



Spring 1 2022

# Newsletter

## School Business Manager



We are pleased to announce that, from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Harlow Green will have a new School Business Manager as part of our staff team. The Governing Body have appointed Mrs Taylor to the post who will become part of our leadership team where she will bring her experience from her previous position as the School Business Manager at another Gateshead School.

The role will be to support the strategic aims of the school in relation to budget management as well as lead on non-teaching areas such as Health & Safety, Data Protection and Buildings/Premises.

Mrs Taylor will also work as part of the Senior Leadership Team in support of the school's drive to work with the wider community through events and activities, once restrictions are eased adequately to allow this.

This is an extremely positive appointment which we are confident will have a great impact for children, staff and families.

**UNICEF Article 3: Everyone who works with children should always do what is best for the child.**

## Attendance



Due to Covid-19, keeping regular attendance has been challenging which we all know has continued to have an impact on children's learning since returning after Christmas. However, it is clear how hard families have been working to support their children's attendance under such difficult circumstances. It is important that school and families continue to work together to support increasingly high attendance. The following information is key:

- Attendance should be **96% or above** for a child to be as successful as they can be with their education.
- Over a year, 10 days absence (2 school weeks) would mean that a child can only achieve 95% attendance.
- If a child continually misses individual days, this has a significant impact on their ability to learn the content from lessons. It becomes harder to catch up as the lessons have moved forward.
- Children become more reluctant to come to school because they become anxious about what they have missed and the difficulty they will have.

We are hoping that the worst period is over and there will be greater consistency for the second half. After half term, we will monitor attendance and apply our normal processes of information sharing and support with an understanding of circumstances. However, where absence is of a high level on a regular basis, we will also work with the Local Authority Legal team.

## Art Project Completed: What a Picture!



As you may remember, back in the beginning of December, we shared information about an art project that would be taking place at Harlow Green, which would see artwork being specially created for our school. Leanne Billinghurst, artist and parent of children who attend Harlow Green, wished to work with us to produce some portraits for the school, but in a way which would support children's understanding of art.

Over the last few weeks, after presenting the beginning stages of her paintings to the children in assemblies, Leanne has been hard at work on her masterpieces. The main aim of the project was to share with children the process of an artist; thankfully, using modern technology, Leanne recorded her process which was then presented to the children in another set of assemblies.

When the finished artwork was revealed, the children were in complete awe of the completed portraits! They were greatly impressed that they could immediately recognise the images of their classmates and friends from across the school, as if they were looking at photographs. During the assembly, it was talked about how the paintings reflect that each Harlow Green child is unique but that they are also part of the same community, which binds us all together.

From the comments and questions the children shared, it appears that many have been inspired in relation to their own art and we will look to develop this with a further project now on the horizon.

We would like to thank Leanne for her absolutely amazing work. Not only has this helped create a wonderful entrance to the school for visitors to experience, but children have been given the opportunity to glimpse into the work of a professional artist and it has helped them consider their own enjoyment of the subject.

## Outdoor Gym – Safety

We are pleased that our outdoor gym equipment has been fitted successfully and is ready for use after half term. The aim is to provide a quality resource which will be highly engaging for our KS2 children so that they can enjoy a different type of physical exercise.

Like any equipment, this will have to be scheduled and managed safely rather than children being given unsupervised access. Over the next few weeks, staff will be directed to teach children the safe and sensible use of the equipment.

When parents are on site with their children, it is essential that children are not allowed to wander off and start climbing on or using the apparatus. This is the same situation for the climbing frame and adventure trail in the yard.

We very much appreciate the support of parents/carers in this matter.

## Nursery – Chinese New Year



The children have been learning about the celebration of 'Chinese New Year'. They have taken a dip into the Chinese culture and explored how it is different to our own. During sessions, the children tried Chinese dancing, looked at clothing and talked about how Chinese New Year is celebrated – dragon dances, making lanterns and giving money in red envelopes. It was hugely exciting when the boys and girls created their own dragon and made a dragon dance! The children have also enjoyed listening to Chinese music and dancing with scarves. A favourite part of the week was the food tasting during which the children tried noodles, spring rolls, prawn crackers, soy sauce and sweet chilli! In the role-play areas, children worked in a Chinese restaurant, making food in the home corner and in the playdough area. Kung Hei Fat Choi!

