ISSUE 10

Weekly Newsletter

HARROW LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

20th November 2026



Here's what has happened over the last week!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a quieter week this week, but I suspect it's simply the calm before the storm as we prepare to launch into our Festive Furore! With Christmas activities, celebrations and excitement just around the corner, the next few weeks promise to be as busy as ever, but full of the magic that makes this time of year so special at Harrow Lodge.

Firstly, I'd like to thank you all, on behalf of Children in Need for your generous donations last week on non-uniform day. We raised £247.60p, 1 old pound coin and 2 euros which will be very much appreciated by the charity.

Children in Years 2–6 were learning to ride bicycles this week and, despite the cold weather, they all managed to keep smiling as they developed their cycling skills, confidence and balance. It was wonderful to see their determination and perseverance, particularly those who were riding a bicycle for the very first time!

It was generally very quiet around the school in the mornings this week because it was 'Test Week', when we assess the children to see how well they have understood and retained the knowledge and skills taught during their first term in their new year groups. These assessments give us a valuable insight into the progress the children have made since September, as well as helping teachers identify any gaps in learning that need further attention. We're trialling a new Assessment package this week in years 2 and 4 because the product offers a gap analysis as part of the package which would save teachers many hours of work but we'll wait to see how good the assessments are before we run headlong into purchasing a new product. So, if your child mentions a new way of testing, you'll know what they're on about!

4B and 2A had their Library visits this week and both classes enjoyed the visit with excellent behaviour reports for both classes. I actually waited in the Reception Foyer with 4B as Mrs Cormenzana signed the class out and nipped to the toilet before the trip (yes, teachers have to do this as well!) and I watched as the children at the front of the line followed their teacher with blind obedience straight into the toilet! The look on Mrs Cormenzana's face as she turned around to close the door only to be faced with a line of children walking in behind her! 😄 😳 😂

Thursday was a lovely day of photographic fun as the children styled it out in picture-perfect poses with plenty of smiles and laughter, making sure the cameras captured their sparkling personalities!

Nativity rehearsals are in now in full swing in the afternoons and Year 1 are busy getting ready to wow us all! The year 1 team have been working hard teaching the children their lines, actions and songs. There's plenty of enthusiasm, some energetic dance moves, a few forgotten lines but lots of Christmas magic happening behind the scenes! We're definitely in for a treat! The biggest challenge at the moment is making sure the donkey and star make it through the whole performance without the usual chorus of "I need a wee!" just as they're about to go on stage!

EYFS Nativity rehearsals are also now in full swing and, as always, there have been a few hilarious moments along the way! The character names are causing a little confusion, with one of our budding performers convinced they're playing a 'camel singer'! Meanwhile, the most sought-after roles appear to be the ***doors***, as those lucky children actually get to wear a door! Who knew that being a door could be quite so exciting? Apart from these minor theatrical misunderstandings, rehearsals are going brilliantly and I suspect the next West End production is well and truly in the making!

Today, we welcomed the nurses back into school once more to administer flu vaccinations, both injections and nasal sprays, helping to keep our children healthy and protected as we head into the colder winter months. I have to say that illnesses in the younger years (and amongst the staff) have been absolutely rife this term. I've never known it to be quite so bad – not just in terms of absence, but also the severity of the illnesses and the length of time it's taking everyone to recover. Some of these bugs seem particularly nasty and are certainly proving difficult to shake off! Here's hoping that the colder weather brings an end to some of these germs rather than encouraging even more of them!

And finally, as we gear up to the Festive period, we start thinking about putting up decorations and I'm in the December camp when considering the timings for this but I know some of you will be in the November camp and may already be adorned with Christmas sparkle.

6A were having this same discussion in class this week with some very astute and mature arguments arising for both sides of the debate and then Jake settled the dispute with his very serious point, "Well, I think we should put the decorations up on the 1st of November because that's when Mariah Carey starts to defrost and she's the Queen of Christmas!!" Not much else you can say to that!!

And that brings us to the end of the week. It just remains for me to wish you a lovely weekend. If you're looking for something festive to do, **Upminster Town Centre** is hosting its Christmas lights switch-on this Friday (4–8pm), with fairground rides, Santa's sleigh and live entertainment and Tweed Way Hall in **Collier Row** is holding a Christmas market on Sunday (11am–4pm), with handmade crafts and seasonal gifts. Plenty of opportunities to get into the Christmas spirit! And I leave you with this thought:

"Life is a bit like a Christmas tree. Everyone admires the sparkle on the outside, but it's the branches underneath and the roots that keep us steady - the people who help us stand tall that really make the difference. Never forget those who hold you up while you're busy shining."

