

Harrold Priory Middle School

Newsletter February 2014

We have enjoyed a relatively smooth start to the first half of the Spring Term, although the heavy rain and floods have caused a few interruptions to the normal routines. Please note that if there is further disruption with bad weather or snow that we will contact families via Parent Mail and display information on our Website about school closure.

We are now in the 'heart' of the school year. This is a really important time for the children's learning to gather momentum ahead of formal assessments early in the summer term. I have really impressed with the attitude of the Year 8 and 6 students and their approach to their tests over the last 2 weeks. The consultation meetings are also central to the children's learning and the staff were delighted by the very good attendance at the consultation meeting held in the Autumn Term and the Selected Consultation Evening in February. The subject focused meetings are fast approaching. The letter for booking appointments is enclosed with your child's Interim Report. Thank you for support as we are all aware that you are your child's first and best teacher.

The early-closure arrangement worked really effectively last year promoting good attendance and consultation requests as well as the opportunity for children to attend with their parents. We are indebted to the teaching and learning support staff for their dedication; many teachers will work four 12-hour days to ensure that they were able to meet with all the parents of the pupils they teach!

We also want to thank the boys and girls for their understanding and the support they are giving to any temporary arrangement that applies to their lessons from time to time. It is not always possible to guarantee the continuity of pupil's subject or form teacher throughout the school year. Resignations, maternity leave and long term sickness each make this difficult to achieve although Harrold has an excellent staff retention and attendance record. In addition, vacant posts sometimes have to be filled with temporary or cover staff because of recruitment difficulties associated with in-year appointments. We welcome Miss Hollowell to the English team this term.

There have been many highlights for the boys and girls since the new term started. I would ask that you follow the reviews and celebrate the successes by reading the latest updates in this Newsletter.

Thank you too to Harrold Priory staff for continuing to devote their time so generously to the boys and girls. The Goldilocks production earlier this term was fantastic and we are looking forward to our Music Showcase after half term. Our sports teams have equally been busy.

We look forward to meeting with parents at the consultation meetings during March. We have allocated the consultation dates to Year 6 and Year 8 this term (4th and 13th March) to help prepare for the Key Stage 2 tests in May and Key Stage 3 tests later this year. A reminder that we will also be closing at 2.00pm on the 18th, 27th March for Year 5 and Year 7 consultations.

You are reminded that the school closes for the half-term break 17-21 February. The second half of the spring term is 6 weeks and we close for the Easter holiday on Friday, 4 April at 3.00 p.m. The school reopens to pupils on Tuesday, 23 April.



"Harrold Priory is a school where children excel, achieve and enjoy; make their own positive contribution; where their health, safety and well-being is understood and promoted."

History

Our students, at Harrold, have been producing some extraordinary histories over the past few months. I am very proud of the dedication and diligence Year 8s have placed into their GCSE style assessment questions. We have had some fantastic answers which students producing potential grades of A or A*.

There are few notable students who have truly impressed me. Each term we award students for notable excellence and the standard has been very high.

Year 5 - The Henry VIII Award went to Isobel Fincham – since joining us she has excelled in lessons and shown a real dedication to her written work. I expect great things from this young lady in the future.

Year 6 – The Spartan Award went to Erlina Long – Erlina doubted her abilities in history in September. I am proud of how she has conducted herself to challenge her own perceptions. She is hardworking and diligent, producing some truly brilliant pieces of work and making great progress at the same time.

Year 7 – The Castle Award went to Josh Rose – no student has made such stellar progress this year. Josh has not only a perceptive and inquisitive historical mind, but an adept ability to write clever historical interpretations. This has all been combined with a terrific work ethic in and out of class.

Year 8 – The Plotters Award went to Lorna Harris – Lorna has truly impressed me, not only with her hard work and dedication, but with her gifted ability to write beautiful histories. I am very proud of her thoughtfulness and respect she has shown towards the subject, whilst always striving for perfection.

Other students have also made the History Achievement Board (situated on the Hill Block entrance) for 'Outstanding Work & Effort'. I urge you to take a look if you haven't already done so and I would like to congratulate all those who have done so for the Autumn Term. I am always observing to see who will get their names up next. Keep working hard and being motivated, and I am sure you to could be up there for this term. If you want to know what it takes always ask those who already have made the Harrold History Hall of Fame!

