



## Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Issue Number 13  
Visit [www.harrowlodgeprimary.com](http://www.harrowlodgeprimary.com) to view it online!

Dear Parents / Carers,

Well, we made it – as far as I'm aware, we're all alive (if not kicking) heading into a Christmastide of uncertainty. You may be aware that *some* councils shut all their schools early this term (going over to remote teaching) in order to safeguard families for Christmas only to be threatened with legal action by the DfE! And now many families are finding themselves in the situation where they have to isolate over Christmas and leave their elderly relatives to spend Christmas alone. It's a sad time for many that could so easily have been avoided. And now our own Local Authority is hoping to stem the flow of transmissions by getting all teachers to test themselves before returning in January. Now, I'm all for this – I don't want anyone unknowingly bringing the virus into school but it *does* mean that there is a possibility that so many teachers test positive on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January (the date given for the test) that we won't have enough staff to open all classes. I'm telling you this simply to warn you that we may have to inform you at short notice that certain classes can't return on the 5<sup>th</sup> January and will need to be taught remotely. I sincerely hope that we don't find ourselves in that situation but it's better to be forewarned and forearmed just in case.

Last Friday saw another first for us in the way of a more public Zoom Celebration Assembly. As 5 classes were isolating, we decided to send the Assembly invitation out to all the children in those classes. What a thrill it was to see all those individual little faces smiling and waving. And I loved how they all joined in just as if they were here at school with us! It was lovely to see parents in the background too and it got me thinking that, actually, this could be a way of including parents in our usual Celebration Assemblies going forward into the New Year – whether your children are isolating or not. So keep an eye on your emails in the New Year in case we find a way to invite you!

News *this* week has been mostly Christmas-themed with the majority of classes learning their lessons through festive activities. I've seen mathematical Christmas Mazes, circuits to make Rudolph's nose light up and using Atlases to find the countries on Santa's Christmas Eve route. But, as usual, EYFS teachers take a different slant on things and what begins as a discussion around Christmas can often end up somewhere else altogether. This week R1 were discussing what makes the perfect Christmas dinner when Seth explained that his mother would be eating a nut roast as she was a vegan which opened a whole discussion about veganism. Luckily, Jake was on hand to give some examples of foods that vegans can eat along with some advisory precautions, "Vegans can eat beetroot but it turns their wee wee pink!" Don't ever say we don't educate your children in the most important aspects of life!!

Year 6 and 2A missed out on Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day last week and, although we have no control over catering services, we *were* able to allow 2A and Year 6 to have a Christmas Jumper Day – it's for such a good cause as well, those pounds will go a long way to help 'Save the Children'. Speaking of raising funds for charities, our final total for our Reindeer Run came to £1027.30. Zayyan (R1) was our star fund-raiser with £370 raised with the help of a very long list of sponsors. Well done Zayyan and thank you to everyone for your very generous support. If you'd like to see the NHS Trust newsletter report documenting our fun run, you can see it following this link:

<https://www.bhrhospitals.nhs.uk/news/local-schoolchildren-get-their-antlers-on-to-raise-money-for-our-hospitals-2704> I've also informed the Romford Recorder of our success so keep your eyes peeled in case *they* decide to feature us as well.

One of this week's highlights has got to be the Blue Peter pantomime, 'Aladdin', which the children watched on a 20 foot screen whilst consuming oodles of ice-cream and shouting, "He's behind you!" at the tops of their voices. At just £4 a child, we managed to secure a great deal with the company who were selling it to families for £25 a go! This is the kind of cultural capital

that offers an education as well as entertainment and is an important part of our British heritage which is why we do our best to secure it for you at a knock-down price. I must point out here that this was not a fund-raiser for us – it is an educational offer (much like a school trip or school visitor). It was such a shame that our year 1s and year 3s missed out on the shared experience but they were sent the link so they could watch it at home with their families (which some might argue is an infinitely superior experience!) A huge thank you to Ms Lawson and the PTA for organising the pantomime.

Now, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a visit from the great man himself especially during a pandemic so we made sure that we were fully prepared for Santa's Breakfast visit on Thursday. Now, I'm not sure if you realise or not but Santa makes a lot of visits at this time of year to a number of schools and Department Stores and shopping malls so he relies on each venue to supply him with a shower room and a clean set of clothes on his arrival so that he's super fresh for each visit. Not a problem – we have a set of clothes in his size (providing he hasn't eaten too many mince pies since last year's visit) ready and waiting in the PTA shed. Only *this* year, the suit went missing! On Wednesday evening, Ms Lawson ran into my office, eyes wide as saucers and exclaimed, "We can't find Santa's suit! We're going to have a naked Santa!" Now, clearly such a move would raise a lot of unwanted questions – not least from yourselves – so something needed to be done. We searched high and low but to no avail and decided that we would just have to lend Santa a school uniform to wear (Harry Lodge's would probably be a good fit!) Decision made, we all resigned ourselves to a slightly less magical 'Breakfast with Santa' and braced ourselves to break the news to good old St Nick himself – that his outfit would be maroon not red and his lower half would feature football shorts and trainers!! What a relief, then, to come into school on Thursday morning to be faced with a grinning Mrs Kersey holding a perfectly groomed Santa suit! She'd remembered, at the last minute, that she'd popped it into the Uniform Shop last year, after cleaning it, for safe keeping (a little *too* safe, Mrs Kersey, if you don't mind – many of us are too old for scares like that!) Anyway, Santa arrived, enjoyed his time with the children and, unless he reads this newsletter, he'll never know how close he came to looking like an over-sized Harrow-Lodge pupil with a long white beard, ~~a button-nose and two eyes made out of coal~~ oops, sorry, wrong Christmas character!! (10 points if you can name the character, though!) All the children enjoyed themselves although the hot chocolate connoisseurs in Year 5 told me that the drink could have done with a tad more milk! I told them that I'd pass the message on to the catering crew which, incidentally, included Mrs Rice in a newly acquired Elf-suit - none of us knew that she had such a job on the side but we were very impressed with her exuberance and general Christmassy conduct. Thank you to Ms Lawson, Mrs Kersey, Mrs Petrie and Mrs Rice for all their hard work in preparation for Santa's visit and a huge thank you to Santa for meeting and greeting all the children and reading stories to them before sending them off with a gentle reminder to keep being kind if they want to stay on 'the *nice* list'!

