



## Jerounds Journal

Dear Parents and Carers,

In an open letter in the *Guardian* this week, Jess Gillam wrote explicitly requesting that **EVERY** child is given the opportunity during the primary years to experience the 'magic of music'. It seemed apt, therefore, as staff discussed the successes of the past half term in a recent staff meeting to share this article directly with our community; especially since this half term featured so many examples of outstanding music practice across all year groups.

**Every child deserves the magic of music...**

*'Music is part of the fabric of our society; it sits at the heart of human experience and enriches so many lives. Why, then, is it not central to our educational system? This is a question I recently posed to an all-party parliamentary group on music education.*

*I am 20 years old and began playing saxophone, aged seven, at Barracudas Carnival Band in Barrow-in-Furness. The funding for the centre has now been cut. I took part in the primary tuition scheme, aged 11. The funding for the scheme has now been cut. It is a running theme across the country.*

*Music is not an add-on, a 'soft' subject or a luxury – it is essential to our existence. Every child deserves the opportunity to experience its benefits.*

*Until music is held in the same regard as the 'core' subjects of our curriculum, our society will be worse off. We need joy, empathy and hope on this planet more now than ever, and depriving children of the opportunity to develop musical skills is to set ourselves up for a fall.*

*Despite the many brilliant schemes and initiatives to encourage young musicians (Every Child a Musician, Awards for Young Musicians and Sistema, to name but a few), we are reaching a crisis point. We are in danger of crushing creativity, innovation and expression.*

*Learning an instrument can teach and develop so many fundamental life skills. It promotes discipline, empathy, determination and cooperation as well as providing a sense of community and worth.*

*Music has changed my life. It is a huge part of who I am. I have learned so much about the world through music and the inspiring figures I have met through it. I feel I have a duty to help ensure that others can benefit from its magic. Let us make it available to every single child'.*

I read this letter with a contrasting flood of emotions: saddened by the obvious financial cuts to the music curriculum on the one hand yet filled with an immense sense of pride for all that we have achieved with music at Jerounds, on the other. In direct contrast to Jess Gillam's letter, we **have** placed an emphasis on music and specialist teaching. In fact, the ARTS, in general, is championed at Jerounds. This has undoubtedly enriched the lives of **all** our children, beyond brilliant academics. Similarly, this term alone has created life-long memories for our Years 4 & 5 – who partook in the Young Voices Concert at the O2. Equally, on Tuesday I witnessed our Key Stage 2 hall full of children, parents and teachers all singing and dancing together, with spine-tingling results! Likewise, it was wonderful to see all our children engaging with the performance, affording them the opportunity to develop both their self-esteem and collaborative skills. Well done children! Well done Mrs Wiltshire! Well done Jerounds!

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### Other News:

After much deliberating, Jerounds' children embarked upon a democratic mission to name our new Twitter Mascot. Every class was asked to vote for just one out of twelve shortlisted names. The names spanned a creative spectrum from Oreo, Icy, Hugo to Penny! After a whole school vote, the name which scored the highest overall tally was .... **OREO**



Our new addition to Jerounds will now: accompany our children on their school trips; participate in drama workshops; make special guest appearances on themed days and hopefully engage our parent community in our new Twitter page @NET\_Jerounds.

Significantly, we very much look forward to welcoming you all to our first Parent Forum scheduled for Tuesday 26th February at 09:00 in the Key Stage 2 Hall. Here, we hope to discuss and gage parents' opinions with regards to our present 'report format'. All schools within the NET Academy Trust will be considering the information attached to reports and the relevance of that information. We sincerely hope that many of you will be able to join this forum. Teas/coffees (and biscuits!) will be on hand to inspire our creative thoughts! Please add this date to your diaries.



Finally, on behalf of all the staff may I wish our families an action-packed holiday full of reading and writing (see inside for our 500-word writing competition as a prelude to World Book Day). We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 25th February, 2019.

