



Autumn 2 2023

Newsletter

Pupil Voice (written by pupils)



Hello parents and carers of Harlow Green! Over the past few weeks, it has been feeling festive in school. All of the classes have been practising Christmas songs, plays and carol services. We were really happy to be able to share our performances with you. On behalf of all of the children, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Article 12: We all have the right to say what we think. Adults should listen and take us seriously.

Christmas Carols in the Community



Our school choir, led by Mrs Holt, shared the joy of song at St. Ninians Church, Eighton Lodge, and Angel Court, this festive period.

At St. Ninians church, the choir received a warm welcome from Reverend George, the children's families, the church congregation, and Angel Court residents, as they all came together to enjoy the singing. At Eighton Lodge, residents were treated to a morning full of song whilst dancing in their seats. Finally, at Angel Court, residents danced with the children and tried to keep up with the actions for "Twelve days of Christmas"!

The choir have practised so much and to take these talents and share them with our wider community makes us all feel very proud indeed. So many of the congregation and residents said they were already looking forward to next year!

Article 6: We all have the right to be alive and to develop in the best possible way.

Rights Respect Officers



Fifteen children across the school have been elected to be Harlow Green's Rights Respect Officers this academic year. In the spring term, our Rights Respect Officers will continue their work on a project to develop playtimes. To support this, all the money raised from the Christmas Raffle will form part of their budget to help resource the plans they finalise. As the project develops, the group will share what they have implemented and how the money has been spent for the benefit of all.

Article 2: All children have rights, no matter their circumstance.

Christmas Events



Christmas Dinner day was, as always, a brilliant affair with children tucking into a traditional Christmas meal. Decorations, crackers and music made the time special, which was clear in the faces of all the children.

We were delighted to be able to invite families into school this year, to watch the Christmas performances. The children (and staff!) have worked hard over the past couple of weeks to be able to perform a Nativity, a Christmas production, or a Carol Service.

Reception to Year 6 enjoyed a music workshop last week by the fabulous band from Gateshead Music Services. They were entertained with Santa Time! including jokes and, of course, full sing-alongs of all our favourites, which everyone sang very loudly!

We all know how much the children enjoy their Christmas Party Day, and this year was no exception! Party games, laughter and music filled the hall, followed by a selection of delicious party snacks. In addition to the party, the children were able to watch a virtual pantomime which, like with Christmas dinner, is another British tradition that we all love to share in.

We hope that children are ready to have a fantastic time with their families and enjoy a well-deserved Christmas break where everyone can have fun and spend time with those they love.

Article 31 – The right to relax, rest and play.

Parent Governor Election Results



Congratulations to Mrs Hallet and Mrs Gifford who successfully secured a governor role here at Harlow Green Primary School. Staff and children look forward to working with both in the New Year. Parent Governors are vital in representing parent views at all Governing Body meetings. We also wish to express our gratitude to the two unsuccessful candidates for their time and effort in undergoing the application process. Finally, thank you to all parent/carers who took the time to return their ballot papers.

Diary Dates

December

Last day of Autumn Term Friday 22nd December

January

Training Day Monday 8th January
First day of Spring Term Tuesday 9th January

Nursery – 'Tis the Season to Sparkle!



Nursery have been busy completing their Christmas crafts and activities before the end of the autumn term. Children have been making Christmas cards using different lengths of card, sequins, and glitter. Nursery worked hard to write their own names giving meanings to our marks. The children used rainbow fingerprinting to create designs on their calendars and used white finger printing to make school baubles for the bauble project. Everyone also made magic reindeer dust to sprinkle on Christmas Eve to guide the reindeers to our house.

Nursery have also had fun welcoming two new classmates, the elves Jingle and Elfie. Have you managed to spot these naughty elves?!

Reception – It's a Baby!



The children have been incredibly busy rehearsing for the Nativity performance for weeks, and the day finally arrived where they enjoyed performing in front of a huge audience filled with parents and Grandparents. From the Angels to the Camels, Shepherds to the Kings, all children did a fantastic job and had so much fun taking part in the Nativity. Smiles filled the hall as they sang their hearts out to the many songs they have been learning over the last few weeks.

All of the children have worked so hard to remember their lines and they thoroughly deserved the many claps and cheers they received at the end of their performance.

Year 1 – The Christmas Story



Year 1 have been busy rehearsing their Christmas Nativity. Alongside this, they have also been learning about the Christian story of Christmas. Firstly, the children learnt the names of all the important characters – Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the Angel Gabriel. Next, they learnt all about the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Each child drew a nativity scene, and some labelled the characters.

Article 30: We all have the right to use our own language, culture and religion.

Year 2 – When I grow up I want to be...



Year 2 have been thinking about goals and aspirations this half term. Children started by identifying that an aspiration is a wider general achievement, whereas a goal is a smaller step towards that achievement. The children then thought carefully about what their goals are. Firstly, they talked about their short-term goals such as achieving 5 out of 5 on their spelling test. Next, the children thought about longer-term goals such as what they want to achieve next year or when they are adults. Finally, the children thought about what careers they are interested in and identified what they want to be when they grow up.

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

Year 3 – Comparing Coasts



In Geography, Year 3 have been learning about coastlines and water erosion. The children have learned about the features of a coast and have enjoyed looking at aerial images on Google Earth to identify these features. Year 3 explored coastlines in the United Kingdom, in particular coasts close to us and compared this to coasts in Egypt. The classes discussed their similarities and differences, understanding that some coastlines are flat and some coastlines have cliffs. While looking at time-lapse videos, the children were able to make observations on how coastlines change over time, through human intervention and natural causes.

The learning in Geography has sparked a lot of interest for the children to learn more about physical and human geography.

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

Year 4 – Editing Images



This term in Computing, Year 4 have been learning about how to edit images and how the media can alter an image so that what we see online and in newspapers and magazines is often not what it originally was!

Using Paint.net, children have been learning to crop an image, alter the colours and mood of a picture, clone it to edit out parts of it and also to cut and paste between pictures. It is always a really interesting part of the Computing curriculum and includes all sorts of other computer skills such as editing, saving, cutting and pasting.

Article 17: We have the right to safe and honest information.

Year 5 – RE Calendar



The children in Year 5 spent some time designing their own posters for the 2024 RE calendar, which is hung in each class throughout school. Year 5 created posters representing two different Sikh festivals, Hola Mohalla and Guru Nanak's birthday. The children enjoyed using their creative skills and imaginations to add to their designs and found it interesting learning about the different ways people celebrate across the world.

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

Year 6 – The Piano Narrative



Over this half-term, the children have continued to study the short visual and musical narrative, 'The Piano'. This animation has allowed the children to think about how a flashback narrative would be constructed as the story involves a man playing the piano and drifting back to memories from his past life.

The children looked at different sentences that would be suitable in different parts of the story and worked hard to be emotive and descriptive to bring alive the man's memories. When writing, the children wrote in first person, and this allowed them to make the narrative really personal. It was pleasing to see how the children could use their inference skills to develop a relevant back-story for each of the events and give details that weren't apparent in the animation itself.