

The Harbinger Chronicles

December 2023

Volume 3, Edition 2

Your Voice Matters!



www.harbinger.org.uk

Learning · Well-Being · Togetherness

The Harbinger Primary School newspaper is written by the children, for the school community; our newspaper is published every half term.

Farewell:

Jubeda and Family Will Move to Saudi Arabia

by Mariya

I am leaving London! With my mum, Jubeda, and with my dad and brother.

In February I am leaving and I am going to Saudi Arabia because I want to learn the Quran and I am very excited to leave Harbinger. I will suffer in Saudi Arabia because it is very hot.

I will go to a private school in a city. The school is building a swimming pool. I will be not going to Gorsefield and my last day in Harbinger is the 31st January. I will be homeschooled for some time in Saudi Arabia before starting school.

See Farewell p. 5



Breaking....

Ofsted Results Are In

By Zayd

You may have seen school inspectors have observing different classrooms back in November. They even watched our playtimes and lunchtimes. Well, after a six-plus week wait, we got the results we were waiting for. We were upgraded to good, with our early years provision ranked outstanding, and guess what, the *Harbinger Chronicles* was one of the reasons.

See Ofsted, p. 9



What is it like to attend this school?

Leaders have developed a welcoming culture in the school. Staff know their pupils extremely well. Working relationships between staff and pupils are very positive. Pupils feel a strong sense of community. They are happy, safe and feel valued.

There are high expectations for all pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This includes in early years where there are no limits or barriers to children's achievements. Pupils are enthusiastic, kind and enjoy learning.

Pupils are well behaved during lessons and around the school site. They help to support positive behaviour in the school through roles including anti-bullying ambassadors and playground buddies. In early years, children are highly motivated and demonstrate high levels of self-control.

All pupils in the school attend a range of outings every year which help to widen pupils' cultural experiences. These include visits to museums, galleries and places of worship. Pupils also have the opportunities to develop their leadership skills through groups including the student council, eco leaders and writing for the school paper, the 'Harbinger Chronicle'.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Editorial

Question of the Issue:



If someone hurts you, should you hurt them back?

Zayd: Use the worry box. It's important to tell an adult

Junainah: I think it depends on the situation, amount of pain and who they are. If they are eg. kidnapping you as it is against your own will, there is an imbalance of power. But, that is in very rare circumstances. If it's just a minor issue or something else, don't hurt them back.

Amelia: i think it depends because if someone is trying to kidnap you then you obviously want to try to push them away but if it's like a little kid then it's not right to to be rude back

Jenna: No because it will become even harder for you and the person because you've been rude back to them or her or him

Asiya: I don't think you should because even if it is a child they still have their privacy. Their body is their body and elder or younger is still a child. The first thing you should do is tell an adult. You should never hurt people on purpose and never be the fight starter. If someone hurts you emotionally or physically, you should tell an adult or if they are an adult, that is a different concern.

Joud: I think it depends; if a person tries to kidnap you, you would need to escape. That could be a life or death situation. However, if its a child then you should not harm them as when you are 10, you are criminally responsible.

Sabrina: I don't think that you should hit someone back because you might get in a lot of trouble if you're at home or school and you and that person might become enemies.

Mohandas K Gandhi



"I have nothing new to teach the world. Truth and non-violence are as old as the hills"

Michael Davitt



"Our watchwords should be patience, prudence, courage and sleepless vigilance"

Martin Luther King Jr.



"We need, above all, effective means... but means that do not involve the use of violence"

Usmaan: Building on Zayd's idea you can use the worry box if you want to be anonymous

Nicole: Yes, if they are older and if the pain is really bad but dont hit them hard. If they are younger and if the pain is not that bad you shouldn't hit them.

How to Have a Great Christmas Holiday

by Aleena

Sometimes when you are at home for a long time like in the Christmas holidays you get *extremely* bored. I have quite a few *really* good ideas of things that you can do in those moments that you feel bored, and I am going to list them below

- Draw/colour
- Chillax
- Decorate for Christmas
- Make Christmas cards for loved ones and friends
- Wrap Christmas gifts
- Make DIY gifts
- Arts and crafts
- FOOTBALL/sports
- Chores (although you might hate chores, you must help your parents throughout the holidays)
- Go for a walk!!!