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Searle

Stars of the week

R1 Nina
R2 Teddy
1A Micah
1B Nova
2A Amelia-Rose
2B Eva
3A Parker
3B Ahton
4A Isobel
4B Eesa
5A Liza
5B Finn
6A Halimat
6B Ismail
6C Azaan

Kindness Award

R1 Amelia
R2 Enibibi
1A Daisy
1B Thomas
2A Max
2B Alexandra
3A Camilla
3B Fletcher
4A Ameer
4B Nate
5A India
5B Brian
6A Shemuel
6B Jake
6C Jibreel

Achiever Badges

Congratulations to following children for reaching gold 5 times and earning an achiever badge:

Niyanshi 2B
Evani 4A
Thea 5B
Paisley 5B



Book Tokens

Well done to the following children for earning their book token this week:

Toby 6A



Reaching gold this week:

Daniel R1
Ayaan R1
Aryan R1
Natalia R1
Nina R1
Avinesh R2
Heidi R2
Ardie R2
Teddy R2
Viraj R2
Enibibi R2
Daisy 1A
Ariyan 1A
Cooper 1A
Mason 1A
Hurain 1A
Haniya 1A
Amiyah 1B
Denys 1B
Rahman 2A
Da'Ud 2A
Kiaan 2A
Max 2A
Soumia 2A
Aleena 2A
Adrian 2A
Ronnie 2A
Tilly Rae 2A
Amelia 2B
Inaaya 2B
Niyanshi 2B
Haleema 2B
Kian 2B
Joshua 2B
Gracie 2B
Lucas 2B
Isa 3A
Vadim 3A
Amelia I 3B
Dexter 3B
James 3B
Danielius 3B
Matei 3B
Kevin 4A
Evani 4A
Zayna 4B
Nate 4B
Maria 4B
Elliot 5A
Kevin 5A
Layla 5A
Arlo 5A
Idris 5B
Thea 5B
Sidney 5B
Ifeh 5B
Paisley 5B
Aria 5B
Ardion 5B
Heidi 5B
Kal El 5B
Milana 5B
Mithran 5B
Finn 5B
Zoey 6A
Grace 6A
Khaleelah 6A
Joel 6A
Jacob 6A
Harper 6A
Adam 6A
Musa 6A
Mujtaba 6A
Loris 6A
Ahmad 6A
Halimat 6A
Dominic 6B
Eadie 6B
Mason 6B
Kris 6B
Mahilan 6B
Ashlyn 6C
Irhaa 6C

Golden Welly Award

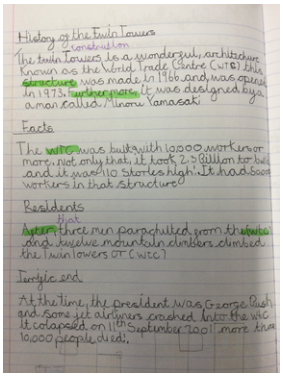
The award for great OPAL play this week goes to:

Alexandra in 2B
Shannon in 5A

Well done!



Presentation Award



History of the Twin Towers

The twin towers is a wonderful, architecture known as the World Trade Centre (WTC) this structure was made in 1966 and was open in 1973. It was designed by a man called Minoru Yamasaki

Facts

The WTC was built with 10000 workers or more, not only that, it took 2.3 billion to build and it was 110 stories high. It had 5000 workers in that structure

Residents

After three men parachuted from the twins and twelve mountain climbers climbed the twin towers of (WTC)

In the end

At the time, the president was George Bush and some jet airliners crashed into the WTC it collapsed on 11th September 2001 more than 10,000 people died.

This week's presentation award goes to:

Nala in 5B

AUTUMN TERM

Upcoming dates:

- Monday 23rd November - Stay and Learn week
- Wednesday 25th November - 3B visting Elm Park Libarary @ 11:15 am
- Wednesday 2nd December - 5A visit to Elm Park Library
- Thursday 3rd December - sponsered reindeer run
- Friday 4th December - Whole school panto trip
- Monday 7th December - am Year 2 Christmas concert, pm Year 1 Christmas Concert (times tbc)
- Tuesday 8th December - am EYFS Christmas concert, pm Year 2 Christmas concert (times tbc)
- Wednesday 9th December - am Year 1 Christmas concert, pm EYFS Christmas concert (times tbc)
- Wednesday 9th December - 5B visit to Elm Park Library @ 11:10 am
- Thursday 10th December - Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner
- Thursday 10th December - 3:30 - 5:00 -PTA Christmas Fair
- Friday 11th December - 9:15 - Rock Steady Concert to parents
- Tuesday 15th December - Choir singing in Romford Market @ 1:00pm
- Wednesday 16th December - Breakfast with Santa
- Wednesday 16th December - Choir singing at Park Rise Retirement Village pm
- Friday 18th December - 10:30 Holy Cross Church Carol service
- Friday 18th December - 1:30 Break up for Christmas
- Tuesday 5th January 2027 - Return to school

Thank you for reading!

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