

December Parent Newsletter



Thursday 1st December 2022

The run up to Christmas.

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the first term of the academic year. The run up to Christmas is very busy in school as we continue to drive forward with our curriculum and aspiration to ensure all children make progress with their reading. Alongside this we are also preparing for the Christmas production which is a whole school annual seasonal extravaganza!

Tickets for the Christmas production went on sale from the 21st November. All parents will have received information via Weduc to purchase tickets on line. Tickets are restricted to 2 tickets per family so that every parent has an opportunity to attend one of the four performances over two days the 5th and 6th December. Please also remember you are coming to watch a performance and not just your own child, the production will last approximately 90 minutes so please make sure that you are able to attend for the whole performance. **NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE ONCE THE PERFORMANCE HAS STARTED UNTIL IT ENDS!!!** Every year we have to speak to parents who rudely decide to leave once they have seen their child. Those parents are not permitted to attend any future events as it is disrespectful, all the children deserve to have an audience.

Autumn term updates.

It has been a turbulent autumn term with unfortunately more staff sickness absence than I have ever experienced during this period of time in my 21 years as head at the school. We have tried our best to minimise the impact on the children by ensuring pupils are supported by adults they know and trust. I would like to thank parents of classes most affected for their understanding and patience. I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful team of staff who have pulled together to ensure teaching is not compromised and offered support to each other. The children have also adapted well to the school adults – better than they would if there was an unfamiliar external person taking the classes. We are fortunate to have some very capable higher level teaching assistants who are trained cover supervisors.

Sadly, this term we said goodbye to Mrs Koparthy who left in November as her family were relocating out of Harrow. Next week Mrs. D. Shah will also be leaving, she has been delivering interventions to pupils in years 1 and 2 over a number of years. Mrs. D Shah has decided to change career paths after working at the school for over twelve years. She will be a real loss to the school and hugely missed due to the high quality intervention and support she has provided to children during her time at the school. We wish them both all the very best for the future.

School Job Vacancies:

We have advertised for an Early Year Teaching Assistant and also a Teaching Assistant for Years 1 & 2 details about both these positions can be found on the School and Harrow Website. If you know anyone that fits the qualification criteria, then sign post them to the school website of the Council website. The closing date for application is Monday 9th January 2023.

Recycling school uniforms.

Please continue to support us by recycling good condition school uniforms as your child grows out of them. Remember it can help another family who may be finding it hard to purchase uniform items at full price. Please hand your bag of unwanted school uniform and good condition school shoes to a member of the school staff. Every little helps!

School Attendance

As the school holidays approach, we appreciate that a large number of you have family in other countries with whom you may wish to spend the holidays. We would remind you that the school holidays start from 2.15 p.m. on Friday 16th December and no sooner and the school reopens for teaching and learning on Tuesday 3rd January 2023. The law states that if you choose to educate you child in a British school you are required to comply with the school term time dates and holidays. We will not authorise any pupil absence without evidence. Parents need to be mindful that penalty notices will be issued for absence not substantiated in the correct way. Holiday leave will not be approved in line with the DfE guidance.

The school takes a hard line on any absences in line with the Local Authority AIM policy. Where absence is not authorised due to absence without supporting evidence, leave during term time that does not meet the exceptional leave criteria could lead to the school issuing educational penalty notices of £60 per child, per parent to be paid within 14 days and if not the amount doubles.

Where a child is absent for medical reasons evidence in the form of letters, appointment details, medication and prescriptions must be provided. We are unable to accept appointment cards.

Please remember that all pupils are expected to attend school regularly and on time. The Moorhouse Road school **gate opens at 8.20 a.m.** and the **entrance locks at 8.50 a.m.** this is because all children are expected to be in class by then for registration at 8.50 a.m. Lessons commence straight away. The **exit gate locks between 8.55- 9 a.m.** to ensure the safety of the children as they start their day.

