

HARROW LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 9th December 2022 Issue Number 13



Dear Parents and Carers,

Feliz Navidad! It's Spanish Challenge Week and we've all been wishing each other 'Feliz Navidad!' because Christmas is truly upon us! It's Nativity Week!! And boy, has it been a festive week! Here are the highlights:



- Nativities galore! EYFS... what can I say? Every book you've ever read about children's nativity plays, every film you've ever seen portraying the chaos and madness of coordinating 53 miniature humans into some semblance of organisation is an understatement of the reality! The cows insisted that they wanted to be donkeys, one of the mice lost her nose and crawled under chairs and tables searching for it, one of the kings' robes was twice as long as the king himself so he ended up pitching head first into the oblivious shepherds, one of the shepherds took a very strong liking to the baby Jesus, insisting that he should be kept **out** of the manger rather than **in** the manger! And so the baby Jesus was up and down like a yo-yo before the production commenced. George's sheep costume was made from hundreds of cotton wool balls which looked amazing but left a trail of cotton wool wherever he walked. And 52 children thought they were being super helpful by chasing round the floor picking up the fluff, presenting it to a teacher and waiting expectantly for a reward sticker!! Meanwhile, Ms Goodwin was desperately trying to keep the singing going to the point where **she** was actually the only one left singing! Still, she *did* receive a standing ovation which goes some way to making up for it! But, of course, we all adored it and there wasn't a dry eye in the house! A special mention must go to Meshack (R1) and Henry (R2) who, at such a young age, were confident enough to sing into the microphone! Well done to all the children who were totally amazing!
- Year 1 went on a **Magical Christmas Journey** and blew us all away with the standard of singing and acting that was on show. Do look out for Amelie (1A) and Thea (1B) in the West End some time soon - they will definitely end up on the stage or television with those acting skills. And, as I was passing 1B on Wednesday, I heard the most wonderful story being read to the class - it was so engaging, I had to stop outside the classroom to listen in. I thought Ms Price had invited a professional story-teller in to read to her class but, as I peeped through the window, I was shocked to see that it was actually Amelie reading and the class were enthralled! My goodness, that girl is a theatrical force to be reckoned with. Next step - 'Bedtime Stories with Amelie!' She'll be on CBeebies in no time!

- Year 2 sang their little hearts out as they told the Christmas Story through song. They had us all warmed up and raring to go through the day with their rousing song 'Jump Up' and special mention must be made of Halimat, Oliver, Helena, Jimmy, Kara, Jake, Emma, Seth, Harry and Navaira who led us through the Christmas tale with clear, confident voices having learnt all their words off by heart.
- A huge well done to all the children and to all the teachers who put their heart and soul into these events - thank you so much.
- This week, we saw our mini street dancers give a display of their talents to the rest of the school. Well done to the children who looked incredible as they strutted their stuff across the hall. I believe there are 1 or 2 spaces left in the street dance club for KS2 if your child is interested for next term!

- Wednesday saw our Performing Arts choir spend a couple of hours at Romford Market Place. They bought all my Christmas presents for me so I'm all sorted now! Just kidding - they represented the school singing Christmas songs to cheer up all the busy shoppers while raising some much-needed funds in the process. Would you believe that they raised a huge £207 which will be used to help fund their trip to London to sing for the Young Voices. One elderly lady commented to the teachers that the singing had 'made her Christmas!' Well done to all our singers and a big thank you to Ms Harrison for preparing the choir to such a high standard.



-  A huge congratulations to Amelia (5A) who danced her way to victory last weekend as she waltzed and jived around the ballroom earning her some very smart trophies. She performed a snazzy little jive for Nala and I in the office and I was puffed out just watching !!
- Idris (1B) wowed us all this week with his presentation skills and his knowledge of Islam and, in particular, mosques. Here you can see him teaching the class about Islam and the importance of prayer mats in a mosque.



- It was 2As turn to visit The Soanes Centre this week and the children were captivated by the creatures and animals they came across. Henry was the stand-out star identifying a minuscule sized shrimp from eye alone before magnifying it through a microscope. I think *some* of the children were hoping to bag a trout during the pond-sweeping session but it was all about microscopic creatures on *this* visit!

