

HARROW LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 3rd March Issue Number 8



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the end of the week newsletter in which we celebrated St. David's Day - I say 'celebrated' but, in reality, we simply *learnt* all about it. If we were a school in Wales, we would *really* celebrate



it. Ms Clarke grew up in Wales and she told me that every year she would dress up in Welsh National costume and trot into school to join all the other children dressed the same. They took part in cake competitions, decorated Welsh flags, made clay dragons and so the list goes on! *That's* celebrating! And wasn't she a cute little thing? The week was full of hard work as usual. Here are the highlights:



The biggest highlight for *me* this week has been the message we received from the Travel Plan group. After years of waiting, we've finally been given the go-ahead to order a new bike-

shed to the tune of a £9000 grant! *We will* have to lay a new concrete base so, if there are any professional builders out there who can offer their services for free and/or the materials to do that job, I'd be most grateful! On top of that, they've donated a whole stack of traffic role play equipment - I'm going to nab the lollipop lady's outfit to wear when I patrol outside school at the end of the day! That's the most help I'll get from the council to sort out the parking around here!! Still, the new bike shed, eh? I'm going to get a lockable one!

- On Wednesday, our Year 6 children discovered the secondary schools they'd been allocated and there were smiles all round. I didn't hear of anyone who was disappointed so, hopefully, everyone was given their first choice.
- HHS children visited our Year 5's and 6's on Wednesday to talk to them about life at secondary school and what to expect. When I popped my head into the hall, there was a really excited buzz in the air. It's becoming quite real for them now!

- On Thursday, I had a posse of 4 and 5 year olds storm into my office carrying an enormous poster and, when I say enormous, I mean *gigantic*! And on this poster (which should be called a table cloth, really, it was so big!), there appeared to be a map with a variety of landmarks drawn on it. There was a very clear 'Big Ben', an enormous 'London Eye', a rather old-fashioned red telephone box and a red, double-decker bus so I thought I was pretty safe in suggesting that they had drawn a map of London until I saw a big Maple Leaf and the word 'Canada' underneath. Hmm.... Well, it turns out that EYFS are waiting for an enormous egg to hatch but there's no egg-parent around to be seen so the children decided that the egg's mother (a female dinosaur) had flown away to Canada and needed some London landmarks to guide her back to her egg (and, yes, our school was on the map)! I always said we'd get this school on the map one day!! There was a teapot and cake on the map which stumped me as a landmark until Alice (R2) told me that it had to be on the map because, 'it's a thing for the UK!' Fair enough - we all love a cup of tea! And all of that came from reading a short story to them about Rex, the lost dinosaur! It really sparks the imagination when you have stories read to you!!
- Thursday also saw the second day of striking for teachers but we only had 2 classes closed this time. Thank you, again, for your much-appreciated support for teachers and school-funding. I'm sceptical about any huge impact being made with the powers that be but you have to try for the sake of our children who aren't getting a great deal at the moment in terms of school funds.
- Ms Cormenzana was away on Thursday which is when she usually teaches Spanish to Year 5 so I employed a new teacher to teach Spanish. Her name, coincidentally, was *also* Ms Cormenzana but a slightly *younger* Cormenzana, as it happens - 10 years old, to be exact! Indeed, Ms Cormenzana's own daughter was able to run the Spanish lesson (she was a much *cheaper* Cormenzana as well, accepting a Head Teacher's sticker as payment (to be fair, it *had* to be a gold sticker but, still, cheap at twice the price!) Mind you, it's only good value if the teaching is sound so I made sure I joined 5A for their lesson to check that the teaching was really worthy of a gold Head Teacher sticker! And, my goodness..... now, I'm a French speaker (liberally speaking!)- never said any more than 'Hola' in Spanish in my life but I came out of that lesson knowing how to tell people that I had a dog, a cat, a fish, a hamster, a rat, tortoise, parrot and rabbit as pets (in Spanish) - I *don't*, I only have a dog but I can tell Spanish people that I *do*! And that's all thanks to Lily-May (5A) who was so confident, you'd think she'd been teaching for years! "Who can tell me where we've come across the word 'tengo' before?" was her opening line after she'd done a bit of 'My turn, your turn' with the new animal vocabulary!! Thank-you, Lily-May, that was an amazing lesson.