Lastly, don't forget to enjoy your holiday!

Thanks for Your Donations!

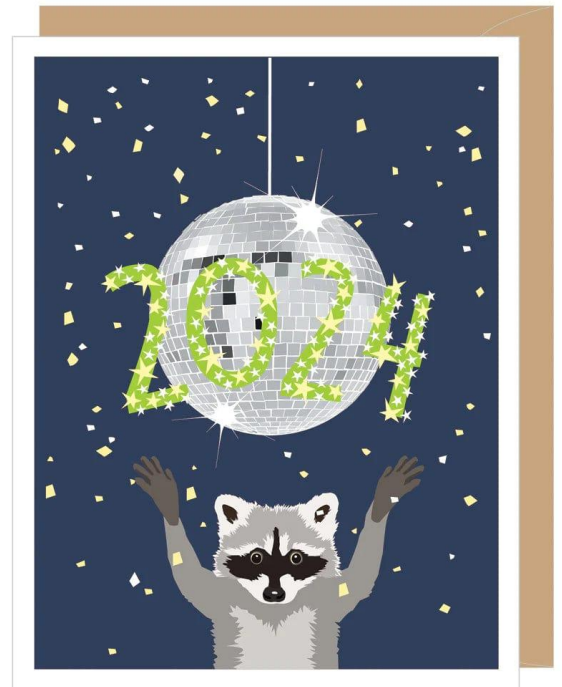
We are extremely pleased to inform you that together we have managed to raise a staggering **£641.57**.

This is amazing and will be donated immediately via a charity called Ummah Welfare Trust, who operate on a 100% donation policy.

This means all the money raised will go straight towards helping get water, fuel and medicine into Palestine - to a population that are experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crisis currently and whom 50% are children.

As you know, Hamas militants launched a brutal attack from Gaza on 7 Oct. that killed more than 1,400 people in Israel, they also took 240 hostages, ten of which are British citizens.

In response, Israel declared war on Hamas. Since then, the Israeli army has been bombing Gaza and tens of thousands of people have been killed or injured and many have lost their homes.



Attendance Matters

by Junainah

So yes. The title. *Let's refer to the title. Our attendance matters so much.* You need to be Present, Ready, Wanting and Enabled to learn (or PRWE).

It is important to come to school so you can learn and not be left thinking 'what are we doing in class?'

But you might be confused because some people don't come into school.

It may be for many different reasons. Perhaps they have an appointment, an illness or are on holiday.



You should never...

- Take holidays in the middle of the term
- Schedule appointments on a school day
- **Miss school deliberately**

Also, try not to get sick! You do realise that if you miss school, it will affect your knowledge on the topic you're doing.

So, a message to Harbinger students and parents...

GO TO SCHOOL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Be Kind to Yourself

by Joud

An affirmation is a sentence, word or a phrase that is positive about yourself. As a school, we use them to be more confident. The more confident we are, the more positive we feel in our everyday lives which makes a huge difference.

Our school has been learning about affirmations. On Wednesday, Nimesha held an assembly about the subject and that's how it all started. That's when our school learnt about affirmation.

Nimesha is planning to make a tree containing affirmations, and we will write participate by writing our affirmations on a piece of wood.

It's good to use affirmations as they can make you more feel more confident about yourself. If you use affirmations, your brain will register it in your head. However, if you don't use affirmations, you could feel less confident. For example, if you say, "I am the worst", your brain will register it. Therefore, you would feel bad about it, and it can impact your learning.

Turquoise and Jade classes use a lot of affirmations. Fiona says that her class uses them every single day. She makes them say affirmations out loud – she seems to care for her class a lot.



Children in Need Day

by Junainah

Last half term, we celebrated (drumroll please) CHILDREN IN NEED DAY! On this day we raised funds for to support children's mental and physical health and to support charities in every nook and cranny in the UK. This supports young people as well.

