

# HARROW LODGE PRIMARY

## NEWSLETTER

8th December 2023

Issue 13

### Weekly News

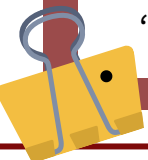
Dear Parents and Carers,

- This week has been a Christmassy one. Here are the highlights:
- Year 4 made a lot of noise!! I held off from complaining because it was all in the name of Science. They learnt how sound travels and, more importantly in my view, how to dampen sound!!!! I thought I'd share the findings with all classes to ensure a quieter school until Ms Batt informed me that it would require removing all the air from the classrooms! later!!
- The whole school took part in our annual Reindeer Run in which children raised money for children who have to spend Christmas in hospital and get fit at the same time - win-win! This year, we had a myriad of coloured noses for our reindeer to celebrate the wonder of difference.



- Ms Clarke, Ms Haynes and myself visited James Oglethorpe school in Upminster this week to see how they run their lunchtimes. We'd heard that they had revolutionised their playing time so we wanted to see what all the fuss was about and see if we might pinch a few good ideas for our own lunchtimes. Well, it was quite an eye-opener and we really loved it so we're thinking about introducing some of their more exciting ideas to see if our lunchtimes can also be 'revolutionised'. It's early days but all I'm saying is 'wellies will be mandatory'!!!

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- This week, I've not had to prepare a single lunch for myself - it's been 'Cookery Week' for most year groups. I've had Ratatouille, Fresh Bread Rolls, raw potato and lemon juice (ok, so those last two took a bit of forcing down but the rest was delightful!) I have to say, when I walked into 3B as they were tasting their meals, it was the quietest I've ever known them to be! But, what a delight to see so many children enjoying a bowl of vegetables!! Although, not *everyone* was a fan - as ??? handed me a bowl of Ratatouille to sample, she pulled a wry face and discretely gave me a thumbs down sign! I guess veggies aren't for everyone!



- Thursday saw 3C have a special visitor welcomed into their class - Mrs O'Conner, their new teacher taking over in January, came to meet them all. They were so excited to see her and they couldn't wait to tell her all about their class and the work they'd been doing. As it was Christmas Jumper Day as well, Mrs O'Conner came to school sporting one of the finest Christmas jumpers seen this side of the Atlantic! I think Mrs O'Conner enjoyed her visit - as she left, she excitedly whispered to me, "I can't wait to get my hands on them!!" Now, don't worry; I know that might sound scary but she's just excited to start teaching your wonderful children and making that class her own special bubble!!! (nothing Covid related intended!!!)



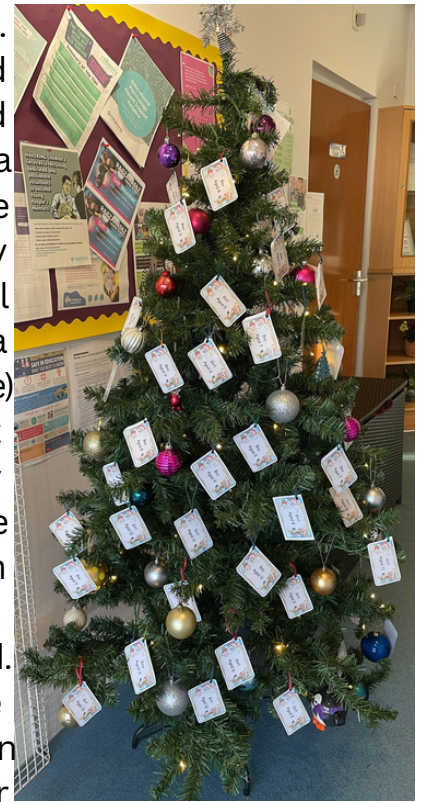
Christmas Jumper Day was a fun day. We all made the most of the opportunity to dress in a festive a fun manner a raise some much needed funds for 'Save the Children'. I know it may seem like we support an awful lot of charities but they are the ones that your children wanted to support and we understand that you only give if you are able and that is the same in all of life. For my part, I'd like the children to grow up understanding that it's heart-warming to help others and it's important to develop a social conscience - today's children are tomorrow's leaders and we want them to lead our country with empathy as well as business-sense!!! This year,

we raised £112.65 for the charity and they will be so grateful for every penny. Thank you all for your tremendous support.

- Christmas Jumper Day coincided with Christmas Dinner Day so it was a really festive day with lively music playing in the dining hall which was a sea of reds and greens as children tucked into a roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings and a chocolate lolly for dessert! Yes, we slackened the rules just for this one day! A big well done and thank-you to our kitchen team for managing to serve up so many hot meals in just under an hour and a half and the dinners were bountiful and delicious.



