



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another half-term draws to a close – it has been an enjoyable few weeks, the children have settled well into their new year groups and have been very engaged with the variety of learning experiences that the staff have planned. We continue to face challenges as a community but we are all very fortunate to be part of such a strong and supportive community. We are very grateful for all your support, patience and understanding since we returned in September.

I would like to thank the staff – who continue to rise to the challenges placed in front of them and work extremely hard to provide the best experiences for the children. The children have been wonderful this half-term – it is always a joy to greet children at the gate in the morning and see the excited smiles as they enter school – it has been an enjoyable half-term. I would also like to pay tribute to the board of governors – they have been such an incredible support to the school during an incredibly challenging 19 months – providing the right balance of challenge, encouragement and support. We are very grateful for all that they do for the school.

The FOWLS team have been excellent again – tireless, innovative and creative – so far this term they have raised almost £5000. This will go towards the further development of our outdoor spaces – including the continued development of the peace garden. With the funding raised in the summer term we were able to put in additional raised beds these have yielded a decent crop already – carrots, courgettes and beetroot were harvested last week – Diane was successfully able to use these in the school kitchen. The Autumn Soiree was a very popular event and I know the community valued the opportunity to enjoy our first face-to-face event since the pandemic began. Thank you to the FOWLS team for all your hard-work.

It has been great to experience educational visits again this term - we had very successful trips to Southend – Y2; Bracknell Discovery Centre – Y1 and the Chiltern Open Air Museum – Y5. These trips enrich the curriculum, help bring the topics to life and embed learning. We are looking forward to more exciting experiences in November: Y4 – Gordon Brown Centre; Y3 Celtic Harmony Camp; Y6 – Paleoquest and Ancient Greek workshops; Y2 Puppet workshop; Y5 Shakespeare Workshop and – nativity performances and carol concerts (more information to follow) – another exciting half-term lies ahead.

I would like to thank you for your support this term and for adhering to our recommended protective measures. We have had a number of confirmed cases across the term – these have been limited to mainly to individual cases in classes – we are grateful to parents/carers for supporting the measures we have recommended when we have reported a confirmed case. We must continue to work together to keep our community safe. It has come to our attention that there has been some relaying of misinformation related to public health guidance. I must stress that this is irresponsible and I would urge you, as a parent community, to continue to follow the advice that we relay from Public Health England or the Harrow Public Health team. We will continue to be transparent with our communication in relation to COVID-19.

We are excited to be part of the Fit4Life partnership – a selection of a few schools across Harrow who are driving the agenda of more active lifestyles across the borough. With this in mind we are requesting that parents engage with the **Active 30:30** initiative. We are committed to helping children live a healthy, active lifestyle. Recent government research has shown a rising level of childhood obesity and inactivity across the UK, which we feel is important to tackle. The current government recommendation is that children and young people do an hour of physical activity every day. As part of this, the Active 30:30 programme was launched, encouraging schools to provide an additional 30 minutes of exercise a day and parents/carers to do 30 minutes a day with their children. Here are some useful links – which will help with a range of creative ideas for maintaining an active lifestyle and finding different ways to reach 30 minutes of exercise at home.

[Move It](#) - [BHF - Staying Active as a Family](#) - [BHF - Active Events](#) - [Useful Websites for an Active Lifestyle](#)

I hope you have a lovely half-term break.

Jim Dees
Headteacher



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Safeguarding Update

We recently became aware that some children from different year groups across the school were playing a game on the playground called 'red light, green light'. This is a game from a series on Netflix called 'Squid Game'. Squid Game is rated a 15 and is not appropriate for primary aged children to watch. We have made it clear to the children that playing games linked to Squid Game on the playground is not allowed.

We are also aware that 'Squid Game' has now become one of the latest videos on 'TikTok'. TikTok is platform for children aged over 13 and is where users can video themselves for short periods of time and upload videos for other to like. However, some of these videos/adverts can contain explicit language and topics not suitable for young children. You can find more information via the following link. [‘Squid Game’ Trending across Platforms: What Parents Need to Know | National Online Safety](#)

Please remember to be aware which social media sites your children are accessing and ensure that you have the measures in place to keep children safe when they are online. Please check the parental settings on your devices and monitor carefully what your child is watching. Below are links to help you set up parental controls on your devices but if you do need any more assistance, please do contact us at school.