Attendance highlights from the month of November

During the month of **November**, the following classes have received certificates for the best class attendance each week and then for the overall month: **Chameleon Class.**

Week beginning	Class	% attendance
1 st November 2022	Lemur	98.2%
7 th November 2022	Sea Turtle	100%
14 th November 2022	Chameleon	99.7%
21 st November 2022	Chameleon	98.6%
28 th November 2022	Chameleon	98.8%
Month of November	Chameleon	97.3%

Talking to the teachers.

Please respect the fact that teachers need to be with their classes at the start of the day and should not be distracted by parents. If you have a question or wish to speak to a teacher at length, then please message them via class dojo and arrange to speak to them at the end of the school day once all other children have been dismissed. We appreciate your support.

Safeguarding

Please ensure that you phone and inform the school office staff if you have made an alternative arrangement for someone to collect your child from the school. You must provide their details (name, gender and relationship to you or the child) and also ensure that they know the password. **We will not release your child to anyone who does not know the password.**

Also, if you have changed your mobile number or emergency contact details please make sure they are updated as soon as possible.

I would like to remind you of this article in my previous newsletter letters as parents continue to come on to the school site with sweet treats and confectionary for their children at the end fo the day.

Do you know it is a sign of neglect if your children have bad oral hygiene!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We have continued to be surprised and shocked at the number of young children presenting at school with decaying teeth or being absent due to surgery to remove teeth or simply suffering with tooth ache. This all impacts on your child's well-being and learning.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to make sure that the children regularly brush their teeth and have a healthy diet.

I have been shocked at the number of parents that bring sweets, chocolates, crisps and other high sugar/salt content food items to school at the end of the day when collecting their child.



Please note that we **do not** permit these items on the school site for general consumption and would advise that if you need to bring something for your child to eat at the end of the school day and it cannot wait until they get home – you bring a healthy snack – fruit, raw vegetables and not chocolate bars, lollies or crisps!

No parent/carer wants to be accused of neglect, but under the remit of safeguarding and child protection this is! **So take action now, it is never too late!**

Celebrating your child's birthday.

We appreciate that parents will want to acknowledge their child's birthday. **Please be reminded that we do not permit the distribution of sweets and confectionary.** This is something we have seen a number of parents doing and is in opposition to our aspiration to educate your children to make healthy choices and have good oral hygiene!.

We would ask that if you wish to distribute a party pack they contain non-edible items and you hand them yourself to the children as they leave. We have a number of children with life threatening allergies and we wish to avoid compromising their safety. Furthermore, in line with our drive to improve the oral hygiene of the children sweets and confectionary is discouraged.

Alternatively, you could donate a story book to the class with an inscription commemorating your child's special day.

Parent workshops & engagement.

Our face to face parental engagement sessions are now fully up and running since the term started to date we have facilitated two curriculum meetings on Phonics and Maths. A ten week nurturing programme, and talking about mental health Coffee morning this term. In addition to that **so far** we have facilitated 18 separate class workshops where you have been able to observe how staff engage

your children in learning. Thank you for all the positive and constructive feedback, you have provided as it is helping us when planning future events.

Our school improvement priority this year is to work hard to ensure all our children are reading and support them with their communication and language skills by focusing on speaking skills, vocabulary development so that they are able to remember more of their learning and thus know more and do more. It is important that as parents you encourage your children to speak in full sentences and ask them questions about their learning in school.

Dates for your diary.

Still to come before the end of the term!

This term we aim to host some meetings, workshops and seminar lessons for parents of pupils across the school.

Date	Year group	Activity	Time	Arrangements	Venue
Monday 5 th December	Reception	Parents ICT session		Virtual on line link to be sent.	
Monday 5 th December	Morning Nursery parents & Parents with young children in buggies.	Christmas performance	Information and times to be confirmed nearer the time.	Tickets need to be purchased in advance on line via Weduc	In the hall
Monday 5 th December	Afternoon Nursery parents & Parents with young children in buggies.	Christmas performance	Information & time to be confirmed nearer the time.	Tickets need to be purchased in advance on line via Weduc	In the hall
Tuesday 6 th December	Adults only performances – no pre-school children permitted	Christmas performance	Information & time to be confirmed nearer the time.	Tickets need to be purchased in advance on line via Weduc	In the hall
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Wednesday 7 th December	Morning Nursery	Parents workshop	9 a.m.	Focused on developing fine motor skills	In the nursery
Thursday 8 th December	Afternoon Nursery	Parents workshop on developing fine motor skills	1 p.m.	Focused on developing fine motor skills	In the nursery
Week beginning 12 th December	All year groups	Christmas dressing up theme week.		Each day this week children will be asked to where something festive,	In school

