

January Parent Newsletter



Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Happy New Year!

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a restful holiday and quality family time.

Last term proved to be a challenging one with more staff sickness than we have ever experienced for a range of reasons. We worked hard to minimise the disruption to the children's learning by using our highly trained Higher level teaching assistants who act as cover supervisors to cover as they are more familiar with the children and aware of our curriculum. I would like to acknowledge our appreciation for their support at a time when it would have been difficult to find supply teachers as there is a national shortage and increased demand across London.

We hope that period is behind us and that the spring term will be a little more settled.

Autumn term highlights.

The school was able to facilitate a 10 week parents Nurturing Programme working in collaboration with Harrow Learning Hub. Eleven mum's attended the programme and talked highly about their learning but also the network of support they had developed from getting to know each other as part of the group. Sharing experiences and being made to feel that they were not alone in the challenges and experiences they shared.

We are now also facilitating ESOL classes at the school which commenced on the 14th December for parents across both schools supported by Stanmore College.

The annual Christmas production has to be one of the greatest highlight of the term so far with every child participating and not floundering at any of the four performances. The children really enjoyed standing and performing in front of an audience and did us all proud.

As part of the work the school does to promote a love of music through teaching and learning the school has achieved the Music Mark.

We also started to invite parents back into school to join us for the Achievement assemblies which up to now have been conducted internally and the names of the children published in the newsletters.

We also resumed our face to face parent workshops and seminar lessons which are also a valued part of the parental engagement work the school does. During the autumn term we facilitated 18 sessions across Nursery to Year 2. In total 214 parents attended one more of the 18 sessions facilitated (an average of 12 parents in attendance per session) Evaluations were received from 210 parents of the 214 who attended and were very positive indicating how helpful parents found them in supporting their child's learning at home.

Christmas Raffle

Thank you for supporting our annual Christmas raffle, there were 23 different prizes. Congratulations to all the winner but in particular the winners of the top 5 were:

1st Prize	Afternoon Tea for 2 voucher	Catalina – Dolphin Class
2 nd Prize	Christmas Treats Hamper	Kristaq – Dolphin Class
3 rd Prize	Table Football game	Erick – Jaguar Class
4 th Prize	Christmas Treats Hamper	Emma – Chameleon Class
5 th Prize	Tiffany's City Bike Tour Doll	Ana-Maria – Lemur Class

Parent Governor Vacancy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Kenmore Park Infant and Nursery school has two parent governor vacancies on its governing body. We are looking to appoint parent Governors to join our Governing Body. The individuals need to have an interest in representing the parent community and acting as a voice of the school and parents. Our parent governors are very valuable members of the governing body. We rely on them to help us to keep in touch with what parents are thinking and to help us to decide what is best for all our pupils. They also keep parents informed about the strategic work of the school leadership.

What are you required to do?

- Attend Full Governing Body meetings which are scheduled at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and there is one meeting every half term (max 6 per year). All paperwork is sent out a week in advance of the meeting.
- Join at least one of the subcommittees who meet once each term as a minimum at 7 p.m. on a Wednesday evening at the school.
- You must have skills and areas of expertise and knowledge to support with the strategic planning and vision for the school
- The term of office is 4 years

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, please collect an application form from the school office. **Complete and return by Monday 30th January 2023** ensuring you have details of nominees completed. Where there is more than two people interested we will hold a ballot.

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 the Council website. The closing date for applications 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

At the end of the term we reminded parents of when the school holiday's commenced and when the school term resumed from Tuesday 3rd January 2023. The law states that if you choose to educate your 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.

I will also remind you that any unauthorised absences over the school year when accumulated can lead to penalty notices too. Some of you may be under the impression that if less than 5 consecutive days leave is taken a penalty notice will not be issued. I would like to correct you on that point as if your child has any other unauthorised absence during the school year these will be added together.