Mr Seaman

Performing Arts

Charlie & the Chocolate Factory visit.

A coach full of pupils, staff and parent helpers visited Drury Lane Theatre, Covent Garden on Wednesday 15th of January to watch the latest incarnation of Roald Dahl's classic 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory'. As part of the experience pupils will be documenting the trip as part of their arts award portfolio and we look forward to seeing their reviews in the next school newsletter...

Year 5 Production of 'Goldilocks & the 3 bears'.

The entire year group performed on 29th & 30th of January to Year 4, Year 6 and parents showcasing what a phenomenally talented year group they are. The idea of the Year 5 performance is to involve the entire year group in a theatrical production to celebrate their arrival at their new school. It was pleasing that yet again, all pupils participated and sang so expressively in the performance. Many thanks to all the parents, family, staff and pupils for their hard work, support and dedication especially in creating such magical characters with fantastic costumes. A special thank you also to the Sharnbrook Mill Theatre for providing props and costumes for the performances and Michele Chalkley for these lovely photos. All of the pupils currently at Harrod Priory Middle School performed in a whole year performance when joining the school. Year 6 performed 'Snow White' last year, Year 7 performed highlights from 'Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat' in 2011 & Year 8 performed 'Scrooge's Quiet Night In' back in 2010.

Well done to all Year 5s for staging such a memorable performance. We look forward to what the next Year 5 cohort can achieve to carry on this fantastic tradition.



Pupils discover heroes through arts award project.

Pupils in Years 7&8 created and presented some highly imaginative and unique pieces of work inspired by a hero or heroine who was unknown to them before the project. Through guided research pupils had to discover a person, artist or group within an aspect of the arts they enjoy, such as an artist, photographer, musician, dancer, actor etc.

Once the pupils had discovered and researched their 'hero in hiding' they were encouraged to create an imaginative and unique way of presenting their findings (avoiding power point presentations if possible!).

The results were very creative.

Well done to all the boys and girls who took part.

The work is recorded and makes part of their portfolios which will go toward their final arts award moderation.

Well done! Mr Rees.



Paige Watts appearing out of her 'subway box' inspired by the work of street artist Joshua Allen Harris.



Austin Pritchard's presentation was well liked on the legendary blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan.



Joshua Fitzmaurice cashing in on technology by creating this VLOG on his hero Jonny.



Oliver Platts getting into role as Buster Merryfield aka Uncle Albert from Only fools and horses.



Rebecca Thomson created a tunnel for her heroes

Performing Arts Dates for the diary:

Tuesday 25th Feb - **Music Theatre Workshop** - Visiting practitioner.

Thursday 27th Feb - **Beauty and the Beast Auditions** - KS3 Summer production

Wed March 5th - **Wicked trip** - Joint trip to MK theatre to see this popular musical.

Wed March 5th - **Create Festival** - at Sharnbrook Upper school

Wed March 5th - **KS2 Dance Show** - Held at Lincroft school

Thursday March 6th - **KS3 Dance Show** - Held at Lincroft school

Wed 19th - March - **The Sleeping Beauty at the Royal Opera House** - Limited for selected Arts award pupils.

Wed 26th March - **Massed middle schools' choir performance Beds Music** - School choir performing at the Kings House for this joint schools event.

Thursday 3rd April - **Spring Showcase** - Performing Arts Showcase at Harrold main hall

Maths Magic Tournament at Lincroft

On Monday 28th January eight of our Year five pupils, Mark Otti, Reuben Chrzanowski., Amelia Hart-Abbott, Emma Haynes, Serena Fish, Ava Chand, Jasmine Holiman and Maddy Ratford attended this term's Federation Maths Magic competition which was held at Lincroft School. The children spent the afternoon using their calculation skills to create the highest scores that could possibly be made with the available tiles. But after four closely fought rounds and quite a bit of luck as well as skill, the cup was retained by Margaret Beaufort! We will be making the challenge again soon. Many thanks to Lincroft for hosting the event.



Science club

Have a go at fun experiments that are not done in your science lessons!. This takes place every thursday , after school 3:30 - 4:30pm- all welcome. Please make arrangements for your child to be collected/walk home.

