

HARROW LODGE PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER

24th May 2024

Issue 6

Weekly News



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we arrive at the end of the first half of the summer term, these are the week's highlights:

- The week began with classes 3B and 3C visiting the Tate Gallery. I had some super feedback from the Gallery about the behaviour of our children. It's always a delight when I receive those calls and it makes me realise just how much better we are than other schools. The two classes thoroughly enjoyed themselves but were somewhat bewildered by a plain white metre square being sold as a piece of much sought-after artwork!!! I couldn't really answer them because that bewilders *me* as well!!
- It was all about the sex this week as we had our annual sex education talks for parents. This year, we trimmed down the talk so it didn't include the 'Relationships' part of Relationships and Sex Education. This is because we are now obliged by law to inform parents about the Relationships curriculum which we have done by parent mail and our website so we didn't see the need to include it in the Sex Education Talks. To be honest, it made it much clearer to parents exactly what is being taught in sex education and those who joined us fed back that it was extremely clear and concise and put their minds at rest about our approach to the topic. It also meant that the talk lasted for half the usual length of time - a win for everyone!! A big thank you to Miss B who always prepares and delivers these presentations so thoroughly.
- Sticking with sex, you'll be aware that there's been a lot of talk in the news recently about redrafting the sex education curriculum. Sex Education is always a controversial topic but the new draft policy is now out for consultation and you can have your say about it by taking the DfE survey. Here is a link to the updated draft RSHE guidance document that has been discussed in the news recently:

https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/supporting_documents/Draft%20RSE%20and%20Health%20Education%20statutory%20guidance.pdf



and here is the link to the survey so you can have your say:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/>

- The most pressing issue that came up at the meeting was that of children having access to the internet on their phones including Tik Tok, WhatsApp, YouTube etc and the problems this causes. We talked about St Albans' bid to become the first smartphone-free city for children under 14 because of the negative impact smartphones have on children's mental health and development and how we should do something similar here but for under 11s. I'm aware of some 6 year old children being on WhatsApp chats with 10 year olds and 14 year olds and seeing and hearing totally inappropriate and damaging content because of the diverse ages of the group. It does seem to have gotten out of control and we are damaging our children but we ALL have to agree to keep our children off the smartphones if anything like this was ever going to work because peer pressure is too strong to resist!
- Still staying with sex.....we offered 3 talks this year to tell parents about the content of sex education in each year group and, although only 6 parents booked the evening slot, we thought it was worth running it but, unfortunately, no one turned up. I felt very sorry for Miss B who had stayed late to give her presentation and it reminded me of the same thing that happened with the 2 Johns. I do understand that it's really difficult to come out at night once you're home from a long day at work but it does have such an impact on teachers who are also tired and desperate to get home to eat and carry on marking and prepping for the next day. So, I have decided that we will only run day-time meetings in future as they seem to suit you far better (and us!). Parents' evenings will still be in the evenings but, unless there is any good reason to do so, we won't offer any more evening meetings.
- We had National Numeracy Day on Wednesday. Year 5 joined the National Numeracy Day live interactive, space-themed, celebrity-led livestream while Year 2 played maths bingo, learnt a cowboy dance by counting steps with Katya from 'Strictly' and made up our own maths rap with actions. 4A did a number dance, some maths puzzles and some extra TTRS in the ICT suite. Other activities included Bot Bingo, Bonds Bingo and lucky number cake baking!



- As you are aware, we smashed the race to the most votes for the Dunelm support and very proud we were, too! This week, I waited for the call to let me know what our Dunelm donation prize would be! Well, you can imagine my disappointment when they told me that *they* wouldn't be donating *anything* but they'll put a trolley outside their shop with our school's name on and a wish-list that we should put together for their customers to donate products to us!!!! Well, I don't want to look a gift-horse in the mouth but isn't that just going to be our own parents and staff donating yet again????? 🙄
- 5B have been dissecting plants this week - I walked into their classroom which smelt like a Florists - I could have stayed there all day. Liam was keen to point out all the different parts of the plant to me showing me his expert dissection skills!
- Year 4 had a visit to The Chase planned this week but it was cancelled owing to the river flooding overnight!!!!
- I had 4 amazing children visit me this week to show me their sentence writing. Annie, Jude, Meltem and Camilla (R2) have been writing about the witch from their book, *The Witch's House*. Jude's witch lived in a haunted house, Meltem's witch rode on a broomstick, Camilla's witch lost her broomstick and Annie's witch went to the pub! Annie told me that *she'd* been to the pub just one time but her daddy has been a lot of times!!! Sorry, dad - no secrets in school! 😂
- Our Willow Class studied mini beasts this week and the room was full of creepy crawlies - here's one of them!!
- Today was our wonderful Music Showcase in which 45 of our students showed us what they had been learning in their music lessons, choir or performing arts over the past year. It was a fantastic celebration of hard work and confidence. I was so proud of all of them and how brave they were to perform in front of the whole school and parents. Well done to everyone who took part and a special thank-you to Miss Batt for coordinating all the musicians and the music and ensuring the children were well-practised!
- Finally, you will have heard that there is a General Election on Thursday 4th July 2024. As usual, we are required to open our doors as a Polling Station so please make a note in your diary that the school will be closed to children on that day.
- And that brings us to the end of the this week's newsletter. It just remains for me to wish you a wonderful, restful half-term week and I leave you with this thought:



“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.”

