



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

17th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We come to the end of what has been a challenging year – an enduring memory from this time will be the incredible community spirit of West Lodge. The resilience, creativity and flexibility of the children – who have adapted to all the changes throughout the year: finding new ways to learn, but consistently demonstrating a wonderful aptitude for taking on new skills and knowledge in lots of new ways. The children have been wonderful throughout the year – and constantly bring joy to our days!

We would like to express our gratitude to all the parents – your support, encouragement and co-operation is hugely appreciated by the whole staff team. We feel fortunate to be part of such a great community and together we make a great team. The staff continue to work hard in such a wide variety of ways to provide the very best education for all pupils – adapting and developing new skills throughout the year, whilst ensuring that the West Lodge values remain at the core of everything we do – I am grateful for all their incredible efforts this year. The West Lodge Board of Governors have been a wonderful support to the leadership team and staff team during 2020. In the lead up to and during the first lockdown they provided support, guidance and the knowledge that the listening ear of a critical friend was always available. We are grateful for all their support, advice and guidance – we are fortunate to have such a strong team.

The FOWLS team have been amazing this term – Vigya, Mita, Bijal and Anil have found new and innovative ways to bring the community together, raise funds for the school and support vulnerable groups. The events that have been organised this term will live in the memory and I am sure will become fixtures in our calendar. To raise over £7500 this term is a brilliant achievement and way beyond what we all expected at the beginning of term - but more importantly than that – their presence as a vital part of our community has been maintained and strengthened and they have continued to foster and sustain the wonderful community spirit of West Lodge. Thank you FOWLS!

I would like to thank Anup Parmar for filming the Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity shows – Anup has done a wonderful job and the shows look great. They will be available to watch via the link that has been sent out until Monday morning. If you would like a copy to keep, it can be purchased via ParentPay – copies will be distributed to those that have purchased one in the new year. I would also like to thank Sharon Bristow, who organised the Christmas hampers to support some families during the Christmas period with the help of Pinner Baptist Church.

Please remember to follow the Christmas contact tracing protocol that we sent out on Tuesday – here is a link to the letter [Christmas Contact Tracing Protocol](#) . It is really important that we all follow this, so we can ensure that we are able to inform families if anyone is affected. If your child develops symptoms on Friday 18th or Saturday 19th December please contact the school via office@westlodge.harrow.sch.uk and book a test immediately <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If your child develops symptoms from Sunday 20th December onwards there is no need to inform the school, however still follow the steps of booking a test and then following any contact tracing guidance from NHS Test and Trace if there is a positive result.

Here is a link to the Tier 3 guidance - [Tier 3 - Very High - Visual Summary](#) and also a link to advice from the Sage committee on reducing household transmission during the Christmas period - [Ten Principles for Reducing Household Transmission](#) . If you are interested in reading the full report, here is the link [Mitigating Risks of Household Social Interaction](#) .

I would like to wish everyone a peaceful, safe and enjoyable Christmas period - we look forward to seeing everyone in 2021. Merry Christmas!

Jim Dees



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Safeguarding Update

Introducing Ollee – a virtual friend (ParentZone/BBC Children In Need)



Ollee is a digital friend for children aged 8-11, created by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need's A Million & Me initiative, which aims to make a difference to children's emotional wellbeing. It's designed to help children reflect on how they feel and to process their experiences with the support and help of their parents and carers – and it does this by offering them advice about a range of subjects: school, family, friends, their body, the internet and the world. For each of these subjects, children can choose an emotion that matches how they feel about it: happy, angry, sad, confused, frustrated, stressed or worried. Next, they can choose from a list of topics – for instance, a child who was worried about school might be able to select 'I haven't done my homework' as the cause of their worry. Finally, they'll see a page of advice about the topic, presented in child-friendly bite-sized chunks they can read then or save for later.

You can more information and download the Ollee app here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/Ollee>

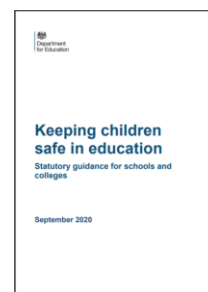
WhatsApp -disappearing messages option



Something for you to be aware of is that during November 2020, WhatsApp will be rolled out 'disappearing messages' functionality. The feature will allow WhatsApp users to enable disappearing messages on chat conversations between friends, to automatically delete messages after seven days. This will also apply to videos and photos. WhatsApp's minimum user age is 16, however we know many children and young people have accounts. Auto-deleting entries could increase the risk to younger users, as evidence of any issues may not be available.

