

HARROW LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 24th February Issue Number 7



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the half term break. It was lovely to see all the children back, happy and smiling as they entered the school. It's been a busy week. Here are the highlights:

- We've had a guest teacher, Ms Begum, in school this week. 2A have been the lucky recipients of a new face and I believe she thoroughly enjoyed her time with us and with 2A. We love to have visiting teachers because they bring such a richness to our school. A big thank you to Ms Begum as she returns to James Cambell in Barking & Dagenham next week.
- We've had a new joiner this week in EYFS. His name is Barnabus and he has a beard and a very long tongue but, despite his odd looks, he fits in beautifully with our little ones. He's calm and gentle and enjoys eating live locusts! Oh yes, I forgot to mention that he's a 'bearded dragon'!! You can see him in the top, right corner of this newsletter. Barnabus is a gift from our EYFS parents. EYFS are studying a topic called 'Dangerous Dinosaurs' so our parents thought that Barnabus would fit the bill as 'Exhibit A'! Poor Barnabus - he couldn't be further from being 'dangerous' if he tried! A huge thank you to our EYFS parents who clubbed together to buy Barnabus and all the required accessories for him to lead a happy and contented life. Furthermore, a big thank you to mum Lisa and Kai (R1) who provided all the knowledge and information needed to look after Barnabus and give him the best quality of life.
- As we approach World Book Day (we're celebrating this next Friday), we've been carrying out a few activities to bring stories to life for our children. On Wednesday, Y1 joined a live zoom event with author Carol Vass who introduced the children to one of her stories called, 'Please handle with care' about a teddy bear needing to be cared for. The children discussed all the ways they, themselves, would liked to be cared for. I'm not sure what life must be like for Lorin (1B) but I reckon it must be quite special since *her* idea of being cared for was soaking in a warm bath filled with luxurious bubbles surrounded by ambient lighting from candles and soft, melodic music wafting gently in the air! Lucky Lorin!!!



- Years 2 to 6 were treated to a drama workshop in which they produced a dramatic dance to illustrate one of their favourite stories. I saw 'Alice in Wonderland', 'Where the Wild things are' and 'Coraline' among others and I was amazed at the high standard of both the teacher and the students. Everyone was fully engaged and participated with vigour and verve.
- 8 HHS (Hornchurch High School) students visited 5B this week to carry out a Mental Health Lesson. All was planned to the nth degree and a few of the students were ex-HLPS students so they really wanted to make a good impression. However, 5 minutes into what was shaping up to be a really great lesson, our Fire Alarm suddenly went off! Now, this was a first for me - an unplanned alarm going off with no caretaker on site (Mr Welch was busy enjoying a well-earned lunch break), no office manager (Ms Haynes was lying in bed recovering from a flu-like virus) and Mrs Hak alone in the office having to grab all the necessary paraphernalia needed when the alarm goes off! There was mild anxiety, I would say, as we all looked at each other wondering who had set fire to the place. However, within a heart-beat, everyone kicked into action and auto-pilot took over. The whole school were out of the building within 3 minutes, registers called and all personnel accounted for. The children were 'silent' as the bell rang on and on and on. During a drill, we turn the bell off as soon as everyone is counted but no such luxury can be afforded when it's a real alarm so we had to sit through 10 minutes of ear-shattering ringing, standing out in the cold, waiting for the fire-fighters to appear. We all looked anxiously at the school building trying to spot the first signs of smoke or flames knowing that this was no drill. I walked around checking that children were safe and calm (of course, they were - they are true professionals at this procedure now!) but, as I kept a separate eye on the building, Miss Batt sidled up to me and whispered, "I'm really sorry but I think this alarm is *my* fault - I accidentally knocked one of the alarms with my elbow!" Well! You can imagine my relief and, when the fire-fighters turned up, I was able to tell them the exact location of the problem!! Mr Welch had sprinted over from his home around the corner, leaving his soup half-eaten, to help out in case there were burning buildings to attend to but, in the absence of those, Mr Welch took over with the authority of a man who knew what he was doing and led the fire-fighters to the position of impact!! Your children were amazing as always; they took the false alarm in their stride and showed me their maturity and competence with their behaviour and resilience. The HHS students, stood forlornly in the corner seeing their best-laid lesson plans fizzle into the ether! They needn't have worried as we'll reschedule their lesson but it's disappointing when you've put your heart and soul into planning something and it all goes awry!

