



February 2020

Newsletter

School Awards for Personal & Social Education



At Harlow Green, a key aspect of our provision is based on the personal and social development of our children. For many reasons, the modern world can be a challenging one and it is essential that children are equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills to be able to interact with others, understand what is going on in their community and beyond, as well as achieve and fail with confidence and perseverance. In recognition of the vast array of provision within our school curriculum, the school has been recognised with two awards.

Firstly, after a visit by an independent assessor, the school was recognised as achieving the requirements for the UNICEF Rights Respect Silver Award. This is a wonderful achievement as it identifies all of the work we do in supporting children to understand the rights that children across the world have and how the school supports our children to access their rights positively.

Secondly, the school has achieved the 'FOCUSING' level award through the Gateshead Schools Health and Wellbeing Service (GSHWS). The Gateshead Schools Health and Wellbeing Service exists to support and encourage school development within the area of health and wellbeing. As a GSHWA school, we are recognised for the work we are doing to develop and enhance our health and wellbeing provision in school. The award acknowledges how our school and wider community work together with many local services and agencies. We will continue to work on our action plan to achieve the next level, 'Bronze'.

Relationships & Health Education

As part of our Personal, Social and Emotional Education programme, the school has now finalised its Relationships and Health Education provision (RHE). Along with this newsletter, children will bring home a letter with information about their child's specific programme this year. The main focus of the RHE programme in primary schools is to develop children's understanding of healthy relationships inside and outside of school. Throughout the programme there will also be aspects which support children to understand how their bodies are developing so children can express themselves to trusted adults and keep themselves safe. Of course, as children move into Year 6 and are preparing for secondary school, there will be greater detail about body changes which may involve talks from school nurses.

The national guidance is clear with a framework for all schools to follow by September 2020. At Harlow Green, we will provide information to parents to identify what children will be learning. As the programme is different in each year group, we will provide information on an annual basis, each autumn, so that the programme is clear.

Article 17: We all have the right to be given safe and honest information that we can understand.

Nut Products in School



As we have previously explained, we have a number of children in school with a nut allergy. This type of allergy can be extremely serious if the children are exposed to nut products. We hugely appreciate the efforts by all parents/carers to refrain from providing packed lunches to their children with products which contain nuts as this goes a long way in protecting particular children from potential hospitalisation.

Although we have great support, there are times when products are mistakenly brought in. When this is identified by staff and children, lunchtime supervisors and teachers will follow a consistent procedure:

- Take the product and place it in a plastic bag so that it can be taken home safely.
- Help the child who had the product to wash their hands and mouth (if it was opened/used).
- Identify the potential exposure to children with a nut allergy and respond appropriately.

We would also like to ask that parents/carers change any chocolate spreads that are currently being used if they are nut based (e.g. Hazelnut Spreads) to non-nut variations.

On behalf of the children in question and their parents, we would like to thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

Parental Support: Harlow Green Unite

Over many years, the school has benefitted greatly from parental support. This happens in many ways from the way in which parents will follow school expectations through to providing time in school to support staff within the curriculum. All support is appreciated as it provides stability to the work the school does in providing a quality experience for the children.

However, one aspect that we would like to develop further is that of the parent group – Harlow Green Unite. Many people may see this as a Parent Association or Parent Committee but, basically, it is a group of parents/cares who have some time to work more collectively to support the school in various organised and formal ways. In the past, Harlow Green Unite have organised coffee mornings, supported in the development of school fairs, provided extra pairs of hands during events, managed pre-owned uniform etc.

There is an inevitability that, as the children of key members of this group leave Year 6, parent/carers also leave and that is what has happened leaving us without a parental group. Consequently, we would like to try to set up another group who can look to grow and develop the group in a manner appropriate to those who would be involved. **Therefore, if you would like to be involved in developing this group because you have time you could devote, we will be holding a meeting on Friday 13th March at 2.45pm. If you wish to attend, please report to the school office.**

Nursery – Here Come the Birds ...



