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IN ALL AREAS



HARROW LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 16th September 2022 Issue Number 14



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful last week of term - crazy busy but wonderful!
Here are the highlights.

- Well, of course, the week began in panic - as the snow tumbled down and settled like a comforting blanket on the ground on Sunday night, our staff WhatsApp group was pinging for England! Everyone was concerned about dangerous roads on Monday morning for driving as well as walking! Me? I was determined to get to school to welcome the Assistant Director of Education Services who was scheduled to visit us! Monday morning was a further frenzy as I liaised with all the Head Teachers in the area to make a decision on whether to close our schools or not. Sadly, the consensus was to close and our important visitor had to be cancelled! If the council got their act together and gritted all the pavements surrounding local schools, we wouldn't have to close!!
- Of course, there were cheers from Harrow Lodge households all over the area as ~~teachers~~ children got wind of the closure and, as the morning gathered pace, those same ~~teachers~~, I mean children, were building snowmen, throwing snowballs and sledging down hills! Of course, Mr Charlee was doing that on *Sunday evening*!!!!
- Towards the end of Monday, we began to assess the school premises to see if a return on Tuesday would be safe and, would you believe it, a pipe directly outside our Barton Road gate had burst and was flooding the playground with water. The council promised it would be dug up, repaired and resurfaced before Tuesday morning so there would be no disruption to parents and children. Now, this next piece of information will really shock you - it turns out that the council dug up the wrong pipe and so, nope, everything *wouldn't* be fixed for Tuesday! Several parents emailed me late on Monday to warn me that flooding was still continuing into the night! So, the very difficult and disappointing decision was made to stay closed on Tuesday also. Thank you for your patience regarding this - I know it's incredibly hard for working parents especially.



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- So, the planned Fire Drill was cancelled and Breakfast with Santa had to be rescheduled but it was a great hit! Santa signed in 'to visit all good children' with his car registration of 'SL81GH' and off he went to have breakfast with those good children. Before he left, Santa told me that he'd visited a few schools in the area and our children were the politest and the most fun!! I'll take that, thank-you, Santa!! A massive thank you to the PTA for organising that event and all the parents who turned up to serve breakfast. I believe Santa was offered a croissant, mince pie and a glass of sherry for breakfast which he turned down in favour of a fruit bowl and fat-free yoghurt - I believe *Mrs Clause* has put him on a strict diet!!
- Y3 were able to go on their trip to Chelmsford Museum which turned out to be the very best educational trip we've ever been on. Having studied 'Through the Ages' , they visited the museum which engaged the children in cave-painting, archaeological digs, weaving and shelter-building. For the first time ever, when I asked the children what the best part of the day was, they didn't say, "Lunch!" The museum staff commented on how knowledgeable our children were and how refreshing that was! Feather in the cap!
- Thursday saw our Performing Arts Group take their annual trip to the West End to see 'Frozen - The Musical' - quite a fitting show given the current weather conditions. They left in a flurry of excitement but *that* soon changed as they sat on the coach, in extreme heat, in traffic jam after traffic jam. One poor child was sick on the way there *and* on the way back and the group missed the first few minutes of the show! They were lucky to be allowed *in* to be honest but I heard that they were so good that they made not *one* sound as they filed into their seats. Another feather in our cap! - well done! The show was amazing and the children had a wonderful time. Thank you Ms Harrison for organising and taking everyone on such a fantastic trip.
- Now, have a look at **this**:



And tell me how professional our new football team kit looks! Anyone facing us on the pitch now will be trembling in their boots. Thank you Mr Charlee for finding a kit that truly reflects our high standards in play, behaviour and sportsmanship!

- Finally, we always finish off our autumn term with a visit to our local church, Holy Cross but, this year, it was considered too dangerous and too cold to risk walking along icy pavements for our Carol Service. So, we asked Julian, the vicar, to bring the church to *us*! And that's what he did! We all gathered in the dining hall and, after an introduction from Julian, we told the Christmas story through the letters of the alphabet. Children read their parts beautifully and they were interspersed with each year group singing an appropriate Christmas song. A special mention must go to Scarlett (6A) who sang 'Away in a manger' as a solo and brought us all to tears. At the end of the service, the whole school sang 'Love has Come' and it truly *has* come into our school. Julian was speechless at the end because the singing and whole performance had been so 'awesome' but he managed to finish the service with a prayer that we should all feel loved this Christmas. It was a wonderfully, magical end to the term. I'm really not an emotional kind of person but I *am* an empathetic one and the children's voices and their beautiful, innocent faces had me choked up to the point where I, too, was lost for words. That was the very best hour I've spent in this school since I joined in 2015 and it's my great sadness that we don't have the space to include parents at such an event - your hearts would have been full to overflowing!
- And, as I end this newsletter, I can hear Christmas music echoing around the halls, laughing children and happy voices as everyone enjoys their parties and celebrates what, for us, has been the very best year of our school life!
- It just remains for me to wish you a wonderful Christmas full of peace, joy and happiness and I leave you with this thought:

***"Choose being kind over being right
and you'll be right every time!"***

With kind regards and best wishes and a very, merry Christmas to you all,

Mrs Searle





This week's
attendance award
goes to...

**R2 who achieved
95.2%**

Whole school
attendance...

86.3%

Dates for spring term:

- **Wednesday 4th January children return to school**
- **Wednesday 11th January – Year 1 & 2 Road Safety Show 9:30 in KS1 hall**
- **Wednesday 11th January – First swimming session for 4A**
- **Thursday 12th January – First swimming session for 5B**
- **Friday 20th January – Performing Arts attending Young Voices at the O2**
- **Friday 27th January – Spanish Day**
- **Tuesday 31st January – Class photos**
- **Friday 3rd February – NSPCC Number Day**
- **Friday 10th February – Break up for half term**