- Y1 have been busy learning all about the Great Fire of London this week and, as I was walking through the Infant corridor, I was intrigued to see what appeared to be flames dancing in Mrs Price's classroom. As I walked in to investigate, I was thrilled to witness a stage-play depicting the story of the Great Fire complete with human flames, houses, water-squirters, a king, a baker, Samuel Pepys and, of course, the most important narrator (Amelie was not only an amazing narrator but she stepped up as Director as well - nobody forgets their parts when Amelie's in charge!!)
- And they say all hazards come in threes so I shouldn't have been surprised when I smelt that distinct smell of burning and heard someone shouting, "Fire! Fire!" earlier this morning. Well, you've never see me move so fast and I ran, following my nose and then my ears as I began to pick up the faint strains of 'London's Burning!' It was that pesky Year 1 again playing with fire once more - *real* fire this time. Under the guise of investigation into how the wind affects the spread of fire, Year 1 had set light to a row of miniature wooden houses out in the playground and watched how the scenario played out. It was dramatic as the houses caught alight one by one, faster and faster until they crumbled completely. A big thank you to Mr Welch who stood by in his big fire-safety gloves and goggles with a fire-extinguisher by his side, just in case - this is a man who takes his job very seriously and we're really grateful to him for keeping us all safe so we can learn in exciting and innovative ways.
- Year 5 & 6 had a special visitor this week in the form of a young lady called Yasmin McIntosh who works for the HMRC. She came in and talked to each class about her job which involves looking at the data surrounding tax collection and she delivered a wonderful presentation which gained a lot of interest from the children. However, I noted something most interesting when Yasmin explained the earning Capacity for her job was between £35,000 and £65,000 compared to an average UK career wage of £33,000. There was no great reaction from the children and, when Yasmin asked them if they thought this was a good wage, they were all very under-whelmed. They all thought that it was a poor wage!! On deeper questioning, it became apparent that the wages the children were comparing it to were those of professional footballers and You-Tube influencers! I feel like we're going to have quite a few disappointed children once they get into the real world of work - disappointed and dissatisfied! It might be time for a family chat about real-world expectations - nothing wrong with dreaming big but always keep one eye on realism!
- Y5 have been continuing with their regular games of Countdown and this week, special mention must go to Amelia (5A) who came up with an amazing word from the mixture of consonants and vowels given. These were the letters - see if you can find the 10 letter word Amelia made from them.

p o l d c b g t y u e q a s r i

I'll tell you her answer at the end of the newsletter.

- Mr Charlee took our Year 3 & 4 Athletics Team off to their first competition this week. They competed against 10 other schools and came 6th but we have to wait for another 3 weeks to find out our overall position compared with all the other Primary Schools in Havering.
- Maths Homework this week looks like this:

Name	% on target (last 7 days)
6B	78%
R1	48%
1A	47%
R2	41%
4B	25%
2A	24%
6A	20%

Name	% on target (last 7 days)
3A	17%
1B	17%
4A	15%
3B	10%
5A	10%
2B	3%
5B	0%

- Now, this doesn't look great for some classes - It doesn't look like 5B have done *any* maths homework at all this week which must be a mistake, surely? Well done 6B - still way out in the lead! R1 and 1A seem to be having a battle of their own with R2 close on their heels. Come on, parents, we need you to get your children doodling!
- Finally, we joined the rest of the nation this morning at 11:00 am to spend a minute's silence to mark the past year of war in Ukraine. We have several Ukrainian members in our community now and, whilst we, as adults, may think about the devastation wreaked upon the Ukraine over the last year and how we can continue to support the nation, *our* 1 minute's silence with the children focussed on how we can be understanding, loving and welcoming friends to our newcomers always ready with a kind and friendly smile.
- Well, that was a busy week, indeed! And now the weekend is upon us, I hope you have some plans for family fun in place. It just remains for me to wish you a happy weekend and I leave you with this thought:

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need but not every man's greed "

With kind regards and best wishes,
Mrs Searle



Amelia's word - GRACIOUSLY

Stars of the week will be carried over to next week due our Mental Health afternoon on Friday.