Nursery children enjoyed learning about birds, this month. In class they watched a short film about the types of birds they might expect to see in our community, then they listened to different bird songs. The children particularly liked the chattering magpie and the robin.

Before heading outside, some children made little birds of their own using plasticine, feathers and sticks. These were then perched around the nursery.

Then it was time to get wrapped up to head out onto the field. It was a bright but windy day, so the children mostly saw larger birds such as crows, seagulls and pigeons. There was great excitement when two magpies arrived and perched on a fence right in front of our keen 'twitchers'.

Article 6: We all have the right to live and succeed in everything we do.

Reception – Little Movers Workshop



In February, Reception were able to host some special visitors; the 'Little Movers' team came to show the children and their adults what activities could be used to help everyone have fun and develop physically.

To begin with, everyone enjoyed some gross motor movement in the hall. The activities included: dancing, skipping, and running. This was a brilliant way to get everybody's hearts racing. After this, the team moved onto fine motor skills in the classroom with lots of exciting activities which included: cutting, writing, using tweezers to build sugar cube towers, plus many more. Thank you to all for making it such a brilliant success.

Article 24: We all have the right to be healthy and happy.

Year 1 – The Princess & The Pea



This term, the Year 1 class text is 'The Princess and the Pea'. As part of understanding the story, the children made a crown for the Prince. They then had to pretend to be the Prince and saying what he had a lot of (being so wealthy), but also showing his sadness at not being able to find a real Princess to be his wife.

The children have also enjoyed listening to a variety of other traditional tales and have started to compare their features. What traditional tales could you read at home?

Article 28: We all have the right to a good quality education.

Year 2 – Healthy Packed Lunches



In Design Technology, Year 2 have been exploring what makes a healthy lunch. The children learned all about the 5 different food groups and how a meal should contain elements of each of the groups. With this in mind, the children designed a healthy packed lunch. The children then practised their spreading, cutting and peeling skills while creating their designs.

All of the children enjoyed sampling the different options, with many realising that healthy options are still enjoyable! The children were very good at trying new food, and even trying foods they didn't think they liked.

Article 24: We all have the right to nutritious food.

Year 3 – Art: Tint & Tone



In Art, Year 3 have been experimenting with mixing paint. By adding white and black to primary colours, they produced their own colour strips of different tints and shades. The boys and girls moved on to explore tertiary colours with blue and yellow paint, to mix different tones of green. Using a range of tones, the children then created their own tree paintings. Visit the website to see the children enjoying their creative time.

Article 29: We all the right to develop our talents and abilities.

Year 4 – Digital Beats



The children in Year 4 have been getting creative with composition. The aim was to compose and perform a rap about bullying. The children began by creating a steady pulse using an iPad. They then digitally composed a simple melody using percussion instrument sounds over the top of their beat. Once their backing track was complete, it was time to write some lyrics. The children came up with very inspiring words to highlight the importance of kindness and friendship. Although nervous, they performed their songs to the rest of the class and the reaction from everyone was amazing. The children did a fantastic job and all composed a chart worthy song.

Year 5 & 6 – Theatre Visit



On Thursday 27th February, the Year 5 and Year 6 children had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Theatre Royal to watch the stage production of the novel 'Holes', written by Louis Sachar.

As a school we could not let the opportunity pass as the book is one of our most popular texts in Year 5. This has been read by all of Year 6 last year and is currently being read by Year 5 as part of their English studies. Although the children love reading the book, seeing a stage adaptation was a different experience altogether. It was wonderful to see the awe and wonder of the children watching such a quality production. The children found the whole thing a fantastic experience and were glowing in their reviews afterwards. Matching a quality book with a quality theatrical experience has really shown children the power of literature.

Article 28: We all have the right to a good quality education.

Diary Dates

March

World Book Day
Parents Evenings

Thurs 5th
Mon 9th /
Tues 10th

April

Last day of spring term
Easter holidays

Fri 3rd
Mon 6th-
Fri 17th
Mon 20th

First day of summer term