And that really brings us to the end of the week and the end of a term like no other. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have worked their socks off like never before this term, covering sickness and isolations and teachers, especially, have broken their backs to carry on teaching whilst also planning online work for isolating children. Some teachers have continued to work through their own Covid illnesses while others have taken on the job of two teachers as they covered a sick colleague. It's been tremendously hard and unequivocally stressful for everyone and I'm so proud of our Harrow Lodge Team. Thank you to all of them for a job well done. Thank you also to you, parents, for remaining supportive and accommodating throughout such turbulent times. There will be more ahead, I'm sure, but, if we pull together in the same vein as we have *this* term, I see no reason why we won't go from strength to strength. And a huge thank you for all your gifts. As always, you have been over-generous but you have made me feel very appreciated and loved and I thank you so much for that.

So, it just remains for me to wish you all the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years and I leave you with this thought,

***"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."***

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle



## Star Of The Week

R1: Whole class  
R2: Whole class  
1A: Ben  
1B: Thomas  
2A: Whole class  
2B: Whole class  
3A: Whole class  
3B: Whole class  
4A: Sadie  
4B: Liana  
5A: Lenny  
5B: Ethan  
6A: Sarah  
6B: Ilyas



## Writer of the Week

R1: Jessica  
R2: Regi  
1A: Michaela  
1B: Adelaide  
2A: Andrei  
2B: Daisy-Leigh  
3A: Whole class  
3B: Whole class  
4A: Aliyssa & Matthew  
4B: Sophie  
5A: Rafe  
5B: Victoria  
6A: Jesiah  
6B: Alfie S

## House Points

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Dragons</b>	253 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Centaur</b> s	243 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Griffins</b>	222 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Phoenixes</b>	163 points



To our pupils who have a birthday  
before the next newsletter ...



Kyle (1A)	Iyaz (3A)
Holly (3A)	Lexi (4A)
Neli (6B)	Dominic (6A)
Madeline Mae (2B)	Violet (4A)
Aronas (1B)	Syed (5B)
James (2B)	Leah (4B)
Zayyan (R1)	Tia-Leigh (6A)
Zara (3A)	Daisy (2A)
Dioni (R2)	Aminah (5A)
Skylar (6B)	Frank (3B)



## Achiever Badges

### CONGRATULATIONS

to

Daria (1B)  
Mitchell (3B)  
Hayley (4A)  
Matthew (4A)  
Archie (5A)  
Rafe (5A)

on receiving achiever badges  
for gaining 3 gold certificates.



### Our golden achievers this week are...

Adelaide (1B)	Thomas (1B)	Danielius (5A)
Aiden (1B)	Mitchell (3B)	Lenny (5A)
Alexander (1B)	Almeer (4A)	Rafe (5A)
Daria (1B)	Amelia (4A)	Arham (5B)
Jacob (1B)	Hayley (4A)	Josias (5B)
Mabel (1B)	Matthew (4A)	Alfie S (6B)
Mia (1B)	Nathan (4A)	Martina (6B)
Nicole (1B)	Tawheed (4A)	Vinnie P (6B)
	Archie (5A)	



## EYFS Kindness Awards this week go to.....

**R1 - Navaira**

**R2 - Albie**

## 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 4B 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	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>T</del>	E	N	D	A	N	C	E
1A	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>E</del>	<del>N</del>	<del>D</del>	<del>A</del>	N	C	E
1B	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>E</del>	<del>N</del>	<del>D</del>	A	N	C	E
2A	A	T	T	E	N	D	A	N	C	E
2B	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>E</del>	N	D	A	N	C	E
3A	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>E</del>	<del>N</del>	<del>D</del>	<del>A</del>	N	C	E
3B	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>E</del>	<del>N</del>	D	A	N	C	E
4A	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>E</del>	<del>N</del>	<del>D</del>	A	N	C	E
4B	A	T	T	E	N	D	A	N	C	E
5A	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>E</del>	<del>N</del>	D	A	N	C	E
5B	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>T</del>	E	N	D	A	N	C	E
6A	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>E</del>	N	D	A	N	C	E
6B	A	T	T	E	N	D	A	N	C	E

This week's  
*Presentation Award*

goes to ....

Victoria (5B)

for

always producing neatly presented work



**FANTASTIC FUNDS for CHRISTMAS CAPERS**

A big thank you to all of you who helped raise funds for our Christmas activities which were so limited this year due to Covid restrictions. In a shock announcement today, it was discovered that the PTA have raised **£1000** from Christmas events! This is amazing and leaves us just **£4000** short for Phase 2 of our playground improvements.

We're almost there!!!

**We wish you all a very merry Christmas  
and a happy & healthy New Year**



**See you all back on  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**