

## Parent Newsletter



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.



### The late Counsellor Mitzi Green.

It is with great sadness that I write of the passing of Counsellor Mitzi Green who, unbeknown to some of you was also a long standing Governor at Kenmore Park Schools. Mitzi was extremely proactive and passionate about wanting to make a difference to the lives and learning of the young people in Harrow. She was hugely supportive of the school and listened to the opinions and needs of the people in her ward whilst also dealing with her own fight against Cancer. On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February it was announced that Mitzi had lost her long and tireless battle against a disease that she bravely fought off numerous times but it kept coming back. Our thoughts are with her family at this very sad and difficult time. May she rest in peace!

### The fight against Cancer and the lengths a primary school child will go to in order to do her bit in support of such a worthy cause!

Mischa, an ex-Infant School pupils who is currently is in the Junior School in Year 5 has taken it upon herself to do a sponsored haircut.

This is her story and the link should you wish to make a donation.

'I want to make a difference and do something for charity. I have chosen to get my hair cut and donate it to The Little Princess Trust who will be making wigs for all those girls that have lost their hair fighting cancer.

One day I saw an advert showing children who were suffering from cancer and it really touched my heart. Especially after I witnessed my Granddad lose his battle to cancer. I was inspired.

I have let my hair grow for over the last 2 years and in March, I will have it cut (12 inches). It is going to be nerve wracking but it's for a good cause. Please sponsor me and help raise additional funds for more wigs to be made. Every little helps so dig deep and donate, please don't wait till tomorrow when you could do it today.

No one can fight this battle alone but together we can make a difference!'

I'm fundraising for The Little Princess Trust & I'd love your support! Text MMAJ99 £1 to 70070 to sponsor me today. Thanks. <http://www.justgiving.com/Mischa-Majithia-Wigs4Kidz>'.

### Parents meetings

The school was a busy place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February as almost every parent made the time to come and meet their child's class teacher/s to discuss their progress and also find out how they can support their child's learning in partnership with the school. Although it was a long day for the staff it

provided an excellent opportunity to meet parents and have time to discuss how their child is engaging with learning and if they are achieving in line with age related expectations.

### **School Catering.**

“Really good taste, really happy knowing this is the food my child is eating” (Parent Turtle Class)

“ I like my lunch” (Child Seahorse Class)

“It’s perfect everything” (Parent Mexico Class).

“I liked it because it is hot” (Child in Brazil Class)

“Delicious food. Perfect” (Parent Seahorse, Snowflake & Junior Class pupils)

“It was very nice and delicious. The food was the best”  
(Parent Brazil Class)

“Lovely food really enjoyed it” (Parent Turtle Class)



These were just some of the comments from parents and pupils who came along to the taster session we hosting on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February during our parents open day. With the support of Pride Catering we invited parents/carers to come and visit our school canteen and try for themselves some of the food items on the school lunchtime menu available to their children.

Our thanks to Naomi the Kitchen Manager and the team for hosting the event.

Sadly Naomi the Kitchen Manager will be leaving the company and school at the end of this month as she has secure employment with another catering company and a more senior role. Congratulations to her on her promotion however, we will be sad to see her leave as she was instrumental in setting up the kitchen and in house catering at the school. We wish her all the very best for the future.

### **Staff changes.**

At the end of this term Mrs. Suffield who teachers the morning Nursery class will be leaving the school. She started her teaching career at the school 15 years ago as a newly qualified teacher. I know her colleagues, friends, pupils and Kenmore families would like to wish her all the very best for the future.

### **Oral hygiene**

Last term we hosted oral hygiene talks for parents and tooth brushing workshops for the pupils in Year 1. As a next step from the talks and practical tooth brushing session we are looking to pilot teeth brushing in Nursery as our way of improving the oral hygiene of our learners and improve learning outcomes for child who are healthy and do not suffer from tooth decay. We want to make a difference to the children in Harrow by instilling good habits and avoid unnecessary visit to see a dentist at such a young age.

**FACT: Harrow has one of the highest levels of tooth decay in young children!**



Oral hygiene promoters visiting with our Nursery children back in January 2017.

## Attendance

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February the court attendance officer for the Local Authority visited the school to discuss and review a number of requests for leave of absence and evidence submitted by families. As a result, a number were issued with penalty notices – **FINES** amounting to £60 per child to be paid within 21 days with the amount increasing to £120 if not paid within 28 days and/or prosecution!

A lot of the evidence provided did not meet the criteria of exceptional leave and the court attendance officer made it clear that the Head teacher cannot authorise leave unless it is genuinely exceptional leave. The children have 13 weeks of holidays when families can make arrangements for treatment and or visit family etc.