Writer of the week:

R1: Nate
R2: Henry
1A: Joseph
1B: Diyan
2A: Jake
2B: Reggie
3A: Penelope
3B: Harrison
4A: Kyla
4B: Sade
5A: Amelia
5B: Stanley
6A: Liam
6B: Macy



House Points

1st **Griffins** 153 points
2nd **Phoenixes** 137 points
3rd **Dragons** 127 points
4th **Centaur**s 105 points



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to.....

Henry R2	Shayan 3B
Nyla R2	Lily-May 5A
Sidney 1A	Freddie 5A
Woody 1B	Karis 6A
Harry 2A	Jamie 6B
Jimmy 2B	Zachary 6B
Jessica 2B	Parker 6B
Riaadhy 3B	Maksym 6B

who had a birthday
in the last 2 weeks.
We hope you had a great day!

This week's
attendance award
goes to...

**6B who achieved
98.8%**

Whole school
attendance...

93.3%



Congratulations!

to.....

Daily-Leigh 4B	Ifraah 1B
Sade 4B	Summer 1B
Louie 4B	Dottie 1B
Luca 5A	Kyle 3A
Tyler 6A	Amanda 4B
Luke 6A	Idris 4B

on receiving an achiever
badge for gaining 3 gold
certificates!



Congratulations
to.....

Ariana 4A

for achieving your
reading token this
week!



OUR GOLDEN AWARDS THIS WEEK ARE.....

Kai R1	Ifraah 1B	Alex C 4B	Tyler 6A
Hugo R1	Summer 1B	Amanda 4B	Luke 6A
Bella R1	Idris 1B	Isabella 4B	Jenson 6A
Nyla R2	Halimat 2B	Marta 4B	Liam 6A
Charlie R2	Grace 2B	Idris 4B	Sadie 6A
Henry R2	Rhea 2B	Daisy-Leigh 4B	Lexi P 6A
Kevin 1A	Riley 3A	Leni-Rae 4B	Almeer 6A
George 1B	Kyle 3A	Sade 4B	Tawheed 6A
Ellie 1B	Mujtaba 3A	Eshaal 4B	Matthew 6A
Amelie 1B	Liam 3A	Zariana 4B	Violet 6A
Aisha 1B	Ethan 3B	Baris 4B	Mahum 6A
Ardion 1B	Harrison 3B	Louis 4B	Kaysan 6B
Dottie 1B	Shayan 3B	Luca 5A	Veronika 6B
Shiloh 1B	Aya 4A	Simeon 5B	Maksym 6B
Lorin 1B	Olivia 4A	Stanley 5B	



Dates for spring term:

- **Friday 3rd March - World Book Day - Dress up!**
- **Monday 6th March - Stay and Learn Week**
- **Tuesday 7th March - Year 5 Theatre Group - Air Quality and Sustainable Travel**
- **Friday 10th March - 5A visit to Parklands Farm Galleywood**
- **Monday 13th March - 5B visit to Parklands Farm Galleywood**
- **Friday 17th March - Year 5&6 Road Safety show.**
- **Tuesday 21st March - Year 4 trip to Eastbrook Country Park to study the River Rom**
- **Friday 22nd - Year 2 trip to Walton-On-the-Naze**
- **Friday 24th March - Year 6 trip to Harry Potter World**
- **Monday 27th March - Parent's Evening**
- **Wednesday 29th March - Parent's Evening**
- **Thursday 30th March - Year 4 Easter Production @ 2:15**
- **Friday 31st March - Break up for Easter**
- **Monday 17th April - Inset day**
- **Tuesday 18th April - Children return to school**