- This week, Y3 spent a whole day on their DT project - there was steam and tempting aromas wafting along the corridor all day. The children cooked and tasted boiled, steamed, fried, baked, roasted and microwaved potatoes and evaluated the differences - no surprise that roasties came out as the firm favourite! Then, in true 'Ready, Steady, Cook' style, a delicious ratatouille was prepared and cooked for 5 hours - the result was apparently very good but no one said anything except mmmm, yum and slurp so I'm assuming all was tasty! The 'piece de resistance' (sorry, don't know the Spanish equivalent!), however, was the planning, designing and execution of their own filled tacos - chicken, beef and quorn were on the menu and Miss B said she could hear a pin drop at the end of the day when the children were given 5 minutes to eat, savour and evaluate their tacos! In between all this learning, there was snack and lunch-time and then I believe each child went home to a hearty dinner!!
- And that naughty elf has made his presence felt again this year - we've had clocks turned forward, clocks turned back, classrooms covered in wrapping paper and elves swinging from the lampshades. And, just to put a current twist on things, one of the elves, in Year 4, taped himself to the Christmas tree and went on strike for being over-worked and under-paid!!
- And today..... well, today was just madness! Firstly, everyone turned up in festive Christmas Jumpers. We normally run Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children but, this year, with so much fund-raising going on and the Cost of Living Crisis biting, we chose to give the fund-raising part of Christmas Jumper Day a miss. The children looked fantastic and everyone was extremely jolly.
- Also, today, we decided to have our Christmas lunch. This is always a really happy affair with Christmas music accompanying the children's chatter as teachers wearing Santa hats or reindeer antlers join their classes for a bit of festive cheer and pull a cracker or two. The cracker hats are always too big and end up as neck-ruffs instead of hats and the toys are always too small so they get dropped and roll around the floor causing chaos and confusion but nobody really minds because it's Christmas. And guess who the lucky person is who gets to collect up all the cracker remains and the paper hats that got away? Oh the joys of Christmas!! A big thank-you to Becky and her kitchen team who slaved over hot stoves from 8 in the morning - they did a wonderful job!
- And, being a glutton for punishment, we decided to run our Christmas Bazaar today so *that* was fun! Actually, it really **was** fun. It took the whole day to set up with very few parents this year owing to huge amounts of sickness. So, a lot of teachers were rallying around to help set up the stalls. Mr Charlee was particularly helpful, offering to set up the KS2 hall stalls - 'What a kind man', I thought; he has a class to teach and yet, he's prepared to try and set up stalls as well. Then I passed the hall and saw Mr Charlee and his class testing out the jumping snow dome having a whale of a time!!!! I'm telling you, that man is 26 going on 7! No wonder he's so popular with the children!! Having said that, the hall **did** get set up as did the KS1 hall, the dining hall, the ponies and the grotto! Guess the teacher was so hard this year that I couldn't even guess which one was '**me**'! Santa turned up at 3:00 pm for a 3:30 pm start but his suit was nowhere to be found! 6 of us were running round the school like headless chickens trying to find anything red to cover the poor man with. Someone suggested he dress as a shepherd with a T.Towel on his head but the largest shepherd

we could find was for a 7 year old. Santa is 6ft 2 inches tall! At 3:25 pm, the poor man's signature suit was finally unearthed from the depths of the PTA shed! So Santa had 2 minutes to transform from man to superman - I think he managed ok although he was a little out of breath! A massive, massive thank you to Ms Lawson and her team of teachers who picked up the slack created by sick parents or parents with sick children! And a huge, resounding thank you to all the parents who were able to help - I know you were run ragged but our appreciation runs so very deep. I'll let you know next week how much we raised!

- Phew! That's it for this week!! It just remains for me to wish you a wonderful weekend - wrap up warm and snuggle under those duvets to read Christmas stories together! And I leave you with this thought:

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."