[How to Set up Parental Controls for Apps - Android Phone](#)

[How to Set up Parental Controls for Apps - iPhone](#)

[Online Safety Tips for Children](#)

SEND Update

Inclusion Team - As mentioned in July, our SEND/Inclusion Team has been extended to enable us to support our children's ever-increasing needs and challenges. Our team now comprises:

- Mrs Hilary Haines - SENCO
- Mr Daniel Rose - Lead teacher Kaleidoscope
- Ms Becki Kerl - Mental Health Lead/Play therapist
- Mrs Caroline Kinsella - Pastoral Lead
- Mrs Michelle Richmond - EYFS/KS1 Inclusion Lead
- Mrs Sam Zara - UKS2 Inclusion Lead
- Mrs Paula Leigh - UKS2 Inclusion Lead

Contact details are on the next page. New members of the team have already begun working with our wider parent community and we look forward to working with parents/carers more when the SEND Parent Partnership meetings are re-established.



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SEND Update Continued

External Agencies - We are very pleased to have welcomed back into school our link **Educational Psychologist**, Dr Rifat Malik. Dr Malik has worked with the school for 7 years now and knows many children, staff and families well, and provides enormous support to us all. As well as working directly with children and families this term, she is also providing CPD for our support staff and next half term will be providing drop-in sessions for some of our families – more details to follow. Our allocated **Speech and Language** therapist team from the NHS have been in school this half term. Whilst we do have these therapists allocated to West Lodge, they have a huge caseload, and as a service overall, are short staffed. We are very happy to welcome Julie Florindez, Alison Rake and Amy Tse, as the speech and language team currently coming into West Lodge - if your child receives SLT input then you should be hearing from them regarding feedback about their sessions. Unfortunately, the **OT** Service is 50% under capacity and, although they are recruiting, they are having to prioritise and subsequently we do not currently have an OT allocated to West Lodge. As with SLT, we will deliver what OT strategies and support we can as a school, whilst we await further external support.

We continue to have the support of a School Counsellor and therapists from Harrow Horizons available to us in school, as well as our qualified play therapist, Miss Kerl.

SEND Parent Partnership - We have not yet met as a school/parent group this term, but hope to meet very soon after half term. The Reps Group has some vacancies, which we hope to fill ASAP.

The SEND parent group are having their monthly meeting at 9:00am on 5/11/21 in Daisy's and will be discussing year reps, amongst other things, at this meeting. The Group extend a friendly welcome to all parents of children with SEND or suspected to have SEND to join them at this meeting.

Kaleidoscope News

The focus in Kaleidoscope this past half term has been integrating our children back into their mainstream classes. Everyone has been fantastic in welcoming them back. Children have been on trips to The Gordon Brown outdoor adventure activity centre, and the Chiltern Open Air museum, they have joined their classes for SEWA week and for work on their classes' sustainability goals. We are all proud to see how the children in Kaleidoscope have responded to this change since September, they have all been superstars. We have also been trying our hands at growing different plants and looking at what they need to grow. We hope to use these skills as we help to take care of some of the planters around the school over the coming year and beyond!





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SEND Update Continued

Contact Details

A reminder of contacts, should you want further 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 Send Information Report [SEND Information Report 2021](#)
- Harrow Local Offer - www.harrow.gov.uk/cst 8 SEND Update

Pastoral Update

Building The Nest! - Over the summer, the West Lodge building elves were very busy creating a new nurture space for us. We have named it 'The Nest', as it is a safe place for our children to visit if they are having difficulties, and just need a place to reset, recover and regulate before returning to their school day. It will be used for quiet time, 1:1 check-ins, regulation of emotions, meetings and small group work. We love it and so do the children!





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Trips, Workshops & Events

Year 2 – Trip to Southend-on-Sea

Green Class and Purple Class went on their trip to Southend-on-Sea this half term. They had a fantastic day, and the sun was shining for them! They visited the Sealife Centre, the RNLI and even found time to enjoy a delicious ice cream. Red Class are really looking forward to their trip to the seaside after half term.



Year 5 – Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum Trip

On Wednesday 6th October, Year 5 visited the Chiltern Open Air Museum. We all dressed as Victorian teachers, children, maids, masters, chimney sweeps, etc. The day involved three different workshops:

- Laundry day - the children learnt to wash and dry clothes using the appropriate soap and mangle. They then had fun hanging the washing up on the line in the wind.
- Cooking - the children participated in the making of scones over an open fire.
- Classroom - the children were taught by a Victorian teacher. They chanted their times tables, honed their handwriting skills using ink pens and learnt about the different and terrifying discipline strategies used during the Victorian era.

A great day had by all - so much learnt whilst also having fun.

Year 1 – Trip to Bracknell Look Out Discovery Centre

Year 1 had a fantastic time at Bracknell Discovery Centre. They enjoyed exploring the different hands on areas and learnt lots during the Humans and Animals workshops. They were very well behaved and made us proud!