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle



Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online



OPAL NEWS



Thank you to the parents who have already ordered items from our Amazon Wish list. We have once again been amazed by the generosity of our families as the amount of items purchased continues to grow. We still have lots of great ideas for lunchtime activities so if you would still like to get something from our wish list please use the link below:

<https://amzn.eu/bpsk3Bs>

This week we introduced two new areas, a Lego area in the quad and tyres on the field. We have had so much Lego donated that we were able to set up three large Lego tables and one small one and the children love them!



The children have also had lots of fun this week playing with tyres thanks to Mr Healey and Mr Smith, who washed loads for us. We had a special assembly on Monday to go through the safety rules and so far so good! We are always after more tyres as we would like to make some raised planting walls so, if you are able to source some for us, we would be very grateful.

The next area we would like to develop is a doll area so we are collecting baby dolls, baby doll accessories, Barbies or any other dolls that the children can play with. Please put any donations in the parent foyer.

Thank you for your continued support,
Ms M Clarke



Stars of the Week

Due to our Music Showcase our stars of the week have been carried over to the next assembly.

Birthdays

Ameer R1
Sage R1
Kaiyaan 1B
Evangeline 1B
Sara 1A
Maia 1A
Thea 2B
Vanessa 3B
Roan 3B

We hope you had a great day!

House Points

1st Griffins 499 points
2nd Phoenixes 490 points
3rd Dragons 466 points
4th Centaurs 452 points

Presentation Award

Due to our Music Showcase our presentation award winner has been carried over to the next assembly.

Attendance

This week's
attendance award
goes to...

3A who achieved
99.3%

Whole school
attendance was
92.6%



BOOK TOKENS

Congratulation to

Daryna 5B
Ariana 5B
Gedis 5B
Stefania 6A

for earning your
reading token this
week!

Congratulations!

REACHING GOLD!

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

Dexter R1	Zaydon 2A	Rhea 3A	Stefania 6A
Sage R1	Ifraah 2A	Henry 3B	Isabella 6A
Aidan R1	Kevin 2A	Emma 3B	Gurkeerat 6A
Ameila R1	Nate 2A	Seth 3B	Sotonte 6A
Camilla R2	Jessica 1B	Navaira 3B	Iyaz 6A
Harper R2	Haakil 2B	Aadam 3B	Nitza 6A
Hurmat R2	Idris 2B	Mahilan 3B	Yafeya 6A
Jude R2	James 2B	Jamie 3B	Freddie 6A
Meltem R2	Amelie 2B	Harvey 3B	Kaeden 6A
Sehaj R2	Milana 2B	Manaal 3C	Bonnie 6A
Rocko R2	Mithran 2B	Sinachi 3C	Nathan 6A
Wilayate R2	Aria 2B	Olamide 3C	Hayden 6A
Zoe R2	Thea 2B	Mustafa 3C	Demi 6A
Charlie 1A	Sidney 2B	Jibreel 3C	Luca 6A
Jamie 1A	Ifeh 2B	Aqeelah 3C	Frank 6B
Hugo 1A	Joseph 2B	Feryal 4A	Hannah 6B
Evani 1A	Nala 2B	Kyle 4A	Isla 6B
Sofia 1A	Aria 2B	Arham 4A	Maz 6B
Darcy 1B	Sophia 2B	Michaela 4A	Reuben 6B
Alayna 1B	Toby 2B	Lemaine 5A	BJ 6B
Rohan 1B	Lorin 2B	Olivia 5B	Romaissa 6B
Laura 2A	Grace 3A	Aya 5B	Fatjiona 6B
	Zoey 3A	Mason 5B	
	Jordan 3A	Osna 5B	
	Reggie 3A	Muhammad 5B	
	Zoey 3A	Amin 5B	

Achiever badges

Well done to...

Sofia 1A	Olivia 5B
Joseph 2B	Mason 5B
Nala 2B	Osna 5B
Henry 3B	Muhammad 5B
Seth 3B	Isabella 6A
Jibreel 3C	Gurkeerat 6A
Mustafa 3C	Iyaz 6A
Olamide 3C	Yafeya 6A
Aya 5B	Luca 6A
Amin 5B	

for reaching gold 5 times
and earning an
achievers badge.



Summer Term Dates

- **Monday 3rd June - Year 4 Multiplication Check week**
- **Wednesday 5th June - Year 1 trip to Hertfordshire Zoo**
- **Thursday 6th June - 6A trip to Hornchurch Aerodrome Museum**
- **Friday 7th June - 6B trip to Hornchurch Aerodrome Museum**
- **Monday 10th June - Stay and Learn week**
- **Monday 10th June - Year 1 Phonic screening week**
- **Wednesday 12th June - PTA Colour Fun Run**
- **Thursday 13th June - Choir singing to Romford Elderly Group**
- **Friday 14th June - Father's Day stalls**
- **Friday 21st June - Junior Music Festival @ Queen's Theatre**
- **Wednesday 26th June - Year 2 trip to Walton on the Naze**
- **Thursday 27th June - EYFS trip to BarleyLands Farm**
- **Thursday 4th July - Polling Day - School closed**
- **Friday 5th July - Rescheduled Year 4 River Trip**
- **Tuesday 9th July - Open evening**
- **Friday 12th July - Sports Day**
- **Tuesday 16th July - Performing Arts Showcase**
- **Wednesday 17th July - House winner water fight**
- **Friday 19th July - Year 6 Presentation assembly**
- **Friday 19th July - Break up for summer at 1:30 pm**