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HARROW LODGE PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER

8th September 2023

Issue 1

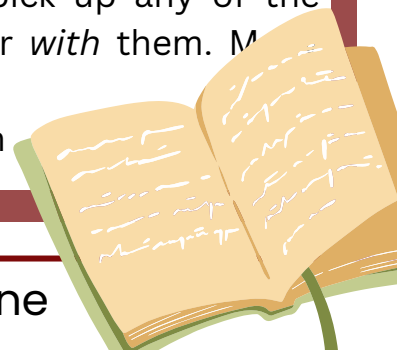
Weekly News



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year. The weather has shown its fierce side this week and I believe it's forecast to continue into next week so, in a week that's normally full of vigour and vim, we've had sleepy children and even sleepier teachers. Never thought I'd say this but 'Bring on the Autumn'! Here's a round up of this week's news:

- It was lovely to see everyone again with shiny shoes and smart haircuts. A few tweaks to the entrances and exits in the first few days has resulted in a smoother morning and afternoon system.
- A huge welcome to our new parents, some of whom are leaving their precious cargo with us for the very first time. Our new little 4 year olds have already received a steady stream of Head Teacher stickers for great writing and beautiful manners which is the kind of start we all want!
- Every teacher has told me that their new class is so much better behaved and harder working than their last class - I haven't reminded them that they say this to me every year and every year there's a honeymoon period of a week or so before true colours are seen!! But, we all love this end of the year because it really is a time when children try so hard to impress their new teachers!
- I am spending every moment I can observing Y6 behaviour to gather evidence for my prefect decision-making process. It's always difficult making those important judgements which mean so much to the children.
- The summer saw some much-needed tree-logging carried out and we chipped up the felled branches and laid them over roots that were poking up out of the ground in the hope of making the area safer - turns out that the wood chippings aren't as small as we thought they'd be so they need to have some weeks to 'bed-in'! In the mean-time, please don't allow your children to pick up any of the chippings and certainly don't allow them to play *on* them or *with* them. Many thanks for that.
- Reading continues to be the most important focus of education



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and so we've set up a competition between the teachers for the best and most imaginative Book Corner so we're hoping to inspire lots of little book-worms around the school. You could help by sharing stories and books with your children - nothing inspires a love of reading more than snuggling up with a great book and a loving parent!

- Talking of inspiring lovers of books, Amanda (5A) piped up this afternoon, "Miss Howard, I think you might be the teacher who's going to make me fall in love with reading. I had my mouth open the entire time you were reading that story... and now I want to read it myself!! Fantastic - that's what being a teacher is all about!!
- As you know, we lost our beautiful Nala last term as her 'mum', Ms Harrison, left her teaching post at the end of the summer term. Her toys and little jumpers and treats sat in my cupboard and I had to clear them all away over the summer which was a very heart-wrenching job. I couldn't bear to just throw them all away so I put everything in the staff room for any dog owners to take as a second home for them. I left a note asking staff to help themselves to anything they wanted and everything disappeared very quickly until there was only 1 box of dog biscuits left that were actually packaged in a very 'posh box' that looked nothing like dog treats at all. When Mrs Noe walked into the staff room craving a biscuit with her morning cup of tea, she was pleasantly surprised to see the biscuits and my note to staff to 'help themselves'. I don't think I need to spell out what happened next - suffice it is to say that she's now *barking* orders at everyone and has become a bit *yappy* in class and very excited whenever Mr Charlee gets the tennis balls out!! You couldn't make this stuff up!!
- I hope you all noticed our new Bike Shed courtesy of TFL Stars. It looks very smart and, with the weather like this, it could easily double up as a greenhouse!!!
- This year, we are working towards a few awards in order to credit and improve the service we provide in educating your children. The first Award is known as the Arts Mark. We are very strong in the provision of the arts but we are looking to improve in terms of bringing the arts into all areas of the curriculum. The second award is a Mental Health Award which we feel is incredibly important for both staff, pupils, parents and governors in this post-pandemic and cost of living crisis period.
- Finally, we are looking to work towards a 'Social Impact' Award which looks at teaching our children the importance of making a difference in the community and the world. We already have our first entrant, Alice D (1A) who, you may remember, planned to donate her hair to a charity who make wigs for youngsters who lose their hair from disease or treatment of disease. Alice raised a total of £745 which has covered the cost of the wig-making. Alice and her family would



like to say a massive thank you to the staff and parents who donated - it made such a difference to the final total and the charity are extremely grateful for the donations. Alice will receive our first virtual badge which every child must gain if we are to achieve the award. I'll keep you up to date about our progress and would appreciate it if you let your child's class teacher know of any social or community driven actions in which your child takes part so we can award them their badges.



Alice makes a 'Social Impact'



The new bike shed

And that brings us to the end of our first newsletter this year. It just remains for me to wish you a wonderful weekend filled with sun cream and ice-lollies and I leave you with this thought:

***“ Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion,
your hands for charity, your mind for truth
and your heart for love -
then you will truly experience heaven.”***

Kind regards and best wishes,

A Pearle



Autumn Term Dates

- **Monday 11th September - EYFS start full time**
- **Week beginning 11th September - After school clubs start**
- **Friday 15th September - Peer Mentor trip to The Tower of London**
- **Week beginning 18th September - Years 5 & 6 Bikability**
- **Wednesday 20th September - 2A visit to Pizza Express**
- **Friday 22nd September - Jeans for Genes Day**
- **Wednesday 27th September - 2B visit to Pizza Express**
- **Friday 29th September - McMillan Coffee afternoon**
- **Thursday 5th October - Parent Council meeting @ 2:00 pm**
- **Monday 9th October - Flu vaccines**
- **Monday 16th October - Parent's evening**
- **Tuesday 17th October - EYFS Harvest assembly**
- **Wednesday 18th October - Parent's evening**
- **Friday 20th October - Break up for half term**
- **Monday 30th October - Return to school**
- **Week beginning 30th October - World of Work week for Years 3-6**
- **Friday 3rd November - PTA Fireworks night**
- **Wednesday 8th November - 1A visit to Pizza Express**
- **Friday 10th November - Remembrance service**
- **Monday 13th November - Individual pupil photos**
- **Week beginning 13th November - Anti-bullying week**
- **Wednesday 15th November - 1B visit to Pizza Express**
- **Friday 17th November - Children in Need day**
- **Week beginning 20th November - Stay and Learn week**
- **Monday 20th November - Flu Vaccines**
- **Thursday 23rd November - Parent Council meeting @ 2:00 pm**
- **Friday 1st December - Whole school Panto trip**
- **Tuesday 5th December - Year 4 Science of sound workshop**
- **Wednesday 6th December - Reindeer Run**
- **Thursday 7th December - Christmas jumper day/Christmas dinner**
- **Friday 8th December - PTA Xmas Fair**
- **Monday 18th December - Breakfast with santa**
- **Tuesday 19th December - Holy Cross Church and break up at 1:30 pm**
- **Thursday 4th January 2024 - Return to school**