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Harvest Assembly

On Tuesday 19th October, we participated in our Harvest Assembly. Once again, the theme of this celebration linked to the Sanskrit word SEWA and involved us as a community giving our time to support others without the expectation of receiving anything in return. It was lovely to hear of all the classes' experiences which included the creation of videos to encourage a healthy lifestyle and designing and painting totem poles for the school's Peace Garden. The Assembly was led very ably by our Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl; their first official task within their roles. The Year 5 and 6 choirs entertained us by singing 'I see the light' and 'Colours of the Wind' respectfully. Congratulations to all involved.

Diamond Class Assembly

The focus for Diamond Class' assembly was International Space Week, which takes place annually from the 4th – 8th October. The theme of International Space Week this year was *Women in Space*, and Diamond had fun exploring and showcasing the achievements of the amazing women who have had such a big impact on space exploration.

Sapphire Class Assembly

Sapphire Class were given the honour of kicking off the class assemblies for this academic year. Themed around Hope, Sapphire Class wanted to take this opportunity to inspire the rest of the school for the year ahead. This was also a chance to promote the Year 6 Sustainable Development Goal; Reduced inequalities including gender equality. Well done Sapphire Class!

Amethyst Class Assembly

Amethyst Class assembly focused on the different jobs that interest the children. These included gymnastic teacher, gymnast, footballer, football commentator, football referee, scientist, doctor, train driver, gamer, artist and actor. The children enjoyed coming up with ideas for how to portray each career type. They performed role play, shared tips and sang a song about trying your best and not being afraid of making mistakes. It was great to see the wide range of jobs that are of interest to the class and it was clear to see how passionate each child was about their selected one. The only negative aspect of the assembly was Liverpool winning the FA Youth Cup Final on pens.

Reception

The children in Reception have settled very well. They have learnt each other's names, made friends, have got to know the routines of the day and even practiced fire evacuations. The children have embraced every challenge and it is a joy to work with them. Highlights of this half term have been the Fun Run and dressing up for Halloween.



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Head Boy and Head Girl Announced

Over the first weekend of the school year, our Year 6 pupils were busy writing their letters of application for the position of Head Boy and Head Girl. After listening to some amazing persuasive speeches on the morning of Monday 13th September, the Year 6 pupils cast their votes during an assembly on the field. Emily Edwards and Dhruv Karundasa were elected as our Head Girl and Head Boy for the 2021/2022 academic year and Anassa Dodhia and Shrimukund Shatapathy were voted in as Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy. Well done to all those who put themselves forward and confidently stood before their peers, delivering their speeches to the staff and pupils of Year 6.

Sports Update

Sport at West Lodge is slowly, but surely, beginning to return to some sort of normality. In addition to APB football, we have seen gymnastics and tennis clubs start up again, with many more planned to begin in the next half term and beyond. There are also many inter-school competitions that will provide a number of children with the opportunity to represent West Lodge against other schools in the borough.

Another new and exciting opportunity that we have been able to offer our West Lodge community, are discounted tickets to Barnet FC home league matches. Child tickets are free and adult tickets are just £5 (reduced from £22). If you are ever interested in attending a home game at The Hive Stadium, please enclose a note stating how many adult and children's tickets you would like, with the correct money enclosed in an envelope. Here is Barnet FC's upcoming home fixtures:

Date	Time	Opposition	Kick-off
Sat 23 Oct 2021	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 30 Oct 2021	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 30 Nov 2021	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 4 Dec 2021	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 10 Dec 2021	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 17 Dec 2021	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 23 Dec 2021	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 29 Dec 2021	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 5 Jan 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 12 Jan 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 19 Jan 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 26 Jan 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 2 Feb 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 9 Feb 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 16 Feb 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 23 Feb 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 30 Feb 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 6 Mar 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 13 Mar 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 20 Mar 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 27 Mar 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 3 Apr 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 10 Apr 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 17 Apr 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 24 Apr 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 1 May 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 8 May 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off
Sat 15 May 2022	19.00pm	Wokingham	19.00pm kick-off

New Sports Captains - We are also happy to announce that we have new sports captains this academic year. All the candidates gave very inspiring and motivating speeches that demonstrated any one of them were ready to lead the sports for their houses with the upmost pride and determination. The children with the most votes from their house and newly elected sports captains are:

- **Rashford House** - Naishal and Jemima
- **Turing House** - Ibrahim and Janya
- **Thunberg House** - Ania and David
- **Seacole House** - Alana and Thavindu



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Sustainability and Outdoor Learning at West Lodge

Each year group has investigated one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and created a display around the school. We have continued to improve the biodiversity in the school grounds and each class has sown seeds to create a border of wildflowers along the edge of the field. A big thank you to all the volunteers who came to the community gardening day and helped to prepare the soil. We have started to plant our raised beds with winter flowers and vegetables.