Sport

“This is our Year 5 rugby team having beaten Warwick Schools B Team. The boys were invited to Warwick School after impressing in the local schools tournament. It was a great experience for the boys who worked well together and fought hard for a 25 – 20 points victory. It was commented by Warwick School staff how well they played and on the way they represented the school off the field too. Well done boys!”



Sport

Cameron Gillies and Jack Shaw represented North Bedfordshire Schools at the Under 15s County Cross Country event on 5th February. It was a cold, wet and windy day making the undulating course even more difficult. Cameron was 15th and Jack 34th which is fantastic. The photos show they boys before and after the race.”



A group of girls performed at the Schools Regional Gymnastics Competition last Sunday and all of them completed wonderful routines, with no-one falling out of their balances.

Comments about the day

"I just want to do it all over again, now I'm not so nervous."- Katie Whelbourne

"That was the best 2 minutes of my life!" -Maddy Ratford

"That was the best will have ever performed it, I will be happy whatever position we come."- Catherine Upex

Now for the results:

Under 14's Women's Pairs- Sophie and Izzy Shelton -**8th Place**

Under 14 Women's Pairs -Sasha Richmond & Mya Hesketh- Bream- **1st place** (The girls are now through to Nationals at Stoke-on-Trent in May!)

Under 11's Women's Pairs- Katie Whelbourne & Abi Morison - **5th Place**

Under 14's Women's Groups -Catherine Upex, Becky Thomson, Emily Brightman, Jessica Crabb, Elizabeth Hulatt- Richardson, Maddy Ratford - **6th Place**

Congratulations to all the girls that took part – a fantastic set of results. Thank you also to Miss Barcock for all the support and coaching she has given to the group over many weeks. A truly creditable performance!



Using the program comic life in P.E.

SATs TIMETABLE & PREPARATION

The examination week starts on **Monday, 12th May** for Key Stage 2. It is therefore very important that **all** pupils attend school during the week and absence, other than for sickness or family emergency will be recorded as **unauthorised**.

As you will realise, the SATs are no longer statutory for the end of KS3, but the teachers at all three Middle Schools and the Upper School feel that these still form an important part of assessment at the end of the two-year condensed Programme of Study.

Year 8s in the middle schools will be sitting these tests during week beginning 19th May the results will be passed onto the Upper School.

Year 6 pupils will experience some small but essential changes to their usual routine to help them prepare for SATs and they will be receiving information about how to do their best during the week with the help and support of parents and teachers. I know that parents have found this invaluable in the past. I would like to emphasise that we are careful to ensure a broad and balanced experience for the boys and girls in Year 6. We do not suspend or disturb the teaching of the foundation subjects.

I believe that the balance between support and encouragement here at Harrold is a good one. However, it is impossible to deny that some boys and girls may feel pressured, and I would ask parents to keep an eye on their child and let the form teacher know of any concerns.

If any parents/ carers are available to support during the KS2 SATs week please can they email Julie Day - jday@harroldmiddle.beds.sch.uk.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Staff are currently preparing pupils' interim reports. This provides parents with a summary of their child's effort, progress and attitude towards their learning since September. I hope that the report will not hold too many surprises for you! A much more detailed report will be sent home at the end of the school year in July.

Schools are required to send to parents, details of their child's progress at least once each academic year. The interim report is in addition to this requirement and provides parents with an indication of their child's attainment and effort across the National Curriculum subjects.

You will receive a copy of your child's school report on **Friday, 14th February**. The report is in summary format and designed so that parents receive a progress check at the mid - year point.

Teachers will indicate your child's attainment as a National Curriculum Level. Effort and attitude towards homework are graded '1' to '4'.

CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Subject consultations will be held later this term: Year 6 and 8 on Tuesday 4th March and Thursday 13th March; Years 5 and 7 on Tuesday 18th March and Thursday 27th March. 5 or 10 minute appointments will be offered with teaching and support staff between 2.30pm and 6.00pm. Please ensure that you book your appointment as soon as possible – parents of Year 6 and 8 pupils should ensure that they attend the first two dates to enable plenty of shared support in the lead up to SATs. Letters were sent home with the interim reports on the 14th February.