Positive Affirmations for Confidence

I am beautiful on the inside and the outside.

I have the strength and courage to overcome any challenge.

I am worthy of accomplishing all my goals and living my dream life.

I have unlimited potential.

I am fearless and confident in myself and all my abilities.

Today I face my day with confidence and endless courage.

I am free of all self-doubt about myself and my work.

Everything I need is within me. I am in control of my life.

I am confident in myself to always make the right decisions.

I have come a long way and proud of everything that I have accomplished.

I am confident in my business and my mission.

I deserve to become the best version of myself.

I am in control of my thoughts, emotions, and choices.

I believe in myself and my worth.

I am good enough and accept myself the way I am.

THEBALANCEDCEO.COM

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

As you all know, our school raises funds by doing a fundraiser; Nimesha and Jubeda carry buckets in which you can donate an amount of money.

Now, let me tell you something amazing! Did you know that this Children in Need Day is the 43rd appeal for disadvantaged children and young people around the UK?

That is incredible! Imagine how much money that would be! Just so you know, you can also donate online at <https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

I hope you donated some money, because trust me, it helps a lot. A lot.



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Friday 8th December 2023

A letter from Jubeda Ahmed

Dear Parents / Carers of Harbinger school,

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to share some news with you all about myself and my time at Harbinger.

Many of you may know that I have been at Harbinger for a very long time (almost 19 years). I first joined as an eager, newly qualified class teacher in 2005 and over the years my role has developed significantly and so have my responsibilities, which I have thoroughly enjoyed.

I have worked closely with many of you and your children in different capacities and have learned so much from you all. Our values of learning, togetherness and wellbeing are ones that I hold very dear to my heart, and I hope that I have been able to live by them in the way that I have worked with your children and you all.

A few years ago, I began my own personal journey of learning the Quran and Arabic language. My 2 young children, both of whom currently attend Harbinger, have also embarked on this exciting learning journey. I have tried to juggle this with my commitments at Harbinger and have found this extremely difficult. Recently, an exciting opportunity has arisen for us to pursue this overseas. Therefore, it is with great excitement and sadness that I need to share with you all that I will be leaving Harbinger at the end of January 2024.

I will be sharing this news in assembly with the children today in school.

Harbinger is a unique and special school, with exceptionally dedicated and committed staff who put the needs of every child at the centre of every decision that is made. At Harbinger, the emphasis is on the whole child, and this is one of the main reasons why I have quite happily spent almost half of my life at Harbinger. I feel truly blessed to have been surrounded by such a dedicated team and a warm, welcoming and understanding parent community. I absolutely believe with every fibre of my being that by holding firmly onto our core values and by working in close partnership with parents, Harbinger will go from strength to strength.

Since April 2023, we have had Nita Khan (experienced SENCO from Tower Hamlets) working alongside me and supporting SEND at Harbinger. She will continue to cover the SENCO role.

May peace and blessings be upon all of you always.

With best wishes,

Jubeda

Acting Deputy Headteacher



Acting Headteacher: Nimesha Nagahawatte

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Jubeda Ahmed
School Business Manager: Mai-Anh Dien

We Got a New Fish

by Joud

In Turquoise class, there were once three fish that were owned by Jeanette (AKA Jeanette the Spaghetti and Jeanette the Baguette).

Within the first two weeks, two fish died because the water wasn't right; the water had a problem with it but it's fixed now.

However, in the old Turquoise class, all three fish were alive (just saying). Their old names used to be:

Bubbles, Turquoise and (I forgot). One fish was supposed to be called Fishy Plops, but Sultana refused – why Sultana?

But that was last year, now it's this year! Let's continue the story of the tragic death of the two fishes.

Jeanette brought new goldfish but guess what? They killed the poor fish which was there before them! How rude? I know they're fish, but it's still rude, all fish should be treated equally!



Thank you for all your generous contributions to the School Christmas Fayre - we raised **£303.70 so far!** We still have a couple of raffles so we will set that up in January after the holidays.

