

HARROW LODGE PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER

2nd February 2024

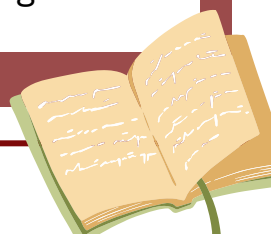
Issue 4

Weekly News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week. Here are the highlights:

- It was Spanish Challenge week this week and all our children have been trying to answer the register and order their lunches in Spanish. This didn't include our Reception children as we're still working hard at getting them to answer correctly in *English* so Spanish might be a tad confusing for the moment! We're still battling against orders of chicken nuggets and chips with jelly for dessert when no such item appears on the menu.....anywhere!!!
- This week EYFS have taken part in an experiment that required the children to engage in an open discussion aimed at developing their critical thinking skills. As part of the National Thinking Classroom Program, the children were asked the following question, 'Is zero a number?' Their responses were so interesting, Sofia (R1), 'Well zero means nothing. How can something that is nothing be something?' Followed by Nailah (R1), 'Well, it must be a number because it's on our number lines and it comes before the number one!' We're starting that critical thinking early!
- Also this week, Mr Dobisz (Oliver's [3A] dad) came in to speak to our Year 6 children about Agnosticism. As you know, last week, we had a parent sharing their Muslim faith with us and Mr Dobisz shared *his* beliefs with us. It was one of the most interesting discussions I've had in a long time. The children were reflective and honest with their contributions and I hope that such discussions help our children to understand the importance of evaluating all religious beliefs with an open mind and a tolerant heart.
- 2B have done a great job this week writing letters of complaint to a fictional Head Teacher from the perspective of Bill (in his new frock!) about unjust ways that gender stereotyping took place in the storybook school. Amelie wrote how confused and offended Bill was that only boys were chosen to help with moving tables and chairs after assembly. This is quite a timely discussion in light of the social media trend suggesting that 'boys are better than girls'!



- Now, I tend to be a very positive person, preferring to celebrate the good rather than complain about the bad but I'm afraid, this week, I'm going to have to break that pattern on account of the events of Thursday when we invited the 'Two Johns' into school to talk to children, staff and parents about the dangers of the internet and how to keep our children safe. These two gentlemen were ex-police officers whose main duties had been searching for and apprehending predators of young children and they had now moved into the business of raising awareness across the country about the serious dangers of the internet that are *hidden in plain site*. They held workshops with Years 1 & 2, 3 & 4 and 5 & 6. We were shocked at the knowledge your children had and that they were very open about the fact that they don't let their parents know what they watch, who they play games with and what they know how to do on phones, tablets and other electronic devices. One year 1 child told the presenters exactly how to reinstall an App their parent had removed and how to hide it on the device so their parent wouldn't remove it again!! That's a 5 year old child! The two Johns trained the teachers after school and some of the statistics were truly shocking. For example, since the pandemic, the number of online sexual abuse cases of **primary** school children has increased by **1000%**. That's a scary statistic! And most of them are *tricked* into it, not even realising that it's happening! It's a whole calculated process by the bad guys!
- For me, however, the really big eye-opener was the effect of YouTube influencers on your children. The presenters showed a set of 20 on-line influencers to the children and they knew **all** of them (*I didn't know any of them!*) and the children follow everything they do or suggest. At the moment, one of the biggest trends is 'boys are better than girls' and girls don't need to worry about getting a job when they're older because they'll just marry a rich man who will provide for them! And **many** of our Year 5 & 6 girls agreed with this point of view! The presenters told us that they see this attitude in *every* school they visit and that we should expect to see a gradual fall in the standards of girls' attainment over the next few years because of this radicalisation (the belief that they don't need to work because they'll marry rich). Well, as you know, we've already started to see this decline in *our* school and we've been scrutinising our teaching methods, researching how to higher girls' aspiration and inviting professional women into school to motivate our girls. Not **once** did we think to look outside of ourselves and consider social media influence; but here we are!
- After the day's workshops and staff training, I was eager to welcome parents to the school in the evening to hear the two Johns and to get their advice on how we can support our children through this internet minefield. You can imagine my disappointment when Mrs Harding told me that only 5 parents had booked to attend the meeting! As if *that* wasn't disappointment enough, *none* of them turned up and not one of them sent apologies! I was devastated and embarrassed



