

Weekly Newsletter

HARROW LODGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



11th September 2026



Here's what has happened over the last week!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am so pleased to welcome all our families back after what must have felt like a long summer holiday to **you** but was barely enough time for us teachers to decompress and build our strength back up for another full-on year!

And a special welcome to our new parents who have watched as their little ones left their sides and entered big school all by themselves this week. Our newest cohort of children have been learning the ropes and they've done extremely well - especially on Thursday when they had their first school dinner. I couldn't believe my eyes as I surveyed the sea of tiny beings and saw every single one of them eating their lunch with a fork and spoon (the knives were a little too tricky to manage) but, my goodness, this was the first time I've ever seen a cohort of 4 year olds all using their cutlery at lunchtime - not a single finger dipped into the pasta bake!!!

Our KS1 children entered classrooms that were newly decorated and, when I say the builds were only just finished in time for school opening to children, I'm talking about workmen walking out as children walked in!!! It was *that* close to the line! **I** was extremely worried about it but our teachers were amazing staying calm and relaxed with an attitude of "We've worked in the eye of the storm before and we can do it again!" The classrooms look lovely by the way and all are up to date and fire-proofed now!!

This week, I met with each year group in turn reminding them of the expectations we hold as a school and what moving into a new year group means for them.

We're in what's known as 'The honeymoon period' in teaching circles when children are on their best

behaviour and keen to impress their new teachers so, every time I visit a class, the teacher is smiling and relaxed, hair still coiffed neatly and voices set at a normal pitch - I give it another week before I start seeing slightly wild eyes, abandoned hairstyles and teachers communicating mainly through deep breaths and pointed looks!!

We also held our expectation meetings for parents this week - we held them face to face for the first time since we moved to 'expectation *letters*' during Covid. It was lovely to see parents face to face and it was also a great opportunity for questions to be asked and suggestions to be made - a bit like a huge parent forum!

We've had a few disasters over the refurbishment - like a brand new staff toilet that won't flush and a hall full of resources that came **out** of classrooms but won't fit back **in** to classrooms! But there's never a build without a drama as we very well know by now!!

Well, it's been a relatively quiet first week back - barely worthy of this new tabloid-paper style newsletter which, by rights, should be filled with juicy gossip but I think we're all happier with a calm and zen-type start to the new year.

So that's it for news this week - it just remains for me to wish you a lovely weekend and I leave you with this thought:

"Here's to a year of learning, laughter, kindness and plenty of reasons to be proud."

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle

AUTUMN TERM

Upcoming dates:

- Monday 14th September - EYFS children start full time
- Wednesday 23rd September - EYFS & KS1 Cycle Awareness
- Thursday 24th September - EYFS & KS1 Cycle Awareness
- Friday 25th September - McMillan Coffee Afternoon
- Wednesday 7th October - Performing Arts trip to see The Lion King
- Tuesday 13th October - Flu Vaccinations
- Monday 19th October - Parent's Evening
- Tuesday 20th October - EYFS Harvest assembly (am)
- Tuesday 20th October - Year 5 Harvest assembly (pm)
- Thursday 22nd October - Parent's Evening
- Friday 23rd October - break up for half term

Thank you for reading!

HARROW LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL	01708 448187
www.harrowlodgeprimary.com	Rainsford Way Hornchurch RM12 4BP