Learning Legos for the Win

by Joud and Susan



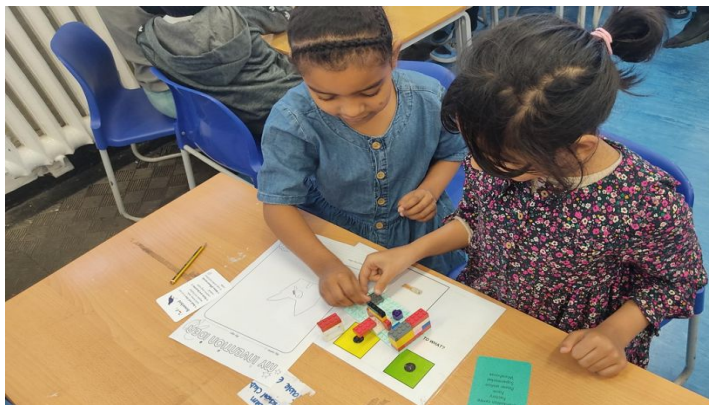
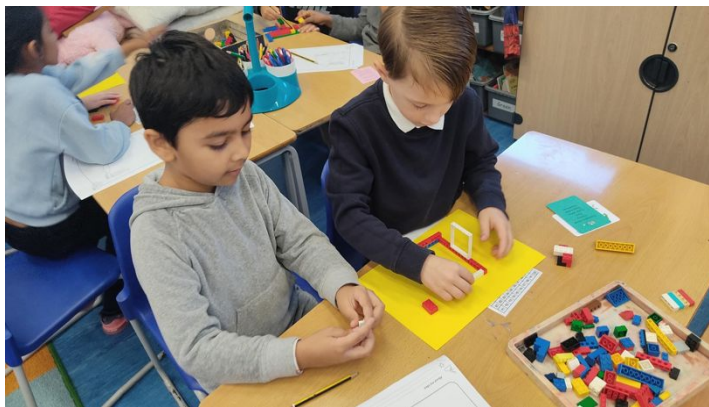
Key stage one participated in a workshop about Legos to develop their creativity. You might be thinking “that's not fair,” well it is.

They had to combine an animal and a building, and then build it with Lego's! How fun? They put a little map under it, which has streets, bushes and so much more!

I am pleased to note that they used recyclable materials (which is good). With all the animal lego buildings they have combined it together and they made a lego city.

The children were super focused. It was FANTASTIC! Even Rebecca was impressed. This indeed seems to have a huge impact on Key stage one's creativity.

This was not done easily, this was made with hard work and dedication, I can already tell. The hard was totally worth it. “The harder you work, the better your future will become”. Such an amazing masterpiece, Key stage one, well done



Learning

Let's Read Together

by Amelia

If you're wondering what reading Padlet is then you've come to the right place! Reading Padlet is a website for your classroom to share what book your reading at home.

You can also post a picture of the book and a review so other students can see what it is about and maybe they will read it!

It is important you read at least 20 minutes a day because it could help with a lot of subjects like english.

Togetherness Card Making Contest

By Suhana

As you may know Azmina hosted a Christmas card competition that ended on the 15th of December. Anyone was eligible to make a Christmas card and Azmina judged it. There were 3 lucky winners:

Tom (Turquoise Class)

Ismail (Jet Class)

Usman Y (Turquoise Class)

Don't take it personally if you did not win





Learning



Year 6 Cycles

by Susan

On Monday the 13th, November Amber class aka; my class, had lessons with Bikeability (an organisation that teaches people how to ride bikes safely).

Bikeability is the government's national cycle training programme and it equips children with vital life skills. Pupils not only learn to cycle, they gain independence, social skills and a sense of wellbeing.

Everyone who participated did so until Friday the 17th and had a splendid time learning new bike skills and safety.

Level 1: How to control your bike if you do not know how to control your bike mostly or completely. Will be set in low surfaces, around the school, in the playground.

