



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another exciting, hard-working and successful half-term at West Lodge with many enjoyable experiences and successes, however it is fair to say that this has been a really tough half-term - in some ways the toughest of the whole pandemic. We began the term with continued rising cases of Omicron across the country - this affected schools across the country as we all worked hard to try and balance a move back to pre-pandemic 'normality' and suggestions that the pandemic is over, with the reality of what we experienced each week of this half-term. Staff and pupil absence have been consistently high across the half-term and it has been a challenge to maintain continuity and consistency whilst ensuring that pupils receive the very best educational experiences. It is of no surprise to the staff team of West Lodge how well the children rose to the challenges of this term – the resilience that has been demonstrated throughout this period has continued. The staff team have been excellent throughout these few weeks – covering for absences, supporting each other and most importantly inspiring, caring for and educating the children of West Lodge – continually aiming to unlock the spark in each child. We continue to be really grateful for all the support, patience and understanding that is always to the fore from the parents and carers of West Lodge – thank you.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the West Lodge Board of Governors – they are a very committed team who continue to provide invaluable support to the school. We say goodbye to three governors at this time: Amar Patel, Claire Barrett and Sarah Brook. They have all given a tremendous amount of support during their time as governors.

Amar has been a member of the West Lodge of Governors since November 2016 – during his term Amar has been consistently insightful, supportive and understanding. Amar's skills have been utilised across all areas of governor focus – providing astute observations and suggestions in both committees (Quality and Standards and Resource Management) as well as in full governing body meetings. Amar was voted in as Chair of Governors in 2019 and has provided excellent leadership in this role. He has guided and supported the school throughout the most challenging period of the pandemic. I am personally very grateful for the support that Amar has provided during this time. He has been exceptional. As a critical friend and a sounding board Amar has always been ready to jump on a call and been ready to offer support and good advice as we worked hard to try and make the best decisions for our community during this time. Amar has worked incredibly hard to support the school and has led the board with skill, care and attention to detail – guiding the school through the pandemic and mentoring and supporting many new governors.

At a recent governing body meeting Reena Anand was voted into post as the new Chair of Governors for West Lodge – congratulations Reena. Reena has been an excellent member of the board since joining in April 2020 and will be supported by Jessel Patel – who will continue as Vice Chair of Governors. Jessel has been consistently first-rate as a West Lodge Governor – and particularly in her role as Vice-Chair.

We also say goodbye to Claire Barrett who was voted in as a Parent Governor in December 2019 and Sarah Brook, who joined the board in 2018. Claire served on the Resource Management Committee where her shrewd, inquisitive mind was a great asset. Claire was also appointed as our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Governor and took responsibility for the health and safety aspect of safeguarding. In this role has looked carefully at our systems and policies and given valuable input to help us improve these. Claire has been consistently supportive, discerning and a valuable critical friend. Sarah brought HR experience to the board and sat primarily on the Resource Management Committee – but also made valuable contributions to the Quality and Standards Committee. Sarah, as a local community governor, brought very useful insights to the board and was consistently supportive and always provided appropriate challenge to help the school to keep moving forward. We are very grateful for all the efforts, input and support that Amar, Claire and Sarah have provided to the school.

Parent Governor Election Results

Thank you to everyone who recently participated in the recent Parent Governor Election. We had a very strong field and are very grateful to all parents who put themselves forward: Dr Rakhee Nathwani, Shital Patel, Rupal Pert, Priya Patel and Sharjil Ahmed. We had a turn-out of 311 and in a very close contest Priya Patel won with 87 votes. Priya will now join the board as a parent governor – congratulations to Priya, we look forward to you joining the team.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this half-term. I would like to wish all families a restful, safe and enjoyable half-term break.

Kind regards,

Jim Dees,
Headteacher



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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Happy Half Term!

Share these tips with your children for a mentally healthy half term ...

<https://www.yourschoolgames.com/sgo/south-bucks/staying-happy-and-healthy-during-half-term/>

And remember ...

Life is like a camera - focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if things don't turn out ... take another shot!

SEND at West Lodge Primary

Contact Details

A reminder of contacts, should you want details or have any questions relating to SEND:

- Our email address for school SEND queries: send@westlodge.harrow.sch.uk
- Assistant Head/ SENCo – Hilary Haines
- Inclusion Leader for EYFS/KS1 – Michelle Richmond
- Inclusion Leader for LKS2 - Samantha Zara
- Inclusion Leader for UKS2 – Paula Leigh
- Kaleidoscope Lead teacher - Daniel Rose
- Pastoral Lead – Caroline Kinsella
- Mental Health Lead – Becki Kerl
- Governors with responsibility for Inclusion – Reena Anand, Jessel Patel
- West Lodge School Offer – West Lodge School website - policies
- Harrow Local Offer - www.harrow.gov.uk/cst 8 SEND Update