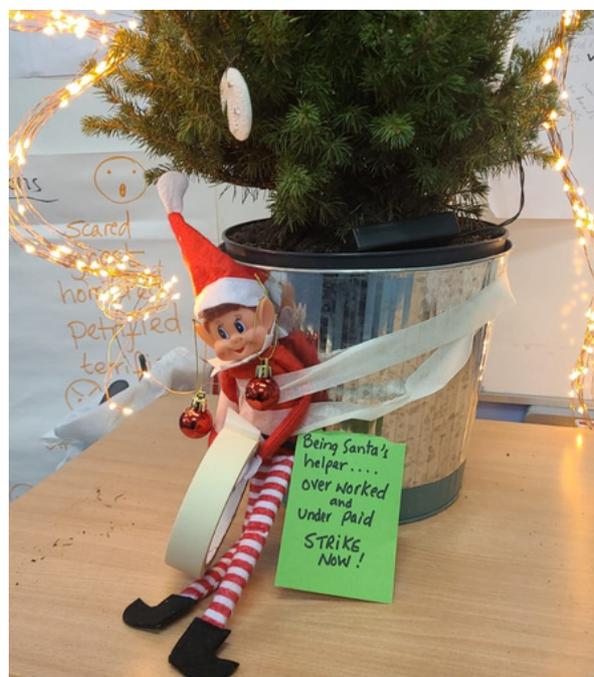
With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle

[Top Doodling Classes this week:](#)

DoodleMaths: R1 (63% of pupils in the green zone)

DoodleTables: 4B (24% of pupils in the green zone)



Star of the week:

R1: Bela
R2: Layla
1A: Chloe
1B: Idris
2A: Kristupus
2B: Oliver
3A: Kyle
3B: Cody
4A: Tia
4B: Marnie
5A: Sofiya
5B: Katie
6A: Jenson
6B: James

Please see our star of the week newsletter on our website and on facebook for photos of their work.
www.harrowlodgeprimary.com

Writer of the week:

R1: Nellie
R2: Brooke
1A: Zaydon
1B: Haakil
2A: Cindy
2B: Oliver
3A: Michaela
3B: Ethan
4A: Olobo
4B: Baris
5A: Nitza
5B: Logan G
6A: Tawheed
6B: Delia



House Points

1st **Centaurs** 307 points
2nd **Phoenixes** 295 points
3rd **Dragons** 292 points
4th **Griffins** 279 points



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to.....

Alice R2

Dollie R1

Nate 1A

Elliot 1A

Amelia 1A

James 1B

Idris 1B

Aarshay 1B

Khaleelah 2B

Regi 2A

Zayyan 2A

Jude 3A

Daniel CJ 3A

Kyle 3A

Aronas 3B

Jack 4A

Lucas 4B

Sarah 4B

Eshaal 4B

James 4B

Dorian 5B

Holly 5B

Noah 6A

who have had a birthday
in the last week.

We hope you had a great day!

This week's
attendance award
goes to...

**1B who achieved
97%**

Whole school
attendance...

93.1%



OUR GOLDEN AWARDS THIS WEEK ARE.....

Mesh R1

Sofia R1

Kaiyaan R1

Murtijiz 1B

Woody 1B

Ifraah 1B

Daisy 4A

Doahika 4A

Eliza 4A

Jack 4A

Samuel 5B

Akshee 6B

Leah 6B

Dinusan 6B

Parker 6B

Kai 6B



Congratulations!

Remember to reach
for those golds to
earn your achiever
badge!



**Congratulations
to.....**

Elizabeth L 1B

Aisha 1B

**for achieving
your reading
token this week!**



Dates for autumn term:

- **Tuesday 13th December - Breakfast with Santa**
- **Wednesday 14th December - Year 3 trip to Chelmsford Museum**
- **Thursday 15th December - Performing Arts trip to Frozen the Musical**
- **Friday 16th December - Visit to Holy Cross Church @ 10:00 am**
- **Friday 16th December - Break Up at 1:30 pm**
- **Wednesday 4th January - Return to school**

We need

YOU!



**Calling all parents,
grandparents, aunts or
uncles!**

We desperately need
volunteers to come in and
listen to our children read. If
you are able to spare a
morning or an afternoon each
week then please contact:
mclarke@harrowlodgeprimary.com
or
lwaddington@harrowlodgeprimary.com

Thank you





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