				Themes to be confirmed nearer the time	
Tuesday 13 th December	Reception	Circus visit			In school
Tuesday 13 th December	Year 1 & 2	Pantomime visit to Harrow Art Centre	p.m.	Parents will be required to make an online payment to cover the cost of the ticket and transport to Harrow Art Centre. (please note subject to traffic the children will return a little later than their usual end of the school day.	Harrow Arts Centre.
Thursday 15 th December	All year groups	Christmas parties	Nursery a.m. & p.m. All other year groups p.m.		In school
Friday 16 th December	All year groups	Christmas Raffle draw			In school
Friday 16 th December	All Year Groups	Non- uniform day -		Donate £1 as part of our end of term non-uniform day fund raiser.	In school.

Autumn Term 2022

Last day of term

Friday 16 December (**Reception finish at 2.00 p.m. and Years 1 & 2 at 2.15 p.m.)**)

Please note there is **no afternoon Nursery class** on Friday 16 December 2022.

Spring Term 2023

First day of school

INSET DAY (Children not in school)

Half term

Back to school

INSET DAY (Children not in school)

Last day of term

Tuesday 3 January

Friday 20 January

Monday 13 February– Friday 17 February

Monday 20 February

Friday 24 February

Friday 31 March (**finish at 2 p.m. Reception & 2.15 p.m. KS 1**)

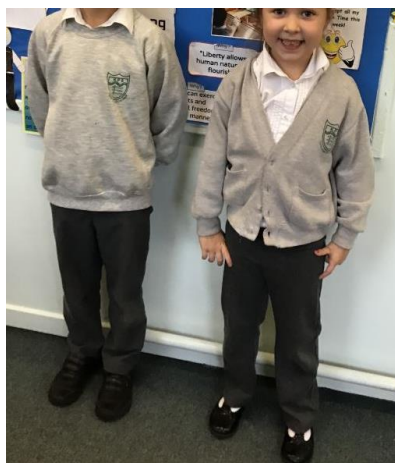
The link to the payment and consent for your child to attend the Pantomime was sent out to you all via Weduc on Sunday 27th November and then a reminder by all the class teachers via Class Do jo.

All payments and consent must be given by Friday 9th December please.



A REMINDER THAT - COMPULSARY SCHOOL UNIFORM & PE UNIFORM CONVENES FROM SEPTEMBER!

Please be reminded that the school takes a hard line regarding compliance with the school uniform. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that their child is wearing the school uniform as stipulated in the school prospectus and website. On Wednesday's we require all children in Year 1 and 2 to wear the schools PE uniform which comprises of **Grey joggers (Option of black shorts in the summer) a grey top and black trainers/plimsolls and not their own sportswear.** This uniform can also be worn for PE lessons, in line with their class timetables, on days other than Wednesday. All Uniform orders can be made via the Weduc App at the school shop.



It has been noted since the start of the school term that a number of children are not in the appropriate clothing and black shoes. Please respect the school's policy and practice by ensuring your child comes to school in the correct uniform. We thank you in advance for your support and compliance.



Girls may wear Black or Grey Trousers too. White socks or grey tights
Boys' black or grey socks.

Summer dress from April – July only

Please make sure you write your child's name in all their items including, hats, scarves and gloves as we enter the cold spell.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY CHECK

It is important that parents check their eligibility criteria as a number of parents found themselves to be eligible during lockdown. They were then issued with free school meal vouchers which they could use to purchase food at a supermarket of their choice. It is important that you check as it may be helpful in the event of a second spike!