With best wishes,  
Mrs Laura Ciftci BA (Hons) MEd  
Head of School  
Jerounds Primary Academy

## Dates for your Diary

15th February—Children break up for half term

18th February to 22nd February—half term

25th February—Children return to school

28th February—Parent Consultation 1pm—7.30pm—**SCHOOL CLOSES AT 1pm**

26th February—Parent forum KS2 hall,

**All parents welcome—9am**

8th March—World Book Day

13th March—Animation Workshop at Jerounds for Year Three

14th March—Comic Relief Day—come to school in Red

15th March—Class photos

25th March—Year six to Crucial Crew

5th April—Children break up for Easter

23rd April—Inset Day

24th April—Children back to school

2nd May—Inset Day—Polling Day

6th May—Bank Holiday

# Attendance

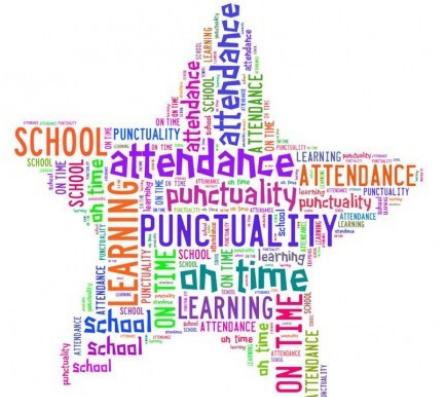
## Attendance challenge

Our whole school attendance challenge is set at

**97%** for the year.

Our current school attendance for the year so far is

**96.3%**



## Weekly Class Attendance Heros

W/C 4th February 2019

1. Falcons—100%
2. Nightingales—99.6%
3. Eagles and Puffins—98.7%

Whole school 97%

W/C 11th February 2019

1. Sparrows and Merlins—100%
2. Nightingales—99.1%
3. Ravens—98.6

Whole school 96.7%

## Attendance Ladder

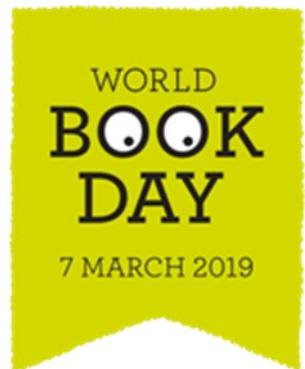
How close is your child to 100%

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very concerned

# World Book Day—Friday 8th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

## WORLD BOOK DAY - DRESS UP ON THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH!



This year, World Book Day is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate reading books, authors and illustrators. A key aim is to give every child in the UK a book of their own to keep. Every child is eligible to receive a £1 World Book Day Token which can be exchanged for one of ten exclusive £1 World Book Day Books, or if you prefer, use it to get £1 off any full-priced book or audio book at any book store where you see the World Book day logo.

We will be celebrating this great event on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March by asking children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

We will also be requesting that children bring their favourite book to school, or pick a school book, for surprise 'drop everything and read' sessions throughout the school day. There will also be class swaps, for pupils to read with younger and older children. Plus, there will be prizes for the best costume in each class.

If you would like to find out more information about World Book Day, there are ideas, activities, list of stores and resources at: [www.worldbookday.com/resources/schools/primary-schools](http://www.worldbookday.com/resources/schools/primary-schools)

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs Todd (English Subject Lead)



# Short Story Competition

Ahead of World Book Day on Thursday 7th March, Harlow's Right Honorable Robert Halfon MP, in collaboration with Pearson, is looking to find the next generation of talented authors! Subsequently, Robert Halfon would like to invite Jerounds Primary Academy to participate in a story writing competition. The competition is open to all primary children from Harlow and its villages and one winner will be selected from both KS1 and KS2. Posters are already adorning our beautiful corridors with reminders about this fabulous event.

The story must be fictional and must be no more than 500 words. The deadline for entries is Monday 4th March, 2019, so the half term holiday presents an ideal opportunity to facilitate this exciting event. The winners will be announced on Thursday 7th March and they will receive a visit to parliament as well as a collection of books put together by Pearson.

If you would like to enter the competition, please email your name, age, the name of your school and your fictional story to:

halfon4harlow@roberthalfon.com



## The Big Bang

UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair

### Calling all budding Jerounds Young Scientists

On the 13th–16th March the Birmingham NEC will be playing host to The Big Bang, UK Young Scientist and Engineers Fair. From a chance to try out over 100 hands-on activities, see dozens of mind-boggling shows to even hearing from inspiring engineers and scientists, this show is aimed at young children ( 7–19) and aims to show them the exciting and rewarding opportunities that are out there. By bringing the classroom learning to life, the Big Bang engages and inspires young people through interactive activities, workshops and shows.