Just One Tree Day - We raised more than £450 for Just One Tree. Our West Lodge Forest is now the size of 1077 trees, absorbing 331 tonnes of CO2! Trees have been planted in school grounds in Kenya and in a mangrove plot in Haiti to provide a barrier against extreme weather and providing employment for locals. To celebrate Just One Tree Day, the children in Reception did a movement sequence linked to seeds growing into trees. They also planted a Christmas tree to grow and nurture in their classroom.



The school council will have a focus on sustainability for the year. We are joining the **Eco-Schools** programme and are working towards getting our first award in June next year.

Meat Free Mondays - One day a week can make a world of a difference. As part of our school's sustainability drive, we are introducing Meat Free Mondays after the half term. Having at least one plant-based day a week is a fun and easy way to do something good for the planet and our future. Reducing our meat intake is good for the planet, it boosts our health, reduces animal suffering, helps alleviate world hunger and protect biodiversity.

Beehives - We are very excited to announce that we now have two beehives situated in our environmental area. Bees are in decline, and we will be teaching the children about how to protect them and the important role they play in our eco-system.

Sustainable living tip - Having a party? Did you know balloons are not biodegradable and harmful to the environment? Perhaps you can invest in some bunting instead, or make your own.

Medical Update

Flu Vaccination Programme Autumn 2021 - This year the government will be offering the National Flu Vaccination Programme to all pupils from Reception to Year 11. The type of flu virus changes each year, the vaccine protects against those flus which are most likely to occur THIS YEAR as determined by the World Health Organisation. Having flu previously does not mean you are protected against the coming years flu. The flu vaccine is a Nasal Spray - no needles are involved. It protects not only the child but the community as a whole as children are the main carriers for infection. As part of the vaccination program the Harrow Immunisation Team will be attending schools across the borough to offer the vaccine. **They will be coming to West Lodge Primary School on Wednesday 10th November 2021.** A parent letter with an E consent link will be emailed to all parents at least 3 weeks prior to the vaccination session. Please complete and return to the Harrow Immunisation Team link address, not to school. Further information - There is a link to a short You Tube clip, which is aimed at the children to explain what the team will be doing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jHWwm8NQUw>.



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FOWLS Update

Dear Parents / Carers

It's lovely to see things getting back to normal and thankfully some of our regular events will return. The Autumn Soiree, secondhand uniform sale and the Halloween-themed Mufti Day have all been successful events and have raised almost £4700. I'm sure you will agree that this is a fantastic result so early into the academic year.

The events to look forward to in the second half of the term are:

12th November - Festival of Light
19th November - Crazy Hair Day + Donation day
3rd December - Christmas Colours Mufti Day + Donation Day
4th December - Christmas Fair
7th December - Elf Workshop
16th December - Christmas Quiz

With so many really fun events lined-up, we will need lots of help from everyone. We will come back to you all after half term with a list of stalls and classes, to allow you all time to help prepare your allocated stall and slot time coverage. We once again, ask kindly for your generosity and time to help make this event a success.

We will of course also be asking you to help promote the events by displaying an advertising board outside your house. FOWLS will receive a payment for every board displayed, so please do try and help as it is easy money for us with minimum effort.

We also have limited spaces for external stalls for any parents or friends of parents who would like to sell at our Fair. Please contact FOWLS for a booking form.

We rely very heavily on your support to make these events possible, please do continue to assist us. **ALL** of the money raised goes directly back to our school, to fund new projects for all of our children to benefit from.

Work on the new Peace Garden commenced during summer break and the development plans were finalised. The first part of the build is the Peace Totem Poles. Year 5 are preparing the designs for the Totem poles, in their Art lessons and as part of their remit: Sustainability Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). The Arup Community Development team will assist in the workshops to transfer the designs onto timber fence posts which will be the totem poles. Work has also started on the Mural Design in the playground and Year 6 will be involved in painting this alongside the specialists.

The money raised by FOWLS will fund these projects. We could also really do with some help from the parent community:

1. Builders or Garden paving specialist to build the World Peace Flame Circle (fire zone) and mosaic water zone.
2. Landscape Gardeners to source plants and help with planting
3. Sourcing spherical water features
4. Financial donations
5. If any parents are having trees cut down, could we have logs for seating in the peace garden

Please get in touch with us if you would like to know more about the plans or can help with any of the above:
westlodge.fowls@gmail.com

We hope you have a restful half term.

Regards
Vigya, Sushmita, Bijal and Anil
FOWLS Team



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