



HARROW LODGE PRIMARY



NEWSLETTER

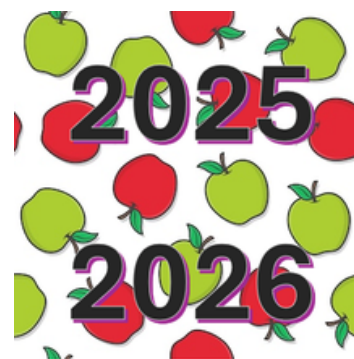
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5th September / Issue 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a brand-new school year!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break, enjoyed family time in the beautiful sunshine and perhaps had a few moments to relax without thinking about packed lunches, uniform labels and homework!! I know 'I' did and now I'm ready to face the onslaught of lost coats, jumpers and water bottles!! Bring on the new year - it's going to be the best yet!



- First of all, let's discover the fruits of the summer! Mr & Mrs King, Jessica & Chloe's (3A & 1A) parents, have been busy chopping up pallets, building planters and seating areas and painting walls and wood in order to create a seating area for your children in the playground. You can see the new area beginning to take shape and we are so grateful to them for volunteering their skills to build a social setting for children at playtime. We'll need to fund-raise for some shading sails at a later date but, for now, we're excited to see the new area get some use. The children expressed a desire for seating zones and this is the first one. Once the planters have some greenery in them, it will be like an oasis amid the hub-bub of play-time.
- The sand-pit has been properly filled with sand and new sand toys introduced alongside an influx of car-tyres (where the last ones disappeared to, goodness only knows! Those pesky foxes probably swiped them for their dens!!)
- The outer wall of the infant library has been freshly cladded and looks smart as a

- pin - giving us a rain-free infant library too!
- The old bike shed has been half covered with waterproof fabric creating a dry space for wellies to be stored and the large container (once the housing for the weekend footballers' equipment) has now been dismantled and removed. We are no longer letting out our fields - the lack of respect for our grounds and equipment has sadly led us to shut down any borrowing of our fields. It's a shame because we loved being able to support community ventures and it brought us a small income as well but, when it's a choice between that and keeping our children's play area safe, clean and tidy, there's no contest! Despite the rumours, it's not all about money!!
- Our infant library has been gutted and refurbished over the summer so now we just have to design the interior and fit it all out.
- We had another Fire Risk Assessment so, as you can imagine, I'm not smiling after that! They won't be happy until all the walls are bare and the corridors clinically clear - frankly, I'm surprised they haven't told us to get rid of the staff and children because that's pretty much all that's left to be stripped from the school! What do you mean, I sound bitter? Surely not???
- So, it's been a busy time in school over the holidays, as I'm sure it's been for all of you. In fact, I know for a fact that some of you have been very busy indeed!



Sofia (2B) spent the summer researching the Little Princess Trust Charity who make wigs for young people who have lost their hair through cancer treatment and other medical conditions. She discovered that it takes a huge amount of hair and £700 to make just one wig so she made it her mission to provide hair and funds to support the charity. She set up a fundraising page and


managed to raise an incredible £1,065 for them and, on top of that, donated her own hair so she has single-handedly provided a whole wig to someone who needed it most. We're so proud of you Sofia - it's not easy to give up such a precious head of hair but you have done a wonderful thing for someone in need and we think you look stunning with your new haircut!

- And Mason (5A) achieved a magnificent award at the Elm Park Horticulture Society Vegetable Show last weekend where he won 1st prize for his home-grown

- radishes and 3rd prize for his runner beans!! What an triumph (I struggle to grow weeds in my garden so I'm in awe of such expertise!) Well done Mason - I wonder what you'll do with your prize money - maybe invest in more seeds and start to supply our kitchen with its veggies! Mrs Ellis' gardening club has produced a 'Champion Grower'! Here are the winning specimens and a very proud dad - they'll be eating well tonight!:



- Back to school this year and we welcome a newly married Mrs Lawson who tied the knot over the summer on a fancy cruise liner with Ms Kitts as her Matron of Honour - congratulations Mrs Lawson. We also welcome Mr Manister, who joins Mr Charlee in putting your children through their fitness paces along with Miss Longo-Mimbango, Miss Boamah and Miss Nicolaou who are joining our ever-growing SEND team. We're really happy to have them on board our team and I know you'll make them feel welcome and supported as they start their journey with us.
- The first 3 days have been wonderful! We love this honeymoon period - the children are always so happy and so well-behaved. However, the same can't be said for Houdini the Husky who lives on Rainsford Way but thinks our field is his own personal garden. He's escaped into our field a few times and, today, it was Mrs Noe's turn to chase him down and harness him as best she could when he had no collar or harness (an ingenious use of her lanyard meant she could control him until Mr Welch came along with a rope!). The owners were out for the day so Mrs Noe was on babysitting duty for an hour and a half before we managed to make contact with them. Mrs Noe can now add 'Experienced Dog Handler' to her CV. Anyone wanting diverse and wide-ranging life-experiences needs to get a job with **us** - standard issue here!!!

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- And, as we start afresh, remember that success begins in the mind believing that it will be so. Anything can be achieved with the right mindset and hard work and I look forward to seeing what successes this year will bring. Let the journey begin!

“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference!”

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle

Autumn 1 Term Dates

- Monday 8th September - EYFS children start
- Thursday 18th September - EYFS parent workshop @ 9:00 am
- Friday 19th September - Jeans for Genes Day
- Monday 22nd September - Year 5 & 6 Bikability week
- Friday 26th September - McMillan Coffee afternoon
- Tuesday 30th September - Flu Immunisations
- Wednesday 1st & Thursday 2d October - Year 2 Learn to Ride days
- Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th October - Year 3 & 4 Bikability
- Monday 20th & Thursday 23rd October - Parent's Evening
- Tuesday 22nd October - Performing Arts trip to see Wicked