Maybe a worthy excursion as a family outing this year as entry is FREE!

# Jerounds Spelling Bee 2019

Over the past few weeks, students across the school have been practicing their spellings furiously. Their aim? To become Jeround's inaugural Spelling Bee Champion! Hours of hard work, preparation and concentration have gone into the search for our very own super spellers! Teachers anxiously mulled over their in-class spelling test results to arrive at just two semi-finalists for each class. Our 24 contestants, then dueled it out in style, knowing a place in the grand finale at Abbotsweld Primary Academy was up for grabs. Eventually, after a very competitive spell off, 8 students were chosen to represent the school.

They were:

Elijah, Laighean, Lyla, Silvia, Dawson, Sirmed, Isabelle, and Khimani.

This week, the day of reckoning finally arrived. Students were led to Abbotsweld to do battle. A fierce competition ensued. Three hugely challenging rounds followed, with the judges struggling to find words hard enough to separate the competitors! After 1 hour of crueling competition, Harlows finest spellers were found. The Jerounds contingent truly triumphed, winning the day with some superb results and fantastically mature behaviour

## Keystage 1

First Place: Elijah  
Second Place: Laighean

## Keystage 2

Second Place: Khimani  
Third Place: Silvia

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful competitors, who truly did themselves proud and a big thank you to all the wonderful parents who helped them succeed.

Mr Watts  
Year Five Teacher

## Birthday Book Donations



Thank you for these lovely birthday book donations, Open Very Carefully, Farm Animals for Kids and a fantastic Polish book, Mata Koparka.

We are very lucky and will enjoy reading these.



# Fun and Games at Playtime



From jigsaw puzzles and lego in the reading zone to budding archery olympians, this is only a few activities that go on during a busy playtime at Jerounds.



## Harlow Libraries need your help!

We have had a plea from a few of our parents who need the Jerounds community help and support.

Essex County Council are proposing to shut twenty five libraries in Essex with Tye Green and Mark Hall being two of them. This is such sad news for our children, who benefit highly from these and we know that these are used both inside and outside of school hours.

In the school office is a petition which we are urging as many parents as possible to sign to help save our libraries. Alternatively, you can sign Labour Parliamentary Candidate, Laura McAlpine's petition on line.  
[www.harlowlabourparty.org/save-harlow-libraries/](http://www.harlowlabourparty.org/save-harlow-libraries/)

Let's help SAVE OUR LIBRARIES!

# Our Stars of the Week



## Playleader of the Week



# Our Certificate and Bronze Badge Winners



# EYFS News



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are continuing with our topic, "All Creatures great and small". We are now focusing on the book "The Gruffalo" and our learning has been linked to this theme.

This week we have immersed ourselves in all things Chinese to celebrate Chinese New Year. We have written our names using Chinese Characters and symbols, built Chinese dragons and made lanterns. Children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a Chinese Dragon dance where they took it in turns to wear the dragon head and stand under the body section to make the wavy motions!

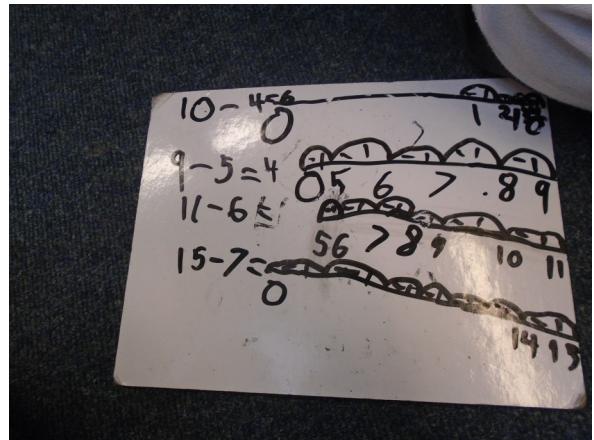
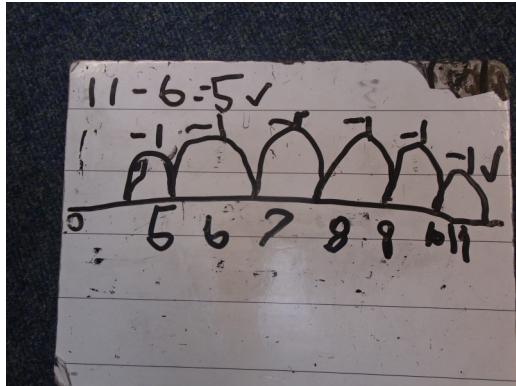
We learnt that the lucky colours are red and gold, and Hong bao is a red envelope containing money that is given to family or friends to wish them good luck! Children also learnt about Happy New Year - Gong Hei Fat Choy in Cantonese, one of the languages spoken in China and know that this Year is the 'Year of Pig'.