Level 2: Will be taken place in quiet open roads. In addition, children had the chance to ride their bikes in spacious parks.

Level 3: On this level people can ride their bike anywhere (with the instructors' supervision).

Togetherness

Year 6 Supports

by Junainah and Joud

So, if you read the newsletter a few weeks ago, you would know that on 23 November, Opal class held a fundraiser to raise money for our classmate LJ.

Spoilers, we raised SO MUCH MONEY!! We did this fundraiser to support LJ's family as LJ is currently in hospital (don't worry, he's recovering).

Adding on, Jeanette helped us a lot with finding old things to sell.

Now, you might be wondering, 'how much money did you raise?' Well, we raised £330.78 altogether in one day. But it took a lot of work to earn it.

I had to endure Shafia's advertising and songs about being cold. Like why. Just why.

The bracelets were so popular that all 36 bracelets sold out amongst KS1.

THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS AND MONEY!



Dear parents and carers,

Next week Thursday, we will be having a fundraiser to support LJ and his family. LJ is a pupil in Year 6 Opal class and has been in hospital for quite a while now. However, he is making good recovery. All the money will be donated to LJ and his family with support from Harbinger. During playtimes we will be doing activities such as:

- penalty shootouts
- selling toys
- raffles
- bracelet making and much more!

Furthermore, after school, we will be selling gummy food.

Be sure to send some money with your child for them to enjoy fun activities and delicious food.

Yours faithfully,
Year 6 Opal class.

Togetherhness

Turquoise Class is Obsessed with *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

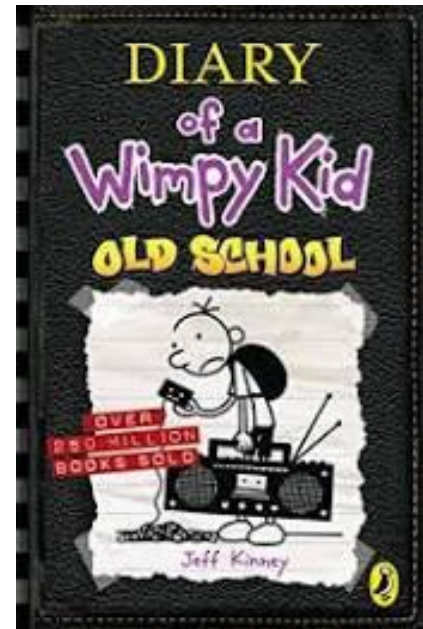
By Suhana

Diary of Wimpy Kid. What is? Who is it? *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is a book series by Jeff Kinney about a boy called Greg who is in middle school (the American name for secondary school) and lives with his mum and dad two brothers called Manny and Rodrick.

Manny is a toddler and Rodrick is in high school (Year 10, 11 and sixth form). The book is written in the first person, like it's a diary.

I recommend the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books because they are laughter guaranteed but my favourite part about *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is the pictures

Here is a sneak peak of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School* (Sadly, it does not include graphics).



Grown-ups are always talking about the "good old days" and how things were so much better when THEY were kids.

But I think there just jealous because MY generation has all this fancy technology and stuff they didn't have growing up. Believe me, I'm sure when I have kids of my own, I'm gonna be the exact same way my parents are NOW.

Mom's always saying that when she was younger it was great because everybody in town knew everybody else and it was like one giant family.

But that doesn't sound so great to ME. I like my privacy, and I really don't need everyone knowing my personal business. Mom says the problem with society these days is that everybody's got their nose in a screen, and nobody takes time to get to know people who live around them.

I don't really see eye to eye with mom on that issue, though. Personally, I think a little separation is a good thing

Lately, Mom's been going round town with petition to get people to stop using their phones and electronic gadgets for forty-eight hours.

