who was laid to rest this morning. Many of her friends and colleagues lined the streets to pay their respects as they couldn't attend the funeral owing to the pandemic. It was a moving and emotional few moments but it was important for us to ensure that her boys saw how much their mother was loved and respected. At the last count this morning, Natasha's fund had reached £17,113 which is a phenomenal gift to give to her boys. The family were able to pay for a beautiful send-off for her and have some money left over to support the boys' futures thanks to all your generous donations – I know some of you donated two or three times - showing your love and concern for one of our own.

On Tuesday, we had our termly Fire Drill which I was rather concerned about since we had to change exit routes in order to keep bubbles from mixing. And, although the children were amazing with the speed at which they exited the building, there was a bit of standing still waiting for bubbles to pass in order to reach their lining-up posts. So, we need to iron out those anomalies and I think we may have another quick practice just to ensure that we stop any waiting around. We smashed our 3 minute goal for exiting the building, though, so another proud moment to add to a very long list.

We all had some Local Authority training this week with regard to remote teaching and I have to say that we learnt nothing! But that was a good thing, actually, because we were already doing everything that was suggested and had moved ahead of those recommendations onto better and more diverse ideas. We'll continue to improve ourselves, obviously, but it's nice to know that we're ahead of the game compared to many other schools.

Thursday saw our School Council Elections (at last!) and, with a huge sigh of relief, we've finally selected our Year 6 posts of office. Congratulations to all those children either elected or selected for a post of responsibility and we wish you luck as you settle into your roles and begin to show us how dedicated and responsible you are. See below for a list of the successful candidates and Post-Holders.

Year 3 were the recipients of a rare treat on Thursday as we invited the Freshwater Theatre into school to take the children back in time to the Stone-Age on a journey through to the Iron-Age. There was a lot of dramatic acting going on by the children as I popped my head round the door so I'm assuming it was a great deal of fun which usually means a good amount of learning too. There was supposed to be a trip to the Chelmsford Museum for our Year 3s but, obviously, *that* couldn't go ahead so this was a safe substitute.

And, finally, today we are thinking about children in need and doing our bit to help those youngsters who are less well off than ourselves. The teachers have been sharing lots of videos showing the good work that their donations support and teaching our children the importance of helping others. See below for our communities contribution to the National Charity.

So, at the end of a very eventful week, I wish you a wonderful weekend full of celebrations and thoughts for others and I leave you with this quote which is the reason why I think it's so important to continue our traditions:



With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle



Star Of The Week

R1: Lexy
R2: Aibinu
1A: Riley
1B: Wendell
2A: Bonnie
2B: Lucas
3A: Lilli-Mae
3B: Jessie
4A: Kevin
4B: Brannon
5A: Alyssa
5B: Victoria
6A: Alex
6B: Ben



Writer of the Week

R1: Kara
R2: Joel
1A: Hope
1B: Thomas
2A: Andrei
2B: Baris
3A: Isabella
3B: Harshini
4A: Lance
4B: Prakhar
5A: Kristian
5B: Abedin
6A: Bleu
6B: Neli & Jake

House Points

1 st	Phoenixes	282 points
2 nd	Dragons	273 points
3 rd	Griffins	252 points
4 th	Centauris	211 points



To our pupils who have birthdays
this week



Jamie (6B)
Luke (4A)
Albie (R2)
Corey (5A)
Malik (1A)
Lewis (5A)
Aiden (1B)

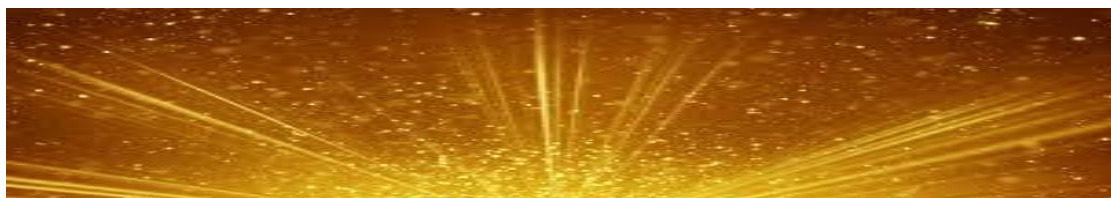


CONGRATULATIONS

to

**Brody (3B)
Harshini (3B)
Preston (3B)
Sotonte (3B)
Stanley (3B)**

**on receiving
achiever badges for gaining
3 gold certificates.**



Our golden achievers this week are...

Hope (1A)
Brody (3B)
Eva (3B)
Harshini (3B)
Jessie (3B)
Logan (3B)
Mitchell (3B)
Preston (3B)
Ronnie (3B)

Sotonte (3B)
Stanley (3B)
Kevin (4A)
Delia (4B)
Kayla (4B)
Momore (4B)
Parker (4B)
Spencer (4B)

Archie (5A)
Rafe (5A)
Aidan (6B)
Alfie F (6B)
Dia (6B)
Erin B (6B)
Hazel (6B)
Neli (6B)

Attendance Challenge

For every day a class has full attendance, they cross off a letter of the word 'ATTENDANCE'. When all the letters have been crossed off, the class is rewarded with a non-uniform day. Congratulations to 5B who had a non-uniform day this week.

This is how many letters the classes have crossed off currently:

R1	A T T E N D A N C E
R2	A T T E N D A N C E
1A	A T T E N D A N C E
1B	A T T E N D A N C E
2A	A T T E N D A N C E
2B	A T T E N D A N C E
3A	A T T E N D A N C E
3B	A T T E N D A N C E
4A	A T T E N D A N C E
4B	A T T E N D A N C E
5A	A T T E N D A N C E
5B	A T T E N D A N C E
6A	A T T E N D A N C E
6B	A T T E N D A N C E

This week's
Presentation Award

goes to

Oscar (3B)

for his beautifully written story
about a stone-age boy.

School Council

School council elections took place this week. Here are our new School Councillors – congratulations to them all.

1A	Evie & Ollie
1B	Mia & Thomas
2A	Darcie & Liam
2B	Marnie & Boe
3A	Lyla & Iyaz
3B	Brody & Harshini
4A	Violet & Noah
4B	Sidney & Spencer
5A	Beau & Rafe
5B	Lauren & Hasan
6A	Nifemi & Rizwan
6B	Dia & Jake



Thank you to everyone who very generously donated today towards Children in Need.

We raised a grand total of

£292.44

KIDS PASS

Parents can enjoy a free 1 month Kids Pass.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.kidspass.co.uk/redeem-code/PARENT30>

Student Posts of Office

Head Girl	Erin B 6B
Head Boy	Vinnie B 6B
Deputy Head Girl	Tegan 6B
Deputy Head Boy	Muktar 6A

House Captains

Griffins	Tia 6A	Tyler 6B
Phoenixes	Shania 6A	Oliver 6A
Centauris	Jessie 6A	Mario 6A
Dragons	Megan 6A	Jack 6A

Prefects

Prefects

Neli	Martina
Hayden	Dia
Gabriella	Emily
Erin G	Ruby
Laila	Jamie

Technician Prefects

Jake **6B**

Water Bottles

Please can you ensure your child brings a clear, named water bottle to school every day.

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.