We would like to remind parents that we are still collecting Proud Cloud for display.

Please continue to practise the sounds with your child at home.



# Year One News



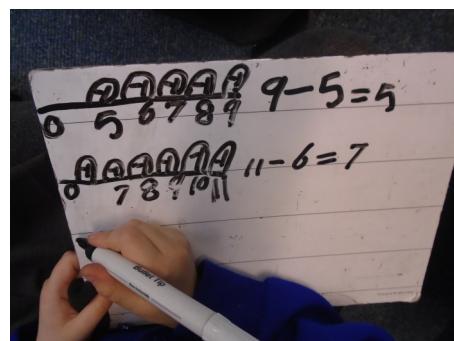
In Year One this week we have been learning about money in Maths. We learnt the different denominations of coins, and have had great fun buying different items from the shop, anything from teddy bears to trucks!!! We've been using play money whilst still practising, but now we're experts, watch out Bank of Mum and Dad!!!

The children have enjoyed internalising the story of the Ugly Duckling these last few weeks and finally authored their own stories in the same vein only this time the main characters being a caterpillar, frog or even a bee larvae. Culminating in the dramatisation of some of these extraordinary versions during circle time.

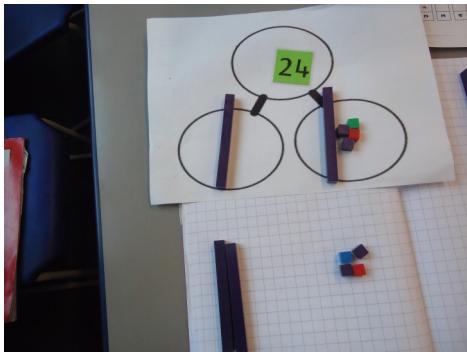
In topic, Sparrows and Kingfishers have been learning about prime ministers past and present and have even gone as far as thinking about laws that they would bring into law if they were prime minister. Our favourites being to eat chocolate everyday and bring a teddy to class!

In our PE lessons we have continued to develop our gymnastic routines and play some team building games to round off what has been a brilliant half term.

On that note have an exciting but relaxing half term!



# Year Two News

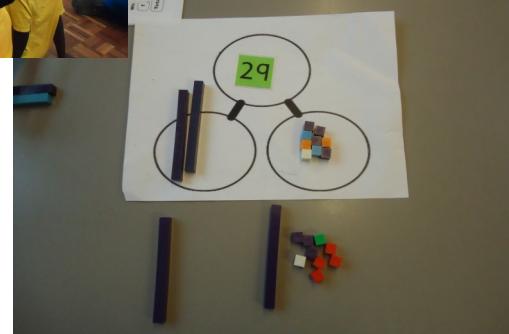


What a busy end to the first half of the spring term.

We had some drama injected into our sessions when working with David. During the fun filled session we learnt about working as a team. There were lots of tasks which put our skills of cooperation to the test- even Mrs George and Mr Smith had to think carefully playing one game involving patterns.

In maths, we have extended our knowledge of number by partitioning 2 digit numbers practically in different ways, some of us are even able to work mentally! This number work is really going to help us as we start to add and subtract 2 digit numbers.

Finally, we had some great smoothie making fun mixing up different fruits in a very unique way- a food mixer attached to a bike! Lots of us loved the fruit smoothie and said how we would love to do one at home, a half term treat perhaps?