Sustainability

We have continued our journey to become a carbon zero school. Year 4 have started a Zero Carbon Schools Project as part of the Green School's Programme. They have had weekly lessons about climate change, carbon emissions and how to tackle these issues. After half-term they will be calculating the carbon emissions for the school so they can develop a targeted action plan to reduce these emissions. The Eco-Committee, consisting of school council members from each class, has been working very hard to conduct an environmental review investigating biodiversity, energy, global citizenship, healthy living, marine, school grounds, transport, waste and water. It is a big project and they will finish the review just after the half-term when they will share their findings with you and choose three areas they want to work on. As a first step, each class now has children who monitor the energy use and remind staff and peers to switch off lights and screens when not in use.

Learning about local wildlife and spending time outside learning and noticing is part of our education for sustainability. The whole school has taken part in the Big School's Bird Watch and the results have been submitted to the RSPB for their annual survey. The bees in our two beehives will soon start to emerge now the weather is getting warmer. We are concerned that the government has again put bees at risk by permitting the use of banned pesticide thiamethoxan on sugar beet in England in 2022. If you want to make your voice heard, you can sign a petition here: https://action.greenpeace.org.uk/l/854853/2021-04-21/qskyq?source=GA&subsource=GOFRNAOAGA034J&gclid=CjwKCAiA6Y2QBhAtEiwAGHybPR0yus2UZoB0MOYC67vtLp4rA5ElfKtC_CgKehRpUrOkThN_46FQJehoCzqMQAvD_BwE



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Safeguarding Update

This week we took part in 'Safer Internet Day'. This is an annual national event and at West Lodge we continue to work hard to raise the profile of online safety. Keeping safe online and ensuring that the children are aware of the risks that exist for them in this technological world is something we reinforce with the children throughout the year. However, a dedicated 'Safer Internet Day' gives us an opportunity to bring this into sharper focus with them and provides an opportunity for the children to raise aspects of their online activity that they are unsure about or maybe troubled by. Our assemblies this week have supported this and explained to the children the importance of speaking out if they are at all worried about anything they see or do when online.

As Parents and carers, we have a duty of care to ensure our children stay safe when online and we appreciate at times this can be very hard. Many apps have age ratings and these are designed to protect our children and as difficult as it maybe to say 'No' when your child wants to play a game that 'all' their friends may be playing, you must stay firm and speak to your child about why it is not suitable for them. Please talk to your child about why these games or apps are not suitable for them and this will help understand why you are saying 'No'. On our website we have many guides and advice sheets which you can easily refer to and explore with your child: [Safer Internet Day 2022 Resources](#) . Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our children stay safe when online.

Outdoor Play and Learning

OPAL continues to provide children with outstanding play opportunities and it has been a joy to see so many children so happy and engaged during play times. We have observed some great teamwork and creativity this half-term. There has been a specific interest in creating marble runs and larger construction with pallets and tires. At times, you could hear the sound of children drumming on pots and pans, boxes and bottles. Thank you for the donations of loose parts and equipment. Please keep donations coming as we have to regularly replace items because they get used so much. Once the weather warms up, we will be using more pieces of large fabric such as saris. After the half-term we hope to turn our plans for an outdoor reading area into reality.

MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) Vaccine



Measles, Mumps and Rubella are all serious infections that are preventable with the MMR vaccination. We have been contacted by the Public Health Team to raise awareness of the falling numbers of children receiving the MMR vaccination. They hope by giving up to date information this will encourage parents/carers to get their children vaccinated:

- Getting vaccinated is important, as these conditions can also lead to serious problems including meningitis, hearing loss and problems during pregnancy.
- 2 doses of the MMR vaccine provide the best protection against measles, mumps and rubella.
- Young children will be offered two doses of the vaccine, the first one just after the first birthday and the second dose before they start school – usually at around three years and four months of age.
- Older children, teenagers and young adults - If you have never previously had MMR vaccine or have only had one dose of it, you should contact your GP surgery to arrange to catch up with your outstanding doses.
- If you have already had one dose of MMR vaccine as a young child then you will only need one further dose, no matter how long ago your first dose was given.
- **More than 1 in 4 (28.1%) of children aged 5 years in London are not up to date with their two doses of MMR vaccine**
- New research reveals more than half (51%) of parents and guardians in London are unaware of the risks of measles and its complications, which on rare occasions can be fatal
- **NHS website for more information:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

Here is a link to publications you may also want to refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-for-all-general-leaflet>



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Year 1 and Year 2

This half term **Year 1** have been working hard! We had lots of fun during bird watch week! We spent time looking out for different birds around our school. We researched and sketched the birds we saw. We also kept a tally of the different birds we saw. We also wrote letters to Mr Dees telling him all about different birds and why they are good for our environment! We hope to continue spotting different birds around us!



