



December 2018

Newsletter

Staffing Change



After seven years at Harlow Green, Mrs Reynolds will be leaving us at the end of term. Having been a teacher and senior leader in charge of the curriculum, Mrs Reynolds has had a strong impact on the provision of pupils across the school and will be a miss in many ways. However, we know that parents/carers will join us in wishing Mrs Reynolds all the best in her new role.

From January, Year 3a will be taught by Mrs Tubbritt who is looking forward to working with the children and parents/carers.

Christmas Lunch



The whole school had a fantastic time on Monday 10th December as our Christmas events began with a traditional Christmas lunch.

During the dinner service, each class came into the hall – with the tables specially decorated and Christmas tunes playing in the background – where they were served a lovely festive meal. The children in Reception and Year 1 were even waited on by the staff which made it that little bit extra-special. It was made more “Christmassy” with the children and staff wearing their Christmas jumpers. There was a wonderful array of jumpers on show, some of which were even home-made!

Changes to the Start of the school Day



From January, we will be changing the way in which children come into school at the start of the day. These changes will be for Reception through to Year 6. A separate letter has been provided with more detailed information as well as being available on the website. Below is a summary of what the process will be after the holidays:

- School gates providing access to the yards will open from 8.35am.
- School doors will open from 8.45am and will close at 9.00am.
- There will be no lining-up as, over the 15 minute period, children will be able to enter the building through the appropriate access door in a staggered manner as they arrive on site.
- Children must be in school for 9.00am or they will have to be brought to the main office and be registered as late.

Positive Attendance



This term's attendance has been very positive; we would like to thank parents/carers for sharing our expectations of children's attendance and supporting them to be in school daily. Currently, the attendance is above 96% but it is important for us to improve this even further in the spring term as we should be aiming for above 97%.

| Group | % Attendance |
|--------|--------------|
| Year R | 96.3 |
| Year 1 | 96.1 |
| Year 2 | 97.8 |
| Year 3 | 96.6 |
| Year 4 | 96.9 |
| Year 5 | 95.7 |
| Year 6 | 96.7 |
| Totals | 96.6 |

We are really proud that we have 116 pupils this term who have 100% attendance. This is a great achievement for what is the longest term in the year. These children have received achievement certificates and we will be looking to do the same again for children who achieve 100% during the spring term. Also special recognition should go to Year 2 who continue to have the highest attendance in school.

Christmas Performances



We would like to thank all the parents/cares, grandparents and family members who attended our annual Christmas performances. The children have very much enjoyed sharing the Christmas message and have been impressive in doing so. This is a special time of year where the community can come together with a sense of joy and happiness and your support is much-appreciated. Please visit the website to see photographs of the children during the shows.

Thank You and Merry Christmas



We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers, grandparents and family members for all their support over the last year. It is great to know that we have families who understand the need to support their children both in respect of academic work but also in relation to their personal development; without both school and home working together, we will not achieve our shared goals.

On behalf of everyone at Harlow Green, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Nursery – Bookstart



This month, both morning and afternoon Nursery were visited by Chrissy Milburn from Gateshead Library. She came in to talk to the children about the Bookstart packs that she had brought in for them to take home. The children listened to a story from the Bookstart pack and Chrissy also read a very special Christmas story.

At home time, the children were excited to take away their new Bookstart packs to share with a grown-up. Thank you to Gateshead Library Service for such a lovely treat!

Reception – Outdoor Games



During December, the children have taken part in lots of different Christmas activities. They have worked very hard on writing their letters to Santa, using candy canes to practise their letter formation and creating gingerbread men in the playdough area. The festive excitement is definitely building-up!

Year 1 – Nurse Visit



Year 1 was really lucky to have a nurse visit from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The children learnt so much about what it is like to go into hospital and about the people who work there to help those who are unwell. Some children even had a go at taking a patient's blood pressure and applying a sling.

Year 2 – Turn-taking



As part of the PSHE unit in Year 2, the children have been learning the importance of turn-taking. The children have been practising this skill by playing some different board games. Through the sessions, the children have recognised how important it is to listen to their friends and take turns so that the game is fair as well as understanding the need to show good sportsmanship. Hopefully, if the children are lucky enough to receive some games from Santa, they'll apply what they have learned when playing with their families.

Year 3 – Abstract Art



In Year 3, the children have been creating abstract self-portraits in the style of Paul Klee. The boys and girls focused on the use of hot and cold colours and enjoyed learning about abstract art. If you visit the website you can see the amazing versions the children have created.

Year 3/4 – Gymnastics and Cheerleading Festival



On Tuesday 4th December, a group of Year 3 and Year 4 girls took part in the Gymnastics and Cheerleading Festival at Gateshead Leisure Centre. It was brilliant to watch all the routines from the local primary and secondary schools. The experience was fantastic as it was a wonderful opportunity to perform in front of a large audience.

Year 5 – Invisible Assault Course



The last few weeks have been cold and soggy at Harlow Green so, in Outdoor Learning, the children were set a task to keep themselves moving but also to develop their communication skills. The challenge was to set up an invisible assault course.

Firstly, the children were put into teams. Each team-member had to devise their own invisible obstacle: five obstacles per team, along the length of the pitch. They were not allowed to demonstrate, only use verbal description from which an opposing team would try out the assault course.

It quickly became clear that concise communication was vital to keep the momentum of the challenge going. The children had to adjust their instructions quickly to ensure participants had a clear understanding of what to do. They were encouraged to test out each other's courses before providing feedback. The children found that adding detail helped with it being far better to give the participants something to visualise: for example rather than saying simply, "Just crawl on your stomach", it was better to explain, "There is barbed wire suspended above the ground, you must crawl under it for 3 metres". As people can imagine, these types of descriptions also added to the drama of the game. Visit the website to see the pictures of the children during the activity.

Year 6 – Building a Sukkah



In Religious Education, Year 6 have been learning about festivals celebrated in the Jewish religion. At the end of the topic, children have had the chance to think about Sukkot, where the Jews were led to their promised land. During this celebration, Jewish families build a Sukkah to remember when their ancestors were in the wilderness and had to construct their own shelters. Year 6 children built their own models to represent these shelters. If you visit the website you can see the work that the children were involved in.

Diary Dates

December

Last day of term

Fri 21st

January

Training day for teachers
Children return to school

Mon 7th
Tues 8th

February

Half term

Mon 18th - Fri 22nd