Read our next paper for more *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

Name: _____

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID OLD SCHOOL

P K H W I M P Y K I D I Y K O F I
 E K A J D O Y K R O D R I C K L L
 T Q R W I S I L A S S C R A T C H
 P U B F J P G O L D S C H O O L K
 I C S E H O M E W O R K B U D D Y
 G M C G A L D N F R E W I C A M P
 T U R C H Q H T B A R O W L E Y N
 G J A A J T I M E Y T O B I A S A
 A G B B D E T Z M A N N Y L C X G
 R R B I D A M G D C C Z L D W T N
 B A L N I J Z R Y L S M O R E S U
 A N E W A Q U E L E J P Y B M N W
 G D F W R T W G B A T L F L D O Z
 E P A Y Y B K B L N J P S G X N V
 B A R W E B X N R U U N P L U G C
 O G M L N I Z N N P C L W M R I U
 Y Z S L H Y I S V C M K O X P H P

PET PIG
 CLEAN UP
 HOMEWORK BUDDY
 UNPLUG
 SILAS SCRATCH
 GREG
 WIMPY KID

CABIN
 MANNY
 HANDSCRABBLE FARMS
 GARBAGE BOY
 ROWLEY
 TRACY TOBIAS
 DIARY

CAMP
 GRANDPA
 FREN
 MADRES
 RODRICK
 OLD SCHOOL

Ofsted Inspired Word Search

by Zayd

Ofsted, cont'd from p. 1

That is why we should be very well behaved. Even if no one is watching us we should always keep the noise level down.

The inspectors may have talked to you, so you must have been kind and respectful as you can be. They might have asked you questions.

Some children were taken out of class to speak to them about the jobs in our school.

Clearly, we were on our best behaviour because the Ofsted – yes, the real Ofsted – came to inspect our behaviour. There were multiple inspectors across the school, looking from class to class. The pressure was surely a little higher. Cough cough. Ok, ok it was very pressuring and everyone was a little nervous. But all in all, we did good!



Breaktime
History
Lunch
Science
English
Hometime
Maths
Football
Inspector
school



Learning Stem Club Continues

by Joud

Last year, there was a club called Stem club. It was continued into this school year because we were not able to complete all the tasks last year.

The people who participated in stem club were Joud (me), Adil, Junainah, Teja, Ayaan, Samia. Also, Luke, Rebeca, Jenette, and Karen took us there.

Are you thinking, what is stem club? I will tell you.

Stem club is a club where we had to design a machine for our households using machine learning.

What we designed is a fridge which gives you recipes and it chooses recipes based on what's inside your fridge.

Also, it tells you recipes based on your allergies.

In addition, it has touch screen and it can access your calendar and shopping list. Our club is in George Green's school.

Along the way, two boys were saying “Oh, look kids are going to our school.” Anyway, Nimesha asked us to say a quote for the newspaper and my quote is “Have a growth mindset not a fixed mindset and you will be successful”



Well-Being

An Immersive Trip to the Mandala Lab

By Mariya and Aleena

On 20 November, Year 5 Turquoise class took a trip to the Mandala Lab, a healing space that has traveled from New York City's Rubin Museum of Art. It is an interactive and traveling installation.

To get there we will be took a bus. So that part was not too much of an adventure. We were told that the Mandala Lab would teach us about our well-being and that we would be back at school at 11.30am. It was a great experience.

Thanks Rubin Museum and Nimesha for organising.



Learning

The New Reading Ambassadors

by Numairah

Were you wondering when we were getting new new reading ambassadors? The new reading ambassadors came last half term.

The new reading ambassadors are: Dawud, Kulsuma, UsmaanA, Numairah and Mariya.

Reading ambassadors are important because they help younger children read and become more fluent.

The reading ambassadors started in Turquoise class and they read on the middle floor with younger children. The ambassador chooses books to read from different coloured book bands and they can make it enjoyable for the younger children. There are reading ambassadors because they need to help the younger children read and they can get better and we are the the first class to have reading ambassadors!