This is a reminder to parents that Ingenious requests and evidence **will not be accepted** and nor will the common reason given – the costs of flight tickets etc. be considered as exceptional circumstances.

On admission into the school all parents are asked to sign an Attendance contract for which there appears to be a total disregard by some families.

Your child's health, well-being and learning is important to us and therefore it is important that you ensure that they attend school regularly.

From time to time we will write to you when attendance starts to fall below the acceptable threshold of 98% and then below 90% when the court attendance officer will become involved.

Please note the timings of the school day:

It is important to ensure that children attend school regularly and equally importantly on time – NOT LATE!!!!

Nursery a.m. session: 8.45 – 11.45 a.m.

Nursery p.m. session: 12.45 – 3.45 p.m.



***Please remember that the Reception classes are now operating a soft start so the children are able to be dropped off from 8.45 a.m. (5 minutes earlier) thus allowing parents to drop their reception child off before the children in Years 1 & 2 so there should be no excuses or reason for a late drop off!***

***Unfortunately there still continues to be a large number of children being dropped off at 9 a.m. when the gates are being locked. Please take advantage of this opportunity and help us to ensure the safety and well-being of your children!***

**Reception: 8.45 a.m. – 3.15 p.m.**

**Years 1 & 2 (KS1): 8.50 a.m. – 3.20 p.m.**

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

Week	Class	% attendance
06 - 10 February	Turtle	98.6
20 – 24 February	Ghana	99.5
28 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Turtle	98.6%
February	Madagascar	98.%

## School term dates.



### SPRING TERM 2017

Last day Of the spring term - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

### SUMMER TERM 2017

First Day of Term for pupils - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
May Day bank holiday - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May  
Half Term - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
Last day Of Term - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

### INSET (staff training days)

\*Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017

\*Please note if you have a child/children in the Junior School that this INSET days is different. All children attending the Junior School should still attend school as normal on this day.

Remember each school term ends at 2.15 p.m.  
(Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017).

## Diary dates for the Spring term 2017:



### Other events taking place in school

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Samba Drumming	All year groups
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	History workshops	Year 1
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Photographers – taking individual photos of children.	All children to be in smart school uniform.
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	History workshops	Year 2
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Red nose day	ALL children wear <b>RED</b>

### Spring term 2017 Class Assemblies.

This term each class will present an assembly. Parents/guardians will be invited to attend their child's class assembly. The spring term dates are as follows:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>
Madagascar	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
Turtle	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
Reception (Caterpillar & Dragonfly classes)	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2017
Reception ( Bumblebee & Ladybird classes)	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
Starfish	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017

### School Travel Plan

As an accredited GOLD travel plan school we continue to promote WOW – Walk on Wednesday encouraging every child/family to walk or park away from the school and walk to school at least every Wednesday.

Each month we will celebrate by announcing the class with the most pupils walking to school on Wednesdays. During the month of February congratulations go to **Clownfish Class**.

Later in the year we will host events to support walking, scooter or cycling and we will invite parents/careers to join us for those events too.



Please remember not to obstruct residents drive ways or park on the zigzag lines when dropping and collecting your children from school we continue to received complaints from residents and we welcome you support in building positive relations with our local residents.

### **Health & Safety**

Please remember that Infant school children should not be left unaccompanied in the playground in the mornings. The doors open at 8.50 a.m. and therefore they should remain in the supervision of the adult who is dropping them off at school until they are safely handed over to the class teacher.

Similarly at the end of the school day, the children are handed over to the adult collecting them and it is their responsibility to supervise the child safely whilst on site and then home.

There continues to be the issue of children playing on the school equipment which should not be used unsupervised at the end of the school day. We do not take responsibility for any injuries that take place to children on school equipment which is being used without authorisation at the start and end of the school day.

### **After School Club.**

The After School Club which provides parents with child care from 3.30 – 5.45 p.m. Monday to Friday has now moved to the school canteen and is managed by the schools. The children have settled well and there are children who attend every day or a few days per week. Now that the school is managing this provision we are able to offer parents casual child care provided your child is registered as a casual user. This means that you can phone on the day and ask for your child to attend the after school club and pay when you collect. There are a number of options too. You can select from the full session at £7 (3.30 – 5.45 p.m.) or a short stay at £4 (3.30 – 4.15 p.m.).

We will also be sending children to the After school club if you are late collecting your child at the end of the school day and you will be charge at the short stay or full day rate depending upon the time you collect your child.

It is in your best interest to collect your child on time at the end of the school day or arrange to be a casual user.

Details can be obtained from the Junior School office.

### **New automated gate to school entrance.**

To make it easier for parents/carers we have change the operating mechanism on the gate to the school office so that you no longer need to push it open. Once you have buzzed to come in it will opened automatically once you are authorised entrance.

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PUSH THE GATE!**