## Reception – Muddy Music



Reception children have been making music, Forest School style. In class, they worked with Mrs Holt to create musical beats using objects around them, thinking about the different sounds that can be created; tapping with a metal stick is very different from a wooden one but also different types of wood will change the sound too. What about increasing or decreasing pressure? Changing the tempo? Can textured objects make interesting noises and how could they put the sounds together to make a beat? If you visit the school website, you will see that there was plenty to experiment with as our Forest School was filled with the sounds of percussion.

## Year 1 – What is Technology?



Year 1 have been hugely excited to use the laptops this term. It all started with the children learning the different parts of a computer – screen, keyboard, trackpad and mouse. Then the children were given individual log-ins and, even though it was tricky, everyone was able to successfully log-in. Next, the children focused on controlling the trackpad. The teachers then asked the children to make a picture on a paint program. They had to concentrate very carefully to control the trackpad with one hand and click the button to paint with the other hand. Everyone also had a go at using Word as part of developing their keyboard skills to type in their name. Year 1 are becoming technological whizz kids!

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

## Year 2 – Brush, Brush, Brush



Year 2 have been learning how to keep their teeth clean, this term. The children had the chance to focus on the steps for successful teeth brushing. These were:

- Firstly, squeeze a pea-sized amount of toothpaste onto your toothbrush.
- Next, brush the front of your teeth.
- Then, gently brush the outside of your teeth and the back teeth.
- After that, brush the insides and tops of all your teeth.
- Then, gently brush your tongue.
- Finally, spit out any toothpaste that is left and you are finished.

The children then acted out all the steps to practise brushing their teeth. The children also learned that they should be brushing their teeth gently and could check if they were brushing their teeth too hard by looking at their toothbrush and seeing if the bristles were bent; if they were bent, they have been brushing too hard! Finally, the children enjoyed singing a new song, 'Brush, Brush, Brush your Teeth' to the tune of 'Row, Row, Row your Boat'.

## Year 3 – Stone Age Chefs



As part of DT, the children in Year 3 have been learning about Stone Age food. They have researched how people during the Stone Age were known as 'hunter-gatherers' and what types of food this meant they ate. To create our own Stone Age recipes, the children used modern day appliances and utensils although it was discussed how food would have been cooked on open fires during the prehistoric era. All of the children contributed to our Food Technology lesson to make oatcakes and stewed fruit. The boys and girls enjoyed weighing, mixing and pouring ingredients. Some of them even helped with the washing up! Overall, the food was a success and passed the children's taste tests.

## Year 4 – Measuring



Over the last few weeks, our Year 4 classes have been learning about units of measurement for length and distance. Starting with kilometres, the unit of work began with conversion to metres, then moved onto metres and centimetres and finished with centimetres and millimetres. The boys and girls used tape measures to look for things around the classroom that were approximately a metre in length, then also measured objects that were over a metre. When recording, metres and centimetres were used together as well as converting them all to centimetres, where necessary.

## Year 5 – Life Cycles



In Science, Year 5 began a new topic on the life cycles of animals and plants. This topic builds upon previous learning about the characteristics of different living things, how they are classified, their habitats and needs for survival. The children grouped animals by their similar characteristics, named the groups they are classified by and identified their common features. Using what they know about mammals and their own development, the children ordered pictures of the different stages in the life cycle of a human and labelled them. Each stage is distinguished by the milestones in human development: from a foetus to a baby, child, adolescent and adult. The cycle stops at adulthood as this is where the cycle begins again with reproduction. The children will continue to compare the lifecycles of other animals including birds, insects and amphibians, and explain the relationship between the life cycle and the characteristics and needs of the animal.

## Year 6 – The Circulatory System



Within Year 6's science lessons, the children have been learning about the human body. To begin with, they found out the main parts and function of the circulatory system. A song about the circulatory system helped the children to learn the names of important parts. Then, they labelled diagrams and explained its main purpose. Within the circulatory system, as well as the heart, blood cells have an important role to play. After learning about a blood cell's journey, the children wrote as if they were a red blood cell, describing their journey and produced some excellent and amusing writing.

**Article 7: We all have the right to a good quality education.**

## Diary Dates

**February**  
Half term Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup>  
Return to school Monday 28<sup>th</sup>

**March**  
World Book Day Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>

**April**  
End of term Friday 8<sup>th</sup>