Nicole's Crazy Eyes

by Junainah

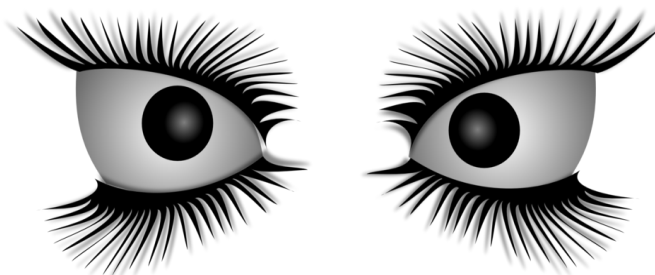
Today I have just figured out about Nicole's CRAZY eyes. She was actually; and I repeat, she was actually creeping everyone out in newspaper club, even the teachers were creeped out including tom and sultana.

It all started when it was my first time going to newspaper, I was walking upstairs until Nicole came up to me and we started talking. As we were talking her eyes started twitching, I got kinda creeped out.

The way she was twitching her eyes seemed like I was hallucinating when I watched her do it. Apparently it's extremely easy to do but when I tried just looked like I was about to fall asleep.

I already knew I couldn't do it; it was just funny to try to trick her that she was hallucinating. Goodbye everyone.

Do you have a unique skill we could report in the next issue of Harbinger Chronicles?



Learning

River Thames With a Twist

by Joud

Last year, a few classes went to the River Thames, and they had a blast. However, something happened. Something exciting happened. A boy called Ibrahim found something, something unexpected.

He found £5 floating in the river. And there's more: he also found a piece of identification. But not just any piece of ID.

The ID belonged to a man who lived in Florida! There was no finding this man and delivering his ID to him, so instead they threw it in the bin.

Ibrahim seems like a generous boy as he donated the five-pound note to Palestine. How kind is that!

As you must know by now, there has been conflict in the Middle East. Palestine and Israel are at war.

Half of the people in Palestine are children so it's really unfair for them to have to suffer because of war.

Children have the rights to eat, drink water, have electricity and have access to education. And what do they have? None!

Thank you to Ibrahim for using his money sensibly by donating to the people of Palestine.

This situation reminds me of a quote: If you do something kind, then that kindness will return back.

*The conclusions on the war between Israel and Palestine are the opinions of the author, and not the position of the *Harbinger Chronicles*.



A Play in Three Acts

by Zayd and Usmaan

For Act 1, read last issue of Harbinger Chronicles

ACT 2

SCENE 1

UUSMAAN: (On teams) Hello everyone!

ZAYD: Don't chat like that...

HEAD TEACHER: No talking on the team's page. It is only for work/homework purposes only. (Logs off)

USMAAN:
Whaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaat!!!!!!!!!!

ZAYD: what did he just say?

USMAAN: Hmm. I don't know. But I don't care.

HEAD TEACHER: (comes online)
OK THAT'S IT! NO MORE TEAMS FOR YOU!

USMAAN: Dang it. (Offline now)

ACT 2

SCENE 2

TEACHER: 9+10. How about nerd?

NERD: 19!

ZAYD: (On his phone playing games. Not listening)

TEACHER: Zayd did you hear that.

ZAYD: Yes.



TEACHER: What did NERD say then.

NERD: (Crossing his arms at him smiling badly)

ZAYD: Idk, but idc. (Don't do that in real life it is not good)

TEACHER: Ok? Good? (Not knowing what that means)

ZAYD: (In his mind, YES)

TEACHER: Anyway. Any questions?

USMAAN: (Puts hand up waiting for this moment his entire life)

TEACHER: Usmaan?

USMAAN: What does Idk mean, but I know what idc means.

TEACHER: Uhm... Zayd why don't you explain to Usmaan?

ZAYD: I know you don't know Teacher!

TEACHER: (Embarrassed) Go on.

ZAYD: I don't know.

TEACHER: (Laughs aloud)

ZAYD: I don't know!

USMAAN: I better ask Nerd. Nerd what does idk mean?

NERD: I don't know.

USMAAN: You usually know everything!

USMAAN: You got hypnotised or something. I am going to ask the world in ten years.

10 years later

USMAAN: As Prime Minister, I have been waiting ten years to find out what idk means

THE WORLD: I don't know.

USMAAN: The world does not know!
(Faints)

to be continued 12