

February Parent Newsletter



Wednesday 1st February 2023

Half term is fast approaching

We are almost at the half way point of the academic year. This half term we have continued to invite Parent/carers to attend our seminar lessons covering key school improvement priorities of reading – phonics and mathematics. We want to ensure that 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 read every day, 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.

Our aim is to work in partnership with you to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for your child/ren. The school has a strong focus and desire for all children to become confident and fluent readers by the end of key stage 1 in preparation for learning in the junior school.

After half term parents will be invited to meet with their child's class teacher at the mid-year parent meetings on Friday 24th February. Book an appointment with the teachers via [Weduc](#). The link will be sent out from Monday 6th February to 20th February.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Kenmore Park Infant and Nursery school has only one parent governor vacancy remaining on its governing body. It is a great opportunity to get involved in your child's school at a strategic level. We are looking to appoint parent Governors to join our Governing Body who have an interest in education. The individual also needs 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 27th February 2023** ensuring you have details of nominees completed. Where there is more than one parent 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 or the Council website. The closing date for applications is Monday 20th February 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

Information has been sent out to parents outlining the situation regarding any request for leave during term time Re: **The 200th year festival/ anniversary celebration for Shree Nara Narayan Dev 18th-26th April 2023**. The letter outlines the guidance the school has received from SACRE which is adopted by school to verify any requests for leave during term time, who work in consultation with religious leaders and the local authority. I would like to remind you that leave will not be authorised and will result in Education Penalty Notices being issued and also disruption to your child's learning!

At the end of every half term/term we reminded parents of when the school holiday's commenced and when the school term resumed. The law clearly 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.

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters

Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

Attendance highlights from the month of January

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
03 - 06 January	Unicorn	94.1%
09 - 13 January	Unicorn	97.65%
16 - 20 January	Dolphin	100%
23 - 27 January	Chameleon	98%
30 - 31 January		
January		

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.

Seminar lessons and parent workshops/meeting spring term 2023.

Date	Year group	Activity	Time	Arrangements	Venue
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.
Thursday 2 nd 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.

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 WE HAVE A COMPULSARY SCHOOL UNIFORM & PE UNIFORM

It has been noticed that children seem to be coming into school in trainers and other non-black footwear. Please be reminded that there is an expectation that children wear black shoes.

It is parents' responsibility to ensure that their child is wearing the appropriate footwear and school uniform as stipulated in the school prospectus and website.



Also 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 should not be seen as the school uniform on other days please!



Uniform on Wednesday's only for Years 1 and 2 pupils.

Please remember to make sure and regularly check that your child's name is on all their items including, hats, scarves and gloves.

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.

As and when SEN support teaching assistants for children that require one to one support from an adult. Some of these children may have complex needs. Hours are flexible and based on the individual child's needs.

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.



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.

A 6-week Support Group for fathers/male carers

to empower fathers and highlight the importance of the father's role in a child's life.

When: Every Monday

Start: 20 February 2023

End: 27 March 2023

10 am to 12 pm

*Venue: Hillview Children's Centre
2 Grange Road, South Harrow, HA2 0LW*

HOW TO REFER

Harrow Children's Services professionals including Social Workers.

Complete an ESNA Stage 1 on Mosaic and select Parenting: RPC Fathers Group as an outcome

For queries regarding how to complete an ESNA 1 contact earlysupporthub@harrow.gov.uk for support.

External Professionals- complete a MASH referral form and send it to Duty.assess@harrow.gov.uk

To discuss concerns about a family contact **Harrow Golden Number** at 0208 901 2690

Free Fathers' Group



- To develop your understanding of child development and what all children need
- To develop effective communication with your child
- Learn protective behaviours to keep your child safe
- To understand the impact of parental conflict on children
- Network with other male carer's/fathers
- Learn about services and support available to you and your child/family

Refreshments Provided