- This week, we also launched our 'Christmas Joy for All' Appeal. Many of you have already taken part and I'm amassing a hoard of exciting-looking presents in my office which will be distributed amongst some of our most deserving children. Whether it be a financial need or an emotional or physical need, we want to ensure that every one of our children experiences a measure of festive joy this year. The idea is easy - you and your child simply select a label off the tree in the Parent Foyer, set off on a shopping trip and buy a gift for the child on the label (Boy aged 8 or Girl aged 11 for example). Together, you and your child can wrap up the gift whilst discussing the impact of kindness and sharing. When your child hands in the gift, they'll gain a 'Social Impact' badge (remember, it's a virtual badge!). These badges build on your child's profile so they can see how many actions they've been part of that are making a difference in the world.
- And that pesky Elf on the Shelf has intruded on our safe space yet again this year, turning classrooms upside down and inside out causing children to fall about with laughter and teachers to fall about in despair! How any work is accomplished over the lead up to the Christmas holidays, I'll never know!!
- Friday saw our newly-formed choir singing in Romford Town. Mrs Millard and Ms Howard have been preparing our intrepid singers for the last few weeks to sing their hearts out in low temperatures of frost and snow. They were amazing and we received so many compliments about the choir's singing and the children's behaviour - I felt like a proud mum! Unfortunately, Mrs Millard's voice didn't quite reach the finish line and she is now miming in order to communicate!! Thank you to all our little singers and to Mrs Millard and Ms Howard for their perfect preparation!! They raised £180.70 with their beautiful voices - well done to all of you.
- And the week has ended with the highlight of the year about to take place. As I sit here writing to you, frenzied preparations are afoot for our Christmas Bazaar. The arrival of Santa is imminent and I have the mulled wine and mince pies ready by the fire-side to warm him up - he's bound to be cold after that long sleigh-ride to Harrow Lodge Primary but it'll be worth it - he loves polite, kind and happy children and we have an abundance of them waiting to say 'Hello' to him. I hope to see you at one of the stalls trying to win a bottle or a bar of chocolate maybe.
- So that brings us to the end of this week's news. It just remains for me to wish you a lovely weekend full Christmas musings and sugar plums dancing in your heads (10 points if you spot the reference!) and I leave you with this thought:



***"He who has not Christmas in his heart, will never find it under a tree."***

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle



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# Stars of the Week

Our stars of the week will carry over to next week's assembly due to the Christmas Fair.



# Birthdays



Dhyan R2	Shriyah 3C
Alice D 1A	Promesse 3C
Nate 2A	Olamide 3C
Elliot 2A	Regi 3B
James 2B	Roan 5A
Idris 2B	Lucas 5A
Jenson 3A	Tiye 5B
Zoey 3A	Jack 5B
Khaleelah 3A	Maaz 6B

*We hope you had a great day!*

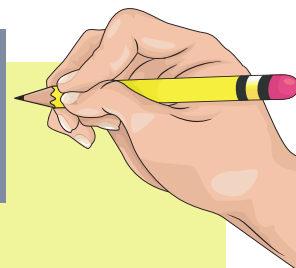
# House Points



**1st Griffins 358 points**  
**2nd Centaurs 339 points**  
**3rd Phoenixes 296 points**  
**4th Dragons 270 points**



# Presentation Award



This weeks presentation award will be carried over to next week's assembly.



# Attendance

This week's  
attendance award  
goes to...

**1A** who achieved  
**96.6%**

Whole school  
attendance was  
**92.3%**



## BOOK TOKENS

Keep working hard to  
earn your reading  
tokens!

## REACHING GOLD!

Well done to the following  
children for reaching gold this  
week:

Olivia R1	Oliver 3A	Riaadh 4B
Tasnim R1	Jessica 3A	Adelaide 4B
Hudson R1	Khaleelah 3A	Nicole 4B
Charley R1	Judah 3A	Levi 4B
Annie R2	Aibinu 3A	Thomas 4B
Cleo R2	Ashwika 3A	Aya 5B
Idrees R2	Nadiia 3A	Muhammad 5B
Hallie R2	Kara 3B	Amelia 5B
Sienna R2	Mahilan 3B	Mason 5B
Isa R2	Jamie 3B	Zalata 5B
Jayden 1A		Eliza 5B
		Inara 5B
		Alex 5B

## Achiever badges

Keep working towards  
achieving golds. Once you  
reach gold 5 times you will  
be awarded an achiever  
badge!

**Congratulations!**



# Autumn Term Dates

- **Monday 11th December – Year 2 concert @ 9:30**  
**Year 1 concert @ 2:30**
- **Tuesday 12th December – EYFS concert @ 9:15**  
**Year 2 concert @ 2:30**
- **Wednesday 13th December – Year 1 concert @ 9:30**  
**EYFS concert @ 2:30**
- **Monday 18th December – Holy Cross Church**
- **Tuesday 19th December – Breakfast with Santa**
- **Tuesday 19th December – **Break up at 1:30 pm****
- **Thursday 4th January 2024 – Return to school**