Year 2 have been working hard this term on developing their poetry writing skills. We looked at a range of different poems related to the seasons and then decided to write our own poetry all about winter. We went for a walk around the school grounds and observed different signs of winter; the children then used this to inspire their writing. We have also been busy learning all about the United Kingdom - the children have really enjoyed learning all about the different countries and capital cities! In our Art sessions, the children created some fantastic artwork inspired by the artist Kandinsky. In Science, we designed our own bird boxes. The children thought carefully about the suitability of different materials and what their bird box should be made from.

Year 3 and Year 4

Year 3 have had an amazing time learning the Ukulele this half term. We have been learning to play different chords and songs. So far, we have learnt the songs 'Lime in the Coconut' and 'A Sailor went to Sea'.



As part of our drive to work towards understanding and meeting 'The Sustainable Development Goals', **Year 4** have recently started an exciting programme called 'The Zero Carbon Schools Programme'; this is a series of lessons developed by the Green School Project which we will be using. We have joined a number of schools from around the country who have taken an important step in helping pupils understand climate change, the impact it is having on our planet and then to develop ways to take-action within their school community. The programme focuses on calculating our school's carbon emissions and developing ways/projects in which this can be reduced. The 'carbon calculator' is a really important part of this project, we will keep you updated on our findings and will be appealing to you, the community of West Lodge for your support in helping us reduce our carbon emissions.

Year 5 and Year 6



Year 5 have been studying structures as part of their DT topic, the children have all thoroughly enjoyed creating Bird Hides. Throughout this half term, we have been researching designs, evaluating what designs already exist and then creating our own designs based on a set of success criteria. During our DT days, firstly, we sawed wooden batons to create our framework, we then 'hot glue gunned' the batons together to create cubes or cuboids. Then, using different joining techniques, we completed our structures and then decorated them with a range of camouflaged materials. Finally, we evaluated our products and decided upon some potential improvements. A really enjoyable unit for all involved.

Children in **Year 6** had a brilliant virtual workshop, from the TFL STARS (Sustainable Travel, Active, Responsible & Safe) team. This was an informative session about planning travel, conduct and keeping safe when on public transport. They also talked about the environmental impact they can have in the way they choose to travel.

The STARS facilitator also reminded children about the Zip card (available 1 month before their 11th birthday): [11-15 Zip Oyster photocards - Transport for London \(tfl.gov.uk\)](https://www.tfl.gov.uk/zip-card). The children learnt lots about the work of the STARS team and are now much better equipped when cycling, walking or using public transport safely to high schools. What a great workshop!



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FOWLS Update

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had a few quiet weeks, but we will be back after half-term with lots of fun events and will appreciate your support as always. Please do get in touch with us if you can support FOWLS with Matched Funding.

The registration for the Digital Creativity Festival will close tonight and we are super excited to see what the kids come up with. All projects will have to be submitted by 28th February. The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school from 23rd-25th February and parents will be able to come and buy the books at pick-up with the children. The registration for Quiz Night will also open soon after we return. A new Colour Run event has been added to the calendar this year. There will also be a Mother's Day event and a FOWLS Annual General Meeting. We will also try and fit in a Second-hand uniform sale.

We hope everyone will find something that they will enjoy in the coming weeks. Thank you once again for all your help and support. Have a fantastic half-term!

Regards

Vigya, Bijal, Mita and Anil
FOWLS Team

Sports Update

This half term has seen sport really flourish at West Lodge, with the number of children taking part in clubs vastly increasing and our sports achieving some incredible feats. In addition to gymnastics, tennis and football, we have also started a cricket club this half term for years 4-6 and hope to start more for all year groups in the next half term.

In sporting competitions, West Lodge have had an unbelievably successful return. Despite finding out at very short notice, our Year 5 & 6 athletics team trained extremely hard every day for the past month to represent Harrow at the North London qualifiers. Once there, each of the 30 boys and girls gave their all to represent the school impeccably and achieve the fantastic achievement of being 1 of 12 teams to qualify for the London Youth Games in March.

The boys' football team have won both their league matches against St Georges and Roxbourne Primary, putting them top of the league and just one positive result away from qualifying for the final knockout stages.

On top of both these well-deserved achievements, there has also been so West Lodge history made by the girls' football team, who represented Harrow at the Middlesex U-11 Girls' Tournament. With very little time to prepare, the team listened, worked together and performed to the best of their abilities to win a penalty shoot-out in the final and qualify for the South of England Regional Finals; the first time this has ever been achieved by a girls' team of West Lodge!

We couldn't have asked for a more incredible return to competitive action this year and we hope to create just as many opportunities and possibilities for the rest of this academic year!