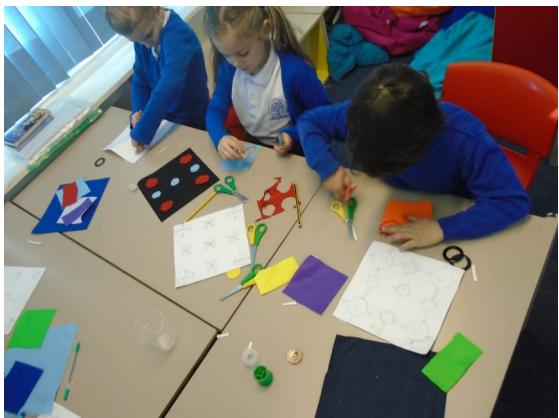


# Year Three News



Last week in Merlins class, we continued to have fun exploring States of Matter. This week we were investigating dissolving. We had to create a fair test to discover which materials dissolved in water and which do not. Our results were surprising and fascinating as we discovered that some materials did not react in the way in which we expected! We had to work co-operatively and scientifically in our teams and then in true scientific style analyse and explain our results using the correct scientific vocabulary. We have enjoyed exploring States of Matter this term and we have enjoyed conducting experiments just like real scientists.

In Puffins we have linked our Art work to the work that we have been doing in Science. We have learnt about particles in States of Matter and have created our own particle pictures from this stimulus. We have concentrated on using a limited shape and colour palette of circles and lines and just 2 colours. The outcomes have been striking and effective.



# Year Four News



In the lead up to half term, Owls and Nightingales have been working incredibly hard.

In English, the children have loved reading Hansel and Gretel and then summarising the story.

It has also been a challenging week in maths as we have been practicing division and our times tables.

The highlight of the week was without doubt, the Young Voices Concert on Tuesday. What an incredible performance and it was wonderful to see the children engaged and enjoying the singing.



# Year Five News



Year 5 have had an eventful week! Singing their beautiful little (big) voices out in the performance of the year to learning about how to convert units of time, length and capacity!

In English, both year 5 groups have had a chance to explore what newspapers have in common and why. They have learnt how the structure of the newspaper is set out and why they headlines and captions for pictures.

They have also had a go at writing directed and indirect speeches - watch out, year 5 reporters on the loose!



# Year Six News

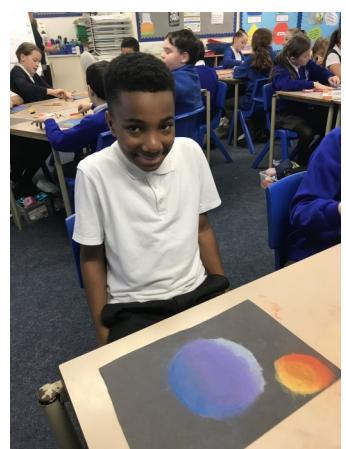


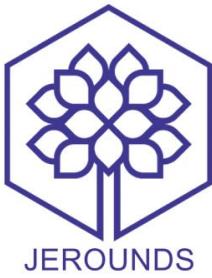
This half term, Year 6 have been focusing on blending using pastels in Art. We have linked this to our Earth and Space topic in Science. We learned all about warm and cool tones, before deciding which colours to use to create a solar system of planets.

We learned how to accurately use a compass to draw circles of different sizes. We decided where to position our planets on the black card. Then, we experimented with blending the colours to create the illusion of a sphere.

Now here is a thought. What would happen to a McDonald's cheeseburger if left out for a month? This is a problem that has been presented to the children of Swans class. So far, after two weeks, it doesn't look much different from when it was purchased...no mould.....no nasty smells. The children are now being asked to consider why this is. What makes something go mouldy? What causes something to smell? Will you ever eat McDonald's again?

There has also been some excellent writing from the children as they have planned and composed their own action scenes based on Anthony Horowitz's Point Blanc. When it comes to the passive voice zombies are a year 6's best friend - why not ask them why?

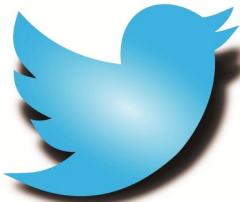




# Jerounds Primary Academy



## Twitter



Please follow us on Twitter...  
[@NET\\_Jerounds](https://twitter.com/NET_Jerounds)  
for latest news and information

Have you changed your address or telephone number recently?

Please ensure you advise the school office if you have moved or changed your telephone number. This also applies to any emergency contacts you have for your child/children.

**Admin email: [office@jerounds.netacademies.net](mailto:office@jerounds.netacademies.net)**

**Telephone: 01279 423485**