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document which all schools must follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding including: different forms of abuse; early help processes; safe recruitment; how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads. [Click here for the full document.](#)



Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. Please report any concerns if you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Leads, or any member of staff. You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on: 020 8901 2690. If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.



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Pastoral Update



Just a reminder that as part of the local offer for parents, the Harrow Early Support team deliver services, advice and activities for parents, carers, pregnant women and young people across a range of local hubs: Cedars Hub at Cedars, The Pinner Centre, Chandos, Stanmore Park and Whitefriars; Hillview Hub at Hillview, Kenmore Park, Grange, Elmgrove and Roxbourne and Wealdstone Hub will link with Cedars Youth and Community Centre, Pinner Centre and the Beacon Centre Early Support Hubs

For more information, visit the Harrow Early Support Facebook page www.facebook.com/harrowcc

Children in Need



Our annual Children in Need event needed to look a little different this year; sadly, no house-themed events run by the House Captains, bake sales or book sales from years past. But Body Coach Joe Wicks was still here to help us focus on our mental and physical wellbeing; something more important than ever this month. After totalling our funds from mufti day, and the sponsorship donations for Joe's 'Five to Thrive' daily physical challenges, we discovered we raised just over £1900 for the charity. It demonstrated that the essential bubbles and restrictions currently in place could not affect the generosity of the West Lodge community. A big thank you to everyone who took part, donated and supported us along the way!

Festival of Light Walk

On Monday the 23rd November, the school celebrated the importance of 'light' across multiple religions by decorating our nature trail with lights, symbols and artwork connected to different religions. Each year group focused on a different religion in their lessons, learning about festivals, symbols and traditions that had a connection with light to inspire their artwork. The outcomes were beautiful and the trail was enjoyed by all. A big thank you to the FOWLS team who helped put this event together and worked hard with the decoration of the trail. The event raised over £2,500 in donations towards our new air filtration systems, so, many thanks to all of you for your generosity.





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WLPS School Council

Getting the School Council up and running this term, whilst ensuring 'bubbles' don't mix has been challenging to say the least! However, with suitable COVID restrictions in place, all School Council members have managed to have a Year Group meeting and feedback their ideas. Their topics for discussion covered how to celebrate Christmas at school in a safe and environmentally friendly way, how best to support the Harrow Foodbank and then finally feedback on the WWWs and EBIs for the COVID safety within school. These are a selection of their thoughts.

Year Group	Christmas Ideas	COVID Safety	Actions taken
Year 1	Lots of decorations please – they make us happy	WWW: Hand gel is not so smelly now – thank you EBI: Dining hall is very noisy	In the spring term – we will re-launch Recipe for Change – and help the children create a calm, relaxing dining experience.
Year 2	Only have mini Christmas trees Decorations around communal areas for everyone to enjoy	WWW: The bubbles work well EBI: Longer lunchtimes so more time outside Remember to socially distance – how do we play socially distanced games properly?	A reminder of social distancing games to be carried out in PE lessons again. Lunchtimes will be reviewed in the summer term – with the hope that we can revert to longer lunchtimes again.
Year 3	Decorate the Nature Trail as a Winter Wonderland Class Disco	WWW: Sinks outside Wearing PE kits from home EBI: Year 3 Zoom assemblies cannot be as interactive as PC's don't have video/audio facilities	PCs are on a cycle of being upgraded and laptops have been made available for Y3 – these can be used for assemblies.
Year 4	Replace Banksy Rats with elves Tinsel around the roof struts	WWW: One way systems Fresh air in classrooms EBI: Are the hand sanitizer dispensers cleaned? PALS for each year group	In the spring term we will look at widening the scope of WL PALS. Hand sanitiser dispensers are cleaned on the outside regularly – like all contact points.
Year 5	Use Roundhouse for Christmas activities School Council to organize activities for the Year Group	WWW: Separate playtimes Replacing the water fountains with sinks EBI: Fun themed days to replace school trips Study 'happy' texts at school	Theme days will continue to be planned in the spring and summer term. Mr West, Mrs Cooper and Miss Corby are regularly reviewing the texts that are used.
Year 6	Mr Jefferson to dress as Santa 'Santa woz here' arrows	WWW: Staggered start times and separate entrances Eating lunch in the classrooms EBI: Nicer smelling sanitizer Lunches can be delayed Compliments box	We have changed the supplier of hand sanitiser – so hopefully we have a nicer smelling version now.