- but, more than that, I was disappointed that we were letting our children down because, without the knowledge the presenters were sharing, parents won't know how to tackle this growing danger. Luckily, 3 parents who hadn't booked did turn up and I'm sure, if you ask them, they will tell you that it was well worth the visit (and they were all parents of infant children which is where the training needs to begin!) I don't want to dwell on this part of the newsletter but I *would* like respectfully request that, if you ever book any kind of appointment or place at a meeting, do please send apologies if you can't make it so that we're not waiting around for you. And, lastly, on this note, although there was such a huge wealth of information shared with parents that I can't cover here, the presenters told me that, if I could only share one piece of information with parents, it should be this: the most dangerous Apps for your children to access or use are TikTok (the **very** worst), WhatsApp and Discord. The 'Bad people' (as the presenters called them) know exactly how to target and trick children, remaining undetected, using TikTok and Discord and WhatsApp is the very worst platform for bullying. Next week, Squirrels Heath, St Joseph's, Brady, Branfil and Drapers Mayland are holding parent meetings with the two Johns. If you know anyone in those schools and can squeeze into one of their meetings, you'll be doing your child a favour, I promise you.
- On a much lighter note, I was thrilled to hear that Amanda (5A) was so enthralled with 5A's class reading book (Wolf Brother) that she persuaded her dad to buy a copy for her and she is currently reading it to *him*!! Dad gets a bedtime story every night!!
- And today, we celebrated NSPCC Number Day by carrying out a plethora of outdoor activities based around learning our times tables. I watched Year 6 carry out a frenzied treasure hunt in the Quad, Year 2 running relays passing the bean bag whilst reciting times tables facts and Year 1 collecting letters as they counted in order in 5s and 10s - the letters then spelled out a well known phrase!
- The kitchen is now in it's 4th week of refurbishment!!! That '2 weeks tops' promise is clearly down the pan!! And there appears to be snag after snag cropping up - the latest being the flooring which was dropped as they carried it into school and now has small bulges every two or three feet! The builders thought it would flatten out as people walked on it! Good grief alive! Where's that 'hand on face' emoji yet again!!! Whatever next!
- And that brings us to the end of this week's newsletter. It just remains for me to wish you a wonderful weekend and I leave you with this thought:

***“Use social media to inspire, not to compare
and your life will be fulfilled not failing to measure up!”***

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle



Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online

Children's Mental Health Day



Harrow Lodge Primary School is running a **Mental Health Day** on **Monday 12th February** to continue to support the wellbeing of our children.

The day focuses on raising awareness of mental health and being mindful of how to support our own, and others', mental health.

The themes for the day that we will be promoting with the children are **'My Voice Matters'** and **'Express Yourself.'**

To tie in with the day, we kindly ask for your children to come into school wearing **non-school uniform**, in outfits that they typically wear on a day-to-day basis that shows their unique identities that **express who they are**.

**NO DONATION
NEEDED!**



On the day, we will be running sessions for the children to express themselves to the rest of their class, if they are comfortable to.

To help to prepare for this, we kindly ask for you to work with your child at home on something that they wish to share with their class linked to **skills, hobbies, talents or interests** that they have, e.g. singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, artwork, a football skill, speaking another language etc.

Please send any pictures of your child linked to this to your **year group emails** by the morning of **Monday 12th February**, or please print any pictures and send them in with your child to share on **Monday 12th February**. **Thank you!** 😊

evfs@harrowlodgeprimary.com year1@harrowlodgeprimary.com

year2 year3 year4 year5 year6 ... @harrowlodgprimary.com

Gardening Club



On **Friday 16th February** we are going to have a **Wear Green** day to support our After School Gardening Club. In order to wear green we are asking that you bring a donation of one of the following:

- Coir - for potting (low salt content please)
- All purpose compost (not peat free please)
- Seeds or bulbs
- Seed trays
- Children's gardening tools
- Cash donation
- Just giving page donation



https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/GardeningClubProject?utm_term=gPj4Gx42Q

We thank you in advance for your support



Stars of the Week

R1: Ashton
R2: Darius
1A: Isobel
1B: Darcy
2A: Aisha
2B: Lorin
3A: Khaleelah
3B: Roan
3C: Maxwell
4A: Lily
4B: Henry
5A: Vijaya
5B: Amin
6A: Iyaz
6B: Isla

Birthdays



Tasnim R1 Kyla 5B
Musa R2 Ela 5B
Callum R2 Kotryna 6B
Layla R2 Arthur 6B
Anaaya 3C Simeon 6B
Vinyx 3B

*We hope you had
a great day!*

House Points



1st Dragons 455 points
2nd Griffins 444 points
3rd Phoenixes 438 points
4th Centaurs 436 points



Presentation Award



This weeks presentation
award goes to Vadim in
R2

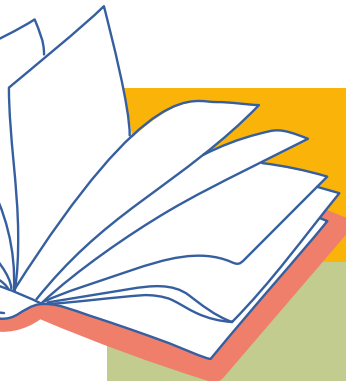
The mas went to
Trebbrn Theyese tom
lit rabbit face

Attendance

This week's
attendance award
goes to...

3A who achieved
98.7%

Whole school
attendance was
94.5%



BOOK TOKENS

Congratulations to...

Jamie 3B

for earning your
reading token this
week!

REACHING GOLD!

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

Archie R1	Lenny 2A	Promesse 3C
Lola R1	Aarshy 2A	Ishan 3C
Hudson R1	Aisha 2A	Manaal 3C
Arisha R1	Murtajiz 2A	Nicole 4B
Luna R1	Nate 2A	Liam 5B
Dhyan R2	Elizabeth 2A	Daisy 5B
Hallie R2	India 2A	Kyla 5B
Layla R2	Teddy 2A	Gedis 5B
Musa R2	Laura 2A	Sahar 5B
Jayden 1A	Ifraah 2A	Osna 5B
Alice 1B	Elliot 2A	Pavel 6A
Affan 1B	Luke 2A	Bonnie 6A
Rohan 1B	Kara 3B	Brody 6A
Ella 1B	Harry 3B	Luca 6A
Zayna 1B	Azaan 3C	Kaeden 6A
	Elsie 3C	Alex A 6A



Achiever badges

Well done to...

Lola R1

Aisha 2A

Kira 3C

Amber 4B

Liam 5B

for reaching gold 5 times
and earning an achievers
badge.



Congratulations!



Spring Term Dates

- **Monday 12th February - Dress to express yourself - non-uniform day (no donation)**
- **Monday 12th February - Parent's Evening**
- **Wednesday 14th February - Parent's Evening**
- **Friday 16th February - Wear Green for Gardening Club and bring donations for the club**
- **Friday 16th February - Break up for Half term**
- **Monday 26th February - Return to school**
- **Thursday 29th February - Year 4 Music workshop**
- **Thursday 29th February - Year 6 trip to Harry Potter World**
- **Friday 1st March - Year 2 Music Workshop**
- **Monday 4th - Friday 8th March - Careers week**
- **Thursday 7th March - World Book day - dress up**
- **Friday 8th March - Mother's Day stalls**
- **Monday 11th March - Class photos**
- **Tuesday 12th March - 3C trip to Colchester Castle**
- **Friday 15th March - 3A & 3B trip to Colchester Castle**
- **Monday 18th March - Stay and Learn Week**
- **Monday 25th March - PTA Easter Egg Hunt**
- **Tuesday 26th March - Year 4 Easter Play**
- **Wednesday 27th March - Year 5 trip to the British Museum**
- **Thursday 28th March - Easter Bonnet Parade**
- **Thursday 28th March - break up at 1:30 pm**