- We took delivery of some new coat stands for the infant classes this week. We've been struggling with space for a long time now with the current coat racks which clutter up the corridors and cause quite a blockage at home time so we're hoping these new ones will stand out of the way and provide a smoother and safer system. I'll let you know how successful they are next week after we've used them for a week.
- Today was Polling Day for our Student Council Members. Thank you to Miss B for organising a great democratic system which mirrors the real-life Polling Days (which, oddly enough, *won't* be taking place this year) and teach our children about our British Values of Democracy and Rule of Law. The children standing for election delivered their speeches to the voters who then made their way to the Ballot Boxes to place their crosses beside their chosen candidate. EYFS children were so excited to be 'councilating'!!! Results will be delivered next Friday once all the votes have been counted and verified!
- I was in the most privileged position today to be invited into 5A to judge their illustrated word posters. In order to try to foster a love of words and the use of less common, more unique words, Ms Howard challenged the children to find a new word and illustrate it. I was asked to judge the best poster which, although an honour, makes me miserable at the same time because how can you choose between 'scrumptious', 'precious' and 'bewildered' and even more common words which you can see the children have worked long and hard on to create unique imagery? It's a double-edged sword, I tell you! In the end, Mitchell walked away with the prize for his illustration of the word 'precious' but they were all truly wonderful.
- And, as I walked around the school today - or, more accurately, as Cat in the Hat walked around the school today, I noticed a bizarre trend of sprouting potatoes on children's desks. Well, I never found out what they were for but someone whispered to me that the children were going to transform them into book characters. The only character I can imagine working is 'Mr Potato Head' but then I don't have the imagination of an 8 year old so I can't wait to see what they produce.
- There's been a huge amount of staff sickness these last few weeks and it doesn't appear to be slowing down. Please bear with us as we cover the absences as best as we can. As always, we'll give your children the very best offer we can with the resources we have but just be aware that there has been, and will continue to be, staff movement around the classes as we try to cover absent teachers.
- And, finally, we ended the week with a belated 'World Book Day' celebration. As usual, there were the mandatory contingent of footballers but, other than that, we had some amazing characters stepping out from between the pages of

our best-loved books. It's not for everyone, though, and some children and some staff members, whilst wholly appreciating the wonderful creations, just didn't want to dress up and that's perfectly alright! I tried to get Nala to dress up as Toto from the Wizard of Oz but she politely declined - I say 'politely' but there was nothing polite about that barking as I tried to bundle her into a small basket!

- And that brings us to the end of another week. It just remains for me to wish you all a happy weekend filled with lots of bedtime stories and I leave you with this thought:

"Life is like a book. Some chapters are sad, some happy. Some are full of adventure whilst others are insignificant and simply move the narrative on. Some chapters are filled with pain, angst and anxiety and others with love, excitement and joy. It's a beautiful book - enjoy every page!"

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle



Star of the week:

R1: Oliver M
R2: Vivaan
1A: Paisley
1B: Murtijiz
2A: Ilsa
2B: Rhea
3A: David
3B: Henry
4A: Olivia
4B: Roan
5A: Amelia
5B: Fatjona
6A: Tyler
6B: Teri-Leigh

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

Writer of the week:

R1: Lakshay
R2: Jamie
1A: India
1B: Shannon
2A: Mason
2B: Musa
3A: Lily
3B: Levi
4A: Alex
4B: Nicola
5A: Opey
5B: Feroz
6A: Mahum
6B: Sophie



House Points

1st **Griffins** 332 points
2nd **Phoenixes** 310 points
2nd **Dragons** 310 points
4th **Centaur**s 308 points



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to.....

Kara 2A
Emma 2A
Mia 3B
Neve 3A
Liam 4A
Mason 4A
Eliza 4A
Doahika 4A
Luca 5A
Kayla 6B

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

This week's
attendance award
goes to...

5A who achieved

97.4%

Whole school
attendance...

93.5%



Congratulations!

to.....

Maia R1	Ardion 1B
Lakshay R1	Henry 2A
Freddy R2	Kara 2A
Layla R2	Emma 2A
Haakil 1B	Seth 2A
Murtajiz 1B	Drey 2B
Amelie 1B	Oliver 2B
Diyan 1B	Baris 4B
Aisha 1B	Kairyn 6B

on receiving an achiever
badge for reaching gold 3
times!



Congratulations
to.....

Harry 2A

for achieving your
reading token this
week!



OUR GOLDEN AWARDS THIS WEEK ARE.....

Meshach R1	Ardion 1B	Drey 2B	Henry 3B
Logan R1	Dottie 1B	Jimmy 2B	Alex 4A
Maia R1	Diyan 1B	Oliver 2B	Amelia 4A
Lakshay R1	Summer 1B	Jenson 2B	Olivia 4A
Isobel R2	Haakill 1B	Ashwika 2B	Olobo 4A
Freddie R2	Amelie 1B	Reggie 2B	Baris 4B
Layla R2	Aria 1B	Khaleelah 2B	Lucas 4B
Vivaan R2	Henry 2A	Alicia 2B	Lemaine 4B
Brooke R2	Regi 2A	Adam 2B	Roan 4B
Lorin 1B	Jamie 2A	Halimat 2B	Lily-May 5A
Elizabeth 1B	Kara 2A	Evie 3A	Holly 5B
Aarshy 1B	Emma 2A	Ollie 3A	Logan 5B
Aisha 1B	Seth 2A	Neve, 3A	Alyssa 6B
Murtajiz 1B	Navaira 2A	Maya 3A	Kai 6B

Dates for spring term:

- **Monday 6th March - Stay and Learn Week**
- **Tuesday 7th March - Year 5 Theatre Group - Air Quality and Sustainable Travel**
- **Thursday 9th and Friday 10th - EYFS Health Checks**
- **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**