



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 17th December 2021 Issue Number 14
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Dear Parents and Carers,

We've made it!! With no school closures and still keeping our attendance above National levels, we've reached the end of term! Thank you so much for pushing yourselves when you've been ill, or when it's been cold or wet and miserable and your little ones have dragged their feet, to get your children into school so they haven't missed their learning. This week has been exciting but also hard work as we've pushed to concentrate right to the end, despite visions of sugar-plums dancing in our heads. Here are the highlights:

- Monday, we had some visitors from a school in Barking and Dagenham who had heard how well reading was taught here and their teachers wanted to watch what we do. It was lovely to showcase what we do well and to help others improve their own practice.
- Monday also saw herds of reindeer descend on our playgrounds, flying running around, antlers swaying in the breeze, noses glowing (thankfully *not* running) as the cold air beat against their faces. Well done to all those children who stood the course and thank you to all of you who sponsored them. We raised £410.00 for the local hospitals so children set to spend Christmas on a ward will be blessed by your generosity and receive some presents to brighten up what might otherwise have been a sad and lonely time for them. Mahilan (1B) and Ronnie (4B) were the lucky winners of the Reindeer Hampers - congratulations!
- Tuesday was the highlight of the term for me as we saw the culmination of our first term of music lessons in a winter music showcase! With a selection of guitar, piano and drums being played, we saw how hard work and practice pay off in a grand performance extravaganza! Well, ok, perhaps 'extravaganza' is a bit of an exaggeration but it was a wonderful concert showcasing our children's talents. I must confess that I, once again, needed to avail myself of tissues as I watched the children perform their little hearts out! I could have done with slightly less than 10 renditions of Jingle Bells if truth be told but *that* was what the children were learning so *that's* what we heard and I burst with pride as I watched them face their fears and perform like pros! Well done to all those who took part and now let's look forward to the summer when, hopefully, even more children will want to take part (and a wider variety of songs will have been learned!!)

We finished off all our flu vaccines this week so our children should be well and truly dosed up for Christmas - they all trooped out of the medical room sniffing like they had a cold when, in fact, they were armoured against germs of the viral kind (not Covid, unfortunately!)

- The end of the week brought another visit from Santa! This time, he brought croissants, hot chocolate and story books, along with a secret hoard of chocolate reindeer! But there's often a drama where Santa is concerned and this year was no different. With late bookings (and when I say late, I mean left till the day of the breakfast!), poor Santa hadn't brought enough chocolate reindeer for all the children and he ran out at the last minute! Santa warned his elf of the impending disaster and his elf informed Ms Lawson who ran around the school trying to find some replacements. Now, I'm not accusing anyone of anything but some of the staff secret santa gifts look a little less full this morning and every child was eventually furnished with a gift from Santa (don't worry, no alcohol exchanged hands!) - I'm just saying - it's mighty peculiar! So, drama averted, Santa finished his breakfast visits and came to see me before leaving to return to the North Pole. He told me that our children's behaviour was exemplary and he was, once again, thrilled to spend time with such a nice set of children. He kept a 'Naughty & Nice' list of the year groups and I took a quick peek at it as he was polishing off a mince pie in my office - there were no children on the naughty list - Phew! What a relief!
- And that brings us to the end of the week and the end of a very long term! A term which has seen us catching up missed learning time caused by Covid, the first book winners of our reading challenge spending their golden tokens in our book vending machine, our new KS1 play equipment installed and enjoyed by all and our first music concert EVER! I can't wait to see what the spring term brings.
- It only remains for me to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a great holiday filled with family togetherness, love, games and lots and lots and *lots* of reading!!! And I leave you with a final thought for the year:

***"It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters,
it's who's around it!"***

With kind regards and best wishes,
Mrs Searle



Happy Birthday

to.....

Amelia R1
Nayila R2
Yaseen R2
Aarshy R2
Nadiirah R2
Zayyan 1A
Dioni 1B

Kyle 2B
Aronas 2A
Eshaal 3B
James 3B
Holly 4A
Zara 4A
Iyaz 4A

who have a birthday coming up in the Christmas holidays.
We hope you have a great day!

OUR GOLDEN ACHIEVERS THIS WEEK ARE.....

Kevin R2	Ollie 2B
Toby R2	Chanan 2B
Laura R2	Lily-May 4B
Shiloh R2	Logan 4B
Dottie R2	Preston 4B
Alice R2	Bryan 6B
	Danish 6B

Achiever Badges

Congratulations to

Alice R2
Kevin R2
Ollie 2B
Preston 4B

on receiving an achiever badge
for gaining 3 gold certificates!

Dates for next term:

- 4th January INSET DAY
- 5th January children return to school
- 4th February NSPCC Number Day
- 7th February Children's Mental Health Week
- 10th February Mary Poppins Trip for Performing Arts
- 11th February Break up for Half Term