SCHOOL UNIFORM & APPEARANCE

We continue to be very pleased with the support we receive from the home in ensuring that high standards of appearance are maintained.

Parents are reminded about the following aspects of their child's uniform and general appearance:

Hairstyles - Each year there seems to be a new style or fashion, which appears to challenge the codes that schools have established. Because some ethnic hairstyles are culturally acceptable, we are reluctant to issue a strict guideline in this respect other than for pupils to check with their form teacher *before* choosing a new style. Any *extreme* style will probably be unacceptable e.g. very close cropped or shaved hair (grade 2 is the recommended minimum), hair with fashion beads, razor styles, and so on. Hair gels, sprays and colorants are not permitted (this includes multi-days). We will occasionally permit adaptations to policy on special events, as an exception. Pupils who come to school with an unacceptable style or colour may have to work in isolation from the others until the situation is resolved.

Hair gel is also not suitable for wear in school. We cannot expect staff to check whether products used are safe (e.g. inflammable) or would not cause a mess (e.g. sticky residues left on equipment such as gym mats). Pupils with long hair (girls and boys) must wear it tied back at all times for health safety reasons (and to prevent the spread of head lice!).

Aerosol Sprays - Hairsprays and deodorants must not be used in school or on residential trips organised by the School because of the potential health risks posed to asthma sufferers.

Footwear - Pupils should wear black *school wear* shoes (not boots or trainers, including Doc Martins) to school. Girls should not wear shoes with a high heel or platform for safety reasons. Should your child have a special reason to wear training shoes please let the form teacher know. This should be very much the exception. In addition, white sports socks should not be worn other than for PE lessons.

Some pupils walk mud into school through thoughtlessness and create extra work for the cleaners.

Jewellery and Expensive Items - Pupils are permitted to wear a wristwatch to school (with identification). In addition, ear studs are permitted (one pair maximum i.e. one in each ear). Bigger earrings are unacceptable on safety grounds.

We do not encourage pupils to bring anything of great monetary or sentimental value to school. Large amounts of cash should not be carried by pupils. We are not liable in the event of loss or damage. Staff do not have the time to secure or deliver expensive items so please do not expect this to happen. Pupils are expected to use their lockers at all times.

Mobile phones - are not permitted to be used in school. The potential distraction to lessons and privacy invasion (camera phones) are unacceptable in a school setting. Phones should be kept in lockers during the school day.

HISTORY OF HARROLD PRIORY SCHOOL

Aimee Haylett and Holly Smith, both in Year 6, are researching about Harrold School as part of their ICT work and they unearthed some interesting facts in some extracts from the School Log Book printed in the 1977 School Magazine!

May 31 1937: The school was opened and the Head Teacher was Mr J G Watson

September 28 1938: The headmaster was engaged the whole morning fitting gas masks and respirators to all the children and staff.

July 20 1939: The air raid practice went satisfactorily.

February 9 1940: The attendance continues to be poor because of the floods.

June 20 1940: before explosions take place, children will be dispersed for safer places. The danger of flying glass is being reduced by gummed strips on the windows.

November 6 1940: The air raids today lasted from 9.45 – 10.15am and 2.30 – 3.30pm.

August 15 1941: The school closed for 5 weeks summer holiday, August 15 – September 22, which is later because of the harvest.

October 6 1944: the school was closed for 2 weeks due to potato- picking.

6 July 1945: The headmaster of this school since it was opened in 1937, Mr J G Watson, today terminated his duties after 8 years of happy work.

Editorial

“1977 is the end of an era in the history of Harrold Priory School with the last of the 16+ pupils leaving and the school being completely re-organised as a middle school and so we have taken a nostalgic look back at life at Harrold Priory over the forty years of its existence.”

Term Dates 2014

Spring Term

Tuesday 7 January—Friday 4 April

Half Term 17-21 February 2014

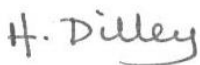
Summer Term 2014

CPD (closed to pupils) Tuesday 22 April 2014

Wednesday 23 April 2014—Friday 18 July 2014

Half Term 26—30 May 2014.

Have an enjoyable half term break.



Hilary Dilley

Head of School