



# Harris Middle School Newsletter December 2009



Dear Parent/Guardian

So much is happening in school that I have handed over this newsletter to reports and comments from Pupils, Staff and Governors.

We look forward to being even busier as we approach Christmas. Please see attached sheet to see what is happening when.

Mrs Bowmaker  
Headteacher

## Year 6 Parents workshop

Following a very successful Year 6 Parents Workshop on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, here are some parent and pupil comments.

Parents:-

“It was very educational and informative learning how our children do their Maths now compared to how I was taught”

“It was lovely for us as parents to work with our children and work together solving problems.”

Pupils:-

“It helped mum and dad to help me with homework.”

“It was easier to do because I had my dad to help.”

## Library News

Book Fair – Many thanks to all pupils, parents and staff who supported the Book Fair.

The total spent was £824.87.  
5S and 6H won bookmarks as the 2 classes who spent the most money.

## School Governor Vacancies

We have 3 Vacancies on our school governing body. Two of our parent governors have written an account of what it is like to be a Governor of the school.

I have been a parent governor at The Harris Middle School for the past 18 months and can honestly say that it has been, and continues to be a very rewarding role.

Admittedly, at my first Governing Body meeting, I was extremely nervous and probably a bit naïve regarding the role of a parent governor, but I was made to feel welcome and given advice and literature regarding the role of a parent governor. Training is offered to all governors to assist with the planning and decision making that takes place within the meetings, you really don't need to know anything about the running of a school when you start.

The Governing Body has a responsibility to your child and also to you, the parent. We work as a team, striving to support and to challenge the school in all areas. If you are looking for a way to get involved in what is happening at The Harris in its final years then the Governing Body could be for you. *Mrs L LeGrice*

I have been a parent governor at the Harris Middle School for about a year now and can openly say it has been a rewarding experience. Being informed about the running of the school, especially with the forthcoming transition to the two-tier system, has been invaluable and thought provoking. Attending the governor's meetings does not take up a vast amount of my time as they take place after school hours. Having a 'voice' within the education community is essential and I would encourage other parents to participate in becoming a parent governor for the sake of the children and the school. This is a constructive way to maintain high standard within the education system and represent all of the parents whose children attend our school. *Mrs R Matthews*

If you are interested in becoming a governor please contact Mrs Bowmaker.

Competition winners – Bethany McWade, Ella Smith, Freya Owen, Danny Cook, Alfie Trembath and Sophie Tiborc. The standard of entries was very high, making it extremely difficult to pick winners.

## Karen McCombie Children's Author - Visits our school

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November the very popular author Karen McCombie visited the Harris to talk to Year 7 pupils (along with pupils from Lothingland Middle School). Here are some reports of what the children thought.

Eddie Williamson 7L

“Karen McCombie came to the school to tell Year 7's about herself. She told us why she became an author and what inspires her. She started writing short stories when she was young and still at school. Her teacher said that she would be a good author but she thought they were just trying to be nice. Then later on she actually did become an author. She gets her ideas for her books from her diary, things she hears and sees. She also has a book that has her next door neighbour's cat, Colin in. She was very funny and made me want to read more of her books.

Jessie Spicer 7L

When I watched Karen McCombie on stage it was nothing like I expected. I thought she would be all posh because she is famous. But she was a nice lady. I'm not that fond of reading, but I think her books sound interesting even though I haven't read any of her books. I liked it when she started talking about funny stories in her life. I liked Karen coming to our school.

## Year 6 - Crucial Crew

Report by Joseph Flatt 6R

It was an amazing day at Crucial Crew and my favourite bit was the fire van. Harry said “it was a very educational trip and I would love to go again sometime”, and Josh said “it was fun”. The fire van had a bedroom scent and we had to find 10 things that were dangerous, then fire smoke went around the room and we crouched down and shouted and banged the floor. A Fireman came and took us out. It was a good time!

Report by Madeline Lyon 6R

We all went to this holiday camp to learn about lots of different safety, we all had a very amazing day. We got put into groups. We had 12 minutes to complete each task. The caravan was brilliant we learnt about alcohol and drugs. We also went in this bus type building, there were 10 things wrong that 10 of us had to fix. Suddenly smoke came through the window and we had to kneel down, as the smoke came down we were banging on the floor, BANG BANG BANG!! Whilst we were banging on the floor we all had to shout HELP HELP HELP!!

## YEAR 5 – Visit to Norwich Castle

Report by Charlotte Batson and Bethanie McWade 5S

On the 12<sup>th</sup> November, Year 5 went to Norwich castle museum as part of our topic on Ancient Egyptians. We were all excited, we went off to do four activities. The first one was with a man named Mr Derry. We looked at all sorts of artefacts from Ancient Egypt, it was really fun. Then we met a woman called Dr Smith, she showed us an x-ray of a mummy! They told us that in Victorian times they unwrapped mummies for entertainment. We saw a real mummy from Ancient Egypt. Next we met an Ancient Egyptian lady called Amunet, we did what ancient Egyptian children did, then we dressed up as Ancient Egyptians and went walking shouting “Hail Tutankhamen” over and over again, it was so embarrassing as we did it in front of the public. We then met a woman for our last activity of the day. We made a bead collar and the woman told us different meanings for some colours like silver, gold, blue, red and green. After that it was time to go but I knew that we didn't want to. I hope we go again.

## Children In Need

We raised the fantastic sum of £1,073.15  
WELL DONE EVERYONE

A few reports from the children

On Children In Need day we had an afternoon out of lessons and got to create our own stalls for people from other classes to have a go on. I had a competition called "Children In Need fashion show" where you had to design your own fashion accessory. It was a great success.

Harry Stedman 6R

"I enjoyed Mr Livemore's pom pom dance and watching his beard being shaved off"

Caitlin Drake 8W

"I enjoyed the whole day and seeing what people looked like for children in need. I was doing a stall so I didn't get to see the other stalls unfortunately"

Zara Anderson 8W

"I really enjoyed children in need. It was really funny and watching the YMCA and Mr Livemore having his beard shaved was funny too."

Alice Cheverton 8W

"I thought Children In Need was brilliant! I was running a stall and there was a great atmosphere in the hall."

Rebecca Foster 8W

"I enjoyed Children In Need but I enjoyed when Mr Whiteside and Mr Moore had a fight with their Lightsabres the most (Mr Moore won)"

Chloe Challis 8W

Abby Codling 8A

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December Abby will be going to Birmingham to audition for "Britain's Got Talent".

She will be performing a dance routine with a friend.

Good Luck Abby

Daisy Gyapong 8W

I won a green Blue Peter badge for drawing a picture on 'Save Our Planet' and writing a piece about the environment.

Well Done Daisy

### Enterprise Week comments from Year 8

Many Year 8 students went to the Denes High School to take part in the activities organised for Activity week. These activities went on all week, and here are some of the nice comments Year 8 pupils made about their learning experiences:

*"I liked the one where you go around Sainsbury's on a computer looking for a product. I liked it because it was cool."* Sean Sandell.

*"I liked the night vision glasses because they were awesome."* Harry Lawrence.

*"I liked the Royal Air Force thing because they told us what they do and also we were allowed to have a go with some of their equipment, they use."* Shannon Lockwood.

*"I think that the mini monsters were awesome because it was really fun."* Joseph Noonan.

*"I think that the RAF was brilliant it was the best afternoon I have ever had. We got to try on the night vision goggle and saw how an ejector seat worked. It was great because I want to be a pilot myself."* Ben Smith.

*"Very good and very interesting loads of awesome gizmos to play with and cool facts"*. Michael Mullender.