



December 2017

Newsletter

Christmas Performances



The week of performances in the hall have gone extremely well with children from Reception to Year 6 having the opportunity to perform and share the Christmas message with their families. The children were able to show off their singing and acting skills in front of large audiences, which was lovely to see. We hope that having two sessions for each performance meant that it was more comfortable for the audience and that people could see and hear more than in previous years.

We will adjust the timings for afternoon showings next year so that parents/carers do not have to wait as long for the end of the school day when the children are dismissed. However, minor organisational issues are nothing in relation to the Christmas joy provided by children through the magic of their performances.

A huge 'thank you' to all who were able to attend and support the school during these events.

Christmas Lunch



The lead up to Christmas started with a bang when we had our Christmas Lunch on Monday 11th December.

The catering staff worked extremely hard from the early hours to produce a Christmas meal for the whole school to enjoy. With the support of all the school staff (office staff purchasing table cloths and crackers, teachers, supporting their classes, Teaching Assistants getting the tables ready and serving children, Mr Hewett on music duties) the hall was set up to have 2 hours of fun, excitement and delicious food.

The day was made extra special with Christmas jumpers being worn and it was lovely to see such an array on show.

Outdoor Learning



From January, the school will be developing the opportunities for outdoor learning across the different year groups in KS1 and KS2. A letter, detailing the specifics, has been provided so that parent/carers know what will be happening and how children should be prepared for the sessions.

Forest School Outdoor Learning is an integral part of Harlow Green's curriculum and we know how much children and families appreciate this aspect of our school. We very much appreciate your support in this matter.

Certificates for Pupils



From January, there will be some changes to recognition certificates for pupils at the end of each week. Rather than one child per class being selected for an award, each class will present five certificates on a weekly basis. These certificates will be subject-based and will be presented as a result of the successful work and attitude the recipients have demonstrated over the week.

Our intention is to ensure that we are rewarding the behaviours we expect children to apply regularly and that this will be recognised more frequently. When your child receives a certificate at the end of the week, please take the time to congratulate them and ask them about what they have achieved.

Attendance Success



We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for their support with their children's attendance, this term. Currently, the whole school attendance is 96.5%, which is promising considering there have been holidays in term time and a few bugs going around, as would be expected at this time of year.

At the end of term, we have been able to present '100% Attendance' certificates to 133 children; this represents approximately a third of our pupils. We will look to increase this for attendance over the spring term but it is brilliant to have so many achieving this.

It is essential that children come to school every day. Absence due to illness, for the majority of children, should be infrequent and we expect all children to achieve at least 96%. Where there are attendance concerns, we will continue to work with parents/carers and the Local Authority to address them.

Merry Christmas



On behalf of the Governors and staff of Harlow Green Community Primary School, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone again in January after an enjoyable and restful break.

Nursery – Outdoor Fun



Lots of Nursery children are hoping that Santa might bring them a bike or scooter this year. They have been trying hard to stay on Santa's 'Good List' and they have been practising their balancing and pedalling skills on the Nursery bikes and scooters. The boys and girls did really well and are now well-prepared for what Santa will hopefully bring them.

Reception – Plan, Do, Review



In Reception, everyone has been enjoying 'Plan, Do and Review' sessions. Recently, the children chose an area where they would then carry out an activity that they had planned to do. They followed their own ideas and were able to talk about what they had done with their friends. Some of the ideas that the boys and girls came up with were: different ways of representing 5 using a 10 frame, baking lemon cakes and adding decoration, painting pictures of dinosaurs and the Angel of the North, and even pretending to be the teacher and taking the register. Visit the website to see examples of the children in action.

Year 1 – Subtraction Game



Year 1 have been learning how to subtract by 'counting back' through playing a maths game with a partner. They had to roll a dice and count back the number of spaces from 20. The first person to 1 was the winner. The children were able to apply their skills whilst having fun through playing which made it much more enjoyable.

Year 2 – Advent Celebrations



Over the last few weeks, Year 2 have been learning about the importance of Advent and the Christmas story. As part of their Advent celebrations they each created their own Advent wreath. They thought carefully about the colour and meaning of each candle and now have a greater understanding about this tradition.

Year 3 – Collage



Year 3 have been learning about the use of colour theory in Paul Klee's art. Initially, the children mixed complementary colours and painted sheets of paper in preparation. These coloured sheets were then cut into strips and mixed together to create the collages. Keep up-to-date with the artwork for Year 3 on the school website.

Year 4 – Melting and Freezing



In their science lessons, Year 4 have been carrying out an experiment to find out the melting point of chocolate when in a tray of hot water, cold water and icy water. The children used thermometers to record the temperature and a stopwatch to record the time taken for the chocolate to melt. Year 4 also thought about how the test could be made fair.

Year 5 – Soaring like Eagles



Year 5 have been learning how to play basketball, with the help of the coaches from Newcastle Eagles. During sessions, the children have had to brave the cold in order to learn to fake shots and passes to try to get into space. Regardless of the weather, there were some excellent performances and brilliant baskets and defence.

Year 6 – Rainforest Presentations



Within their topic, Year 6 pupils have been studying the South American Country of Peru. This term, the children researched aspects of the Amazon Rainforest and presented their information to the class. Visit the website to see pictures of children during their presentations.

School Choir – A Community Christmas



The school choir visited Angel Court residential home to sing some Christmas carols, this month. The children loved getting the residents to join in and sing along. The children and staff received a very warm welcome from everyone at Angel Court, including a very generous buffet and selection boxes. The boys and girls are already looking forward to going back next year!

Spring Term Diary Dates

January Start of Term	Mon 8 th
February Half Term	Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th
March Parents Meetings Last day of term	Mon 19 th – Tues 20 th Fri 29 th