Parents can check to see if they meet the eligibility criteria by following the instructions below:

Step 1: Login to the following website: <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk> (Free School Meal Eligibility Checker)

Step 2: Click – **Check eligibility**

Step 3: Click – **create an account** (Unless you already have an account in which case you go to return to your account and enter your password)

Step 4: **Create an account**

Step 5: On the drop down menu:

Local authority – select - **Harrow**

School – select – **Kenmore Park Infant & Nursery School.HA3 9JA**

Step 6: Read and accept the privacy notice **by ticking the box at the bottom of the page.**

Step 7: **Enter your details:**

First name

Last name

Your date of birth

Your National Insurance number

Email address

Mobile number

Postcode

Get address: click on your address; house number etc

SUBMIT

Once you have submitted the form you will receive a response in a couple of days confirming your status. If you are eligible, please forward the email to the school on the following email address: office@kpins.harrow.sch.uk

Job Vacancies

We are looking for casual as and when cleaners: working hours 3.30 – 6 p.m. week days only (**no qualifications** required but experience of cleaning employment desirable).



As and When Lunch time leaders (1 hour 10 minutes per day) – are you able to work flexibly between the hours of 11.30 – 1 p.m. Please visit the school office and request an application form.



School Travel

Kenmore Park Infant and Nursery has been awarded the Early Years Healthy School Gold Award, The Healthy Schools Gold Award and the Gold Travel Plan Award for our initiatives and drive to ensure safe and healthy travel to school.

The Awards and an indication of the school's work in this area which has been in recognition of the passion and action taken to support and contribute to the health (both oral and physical) and well-being of our pupils and school community including parents/carers.

We feel very strongly about how children travel to school and encourage all pupils to walk or scooter to school rather than using the car. This is good for their health and also for the environment – helping to reduce carbon dioxide and pollutions which contributes to the increase in the number of pupils suffering from Asthma! A brisk walk or exercise before work is also a good way to get the brain working too!

We have installed designated pods for parking bikes & scooters in different areas of the school for the convenience of parents. We realise that some children live some distance away from the school and may need to come by car however, we would ask that parents park a little distance away from school and walk the rest of the route to school.

As an incentive for children who walk we promote Walk on Wednesdays – 'WOW'. Children who walk to school every Wednesday of each month and we reward the children at the end of each month. We look forward to your support with this initiative.



Help with food

If you are struggling to manage bills and prioritise them over food, then please email the school office and we help by adding you to our weekly food parcel collection list. We will aim to support you sensitively and confidentially. Email the school office – subject ' Help with food' office@kpins.harrow.sch.uk

IMPORTANT REMINDER RE:
SCHOOL ADMISSIONS INFORMATION –
the closing date is fast approaching!!!!

**CHILDREN WHO ARE DUE TO START IN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER
2023**

CHILDREN BORN BETWEEN 1 SEPTEMBER 2018 AND 31 AUGUST 2019

You need to apply for a reception place. Please apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS
FRIDAY 14 JANUARY 2023**

**APPLYING ONLINE. IS EASY AND YOU GET AN INSTANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT YOUR
APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED. YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE AN EMAIL WITH THE
OUTCOME OF YOUR APPLICATION ON OFFER DAY.**

For details go to www.harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions

For help and advice on how to complete your application please email
schooladmissions@harrow.gov.uk

Possible ESOL classes to be held at the school.

Come along to the taster session at 9 a.m. on Wednesday 7th December.
(see flyer for more information.)



FREE

**ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)
WITH A VARIETY OF FUN TOPICS) AT KENMORE SCHOOL**

**TASTER Classes Start Wednesday
7th December
9.00 to 11.30am**



**TASTER
ESOL WITH**

- Week 1**
Healthy Eating
- Week 2**
Travel
- Week 3**
Digital Parenting
- Week 4**
Employability
- Week 5**
Beauty
- Week 6**
Healthy Lifestyle

Learn/improve your English while your children are in school?
Email office@kpins.harrow.sch.uk (Infant/Nursery School) or
office@kpjs.harrow.sch.uk (Junior School) or simply drop this leaflet into the
School's Reception with your name , phone number or email address, child's
full name and class written below (so we can pass information to you).

www.stanmore.ac.uk admissions@stanmore.ac.uk 020 84207700