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 **December**, the following classes have received certificates for the best class attendance each week and then for the overall month: **Lemur Class.**

Week beginning	Class	% attendance
28 th – 2 nd December 2022	Jaguar	96.3%
5 th – 9 th December 2022	Lemur	98.6%
12 th – 16 th December 2022	Lemur	98.6%
December	Lemur	96.1%

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 of 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 NO SWEETS or 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.

Our School Improvement Priorities this school year.

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. You can find out what the children are learning by visiting the school website and reviewing the termly curriculum overview.

Seminar lessons and parent workshops/meeting
Spring term 2023.

Date	Year group	Activity	Time	Arrangements	Venue
Monday 9 th January	Yr 1	Seminar lesson focused upon the teaching and learning of phonics.	9 a.m.	Dolphin class parents	School Hall.
Tuesday 10 th January	Yr 1	Seminar lesson focused upon the teaching and learning of phonics.	9 a.m.	Starfish class parents	School Hall.
Thursday 12 th January	Yr 1	Seminar lesson focused upon the teaching and learning of phonics.	9.05 a.m.	Sea Turtle class parents	School Hall.
Monday 16 th January	Reception	Seminar lesson focused on supporting young children with writing.	9 a.m.	Unicorn Class	School Hall
Monday 16 th January	Reception	Seminar lesson focused on supporting young children with writing.	2.40 p.m.	Pixie Class	School Hall
Tuesday 17 th January	Reception	Seminar lesson focused on supporting young children with writing.	9 a.m.	Fairy Class	School Hall
Monday 23 rd January	Yr 2	Seminar lesson focused upon the teaching and learning of phonics.	9 a.m.	Lemur class	School Hall
Tuesday 24 th January	Yr 2	Seminar lesson focused upon the teaching and learning of phonics.	9 a.m.	Chameleon class	School Hall
Friday 27 th January	Yr 2	Seminar lesson focused upon the teaching and learning of phonics.	9.10 a.m.	Jaguar class	School Hall
Thursday 2 nd February	Morning Nursery	Workshop with a focus on communication and language development.	9 a.m.- 9.45 a.m.	Caterpillar class	Nursery setting.

Friday 3 rd February	Afternoon Nursery	Workshop with a focus on communication and language development.	1.00-1.45 p.m.	Butterfly class	Nursery setting.
Tuesday 7 th February	Nursery & Reception	Visible learning virtual workshop		All Nursery and reception classes.	Virtual – a link will be sent.
Week beginning 6-10 February		Children's Mental Health week			
Wednesday 8 th February	All year groups	Parents Coffee morning – Let's talk about mental health	9 a.m.	All year group parents/carers	Year 1 classroom.
Monday 27 th February	Yr 1	Maths seminar lesson – focused on White Rose teaching of number and calculations.	9 a.m.	Dolphin Class	The school hall.
Tuesday 28 th February	Yr 1	Maths seminar lesson – focused on White Rose teaching of number and calculations.	9 a.m.	Starfish Class	The school hall.
Friday 3 rd March	Yr 1	Maths seminar lesson – focused on White Rose teaching of number and calculations.	9.10 a.m.	Sea Turtle Class	The school hall.
Monday 6 th March	Yr 2	Maths seminar lesson – focused on White Rose teaching of number and calculations.	9 a.m.	Lemur Class	The school hall.
Tuesday 7 th March	Yr 2	Maths seminar lesson – focused on White Rose teaching of number and calculations.	9 a.m.	Chameleon Class	The school hall.
Wednesday 8 th March	Morning Nursery	Maths workshop	9 a.m.- 9.45 a.m.	Caterpillar class	Nursery setting.
Thursday 9 th March	Afternoon Nursery	Maths workshop	1.00-1.45 p.m.	Butterfly class	Nursery setting.

Friday 10 th March	Yr 2	Maths seminar lesson – focused on White Rose teaching of number and calculations.	9.10 a.m.	Jaguar Class	The school hall.
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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)

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 in the correct uniform. We thank you in advance for your support and compliance.

Girls may wear Black or Grey Trousers too.



school

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 are 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, 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