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SEND Parent Partnership Group and Forums

The Year Group Representatives of the **SEND Parent Partnership** met with school staff for this half-term's meeting on 12th November. The meeting covered; responses from school to issues raised by Reps at the previous meeting, information sharing by school staff; Caroline Kinsella and Daniel Rose talked about their roles and Kaleidoscope, and finally a sharing of plans for forthcoming SEND Forums for the wider parent community. The next SEND Reps meeting is TBC in January.

The Zoom Parents' Forum meeting on **17th November** had a SEND focus and was a great opportunity to share more details with the wider school parent community about; the roles of our Pastoral Support, Caroline Kinsella and Kaleidoscope Lead Teacher, Daniel Rose; and the aims of the Parent Partnership Group, ethos and the role of the parent reps. If you missed it, this Forum was recorded and is available on the school website under the "Parents" tab, and then "Presentations."

The second zoom Parents' Forum for this term took place on **Tuesday December 1st** - It was a further opportunity to hear about SEND support at West Lodge, but this time with a focus on two external agencies we work closely with. Firstly, our attached Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT), Victoria Walker gave a presentation about her role and how parents can support with SLT at home. Then, Jane Bevan-Cotton, from the Autism Advisory Service, explained about her role within the Educational Psychology Service and how she can support us as a school, and in turn support children and parents. Unfortunately, this session is not available on the website, however the presentation given by Victoria is available on the school website - under the "Parents" tab and then "Presentations".

We have had very positive feedback from parents about these forums' content, so will definitely look to build on this approach of trying to ensure that we share what support is available inside, and outside, school with parents in 2021.

Kaleidoscope News

As Kaleidoscope continues to be its own bubble, children are dealing with the challenges and changes this brings by finding fun in every situation. They enjoyed taking part in the Festival of Lights project, and they were very proud of the work they had done. Children have visited the guinea pigs (a recent addition to the West Lodge community!) and have been learning how to look after a pet. We continue to work on social skills, and have been practising how to order food by holding our own café. Everyone has enjoyed seeing spotting all of their friends in the school's advent calendar videos too.

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

Deputy Head for Inclusion – Kathy-Ann McClean

Assistant Head/ SENCo – Hilary Haines

Governors with responsibility for Inclusion – Jessel Patel and Reena Anand

West Lodge School Offer – West Lodge School website - policies

Harrow Local Offer - <https://www.sendlocaloffer.org/harrow>

West Lodge SEND Parent Partnership Year Group Representatives

Reception - Angela Arora; Year 1 – Vacancy; Year 2 - Agnieszka Piatkowska; Year 3 - Reena Anand; Year 4 - Shikha Tiwari; Year 5 - Sushmita Meredith; Year 6 – Vacancy; Kaleidoscope - Guinevere Moffett



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Bebras Challenge

It's been another successful year for West Lodge in the Bebras challenge. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the range of problem-solving questions offered this year. We had a record number of Distinctions and performed admirably against schools locally and across the UK.

In the 10-12 age group, 7 children were identified as gold award winners and given additional recognition. These children, together with a couple of other high scoring pupils in this age category, will be invited to a further challenge in 2021.

- Savith Arun Vinodh
- Rishi Guruprasad
- Ridhi Poddar
- Atharva Sahay
- Sameer Riyat
- Pranav Arjun
- Sophie Malhotra

In the 10-12 age group, it is worth noting that pupils are competing against Y8 children from across the country (including private schools) so ALL Y6 children should be proud of their achievements. Other notable performances include John Edwards (8- 10 age group) Rhea Parmar (6-8 age group) who answered all their questions correctly.

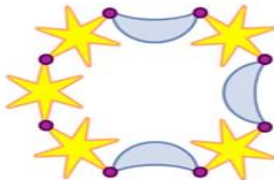
Here is a taster of the type of question pupils answered in this year's challenge (10-12 age category):

Marie would like a bracelet like the one on the right. She therefore gives Stephan the following instructions:

1. Join a star () piece and a moon () piece.
2. Repeat step 1 two more times.
3. Join the three parts made so far into a single chain.
4. Add two more stars at one end of the chain.
5. Join both ends of the chain to make a bracelet.

Unfortunately, if Stephan does not have a picture of the bracelet, he may end up with a bracelet that looks quite different, even if he follows the instructions exactly.

Question:
Which of the bracelets shown below can NOT be obtained by following Marie's instructions?



More questions can be found at:

https://challenge.bebas.uk/index.php?action=user_competitions



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Mental Health Support Teams Programme at West Lodge Primary School

Back in October West Lodge bid to become a host school for a new Mental Health programme funded by the NHS. West Lodge's bid was chosen as one of 8 settings out of 279 that applied to be hosts. In January, trainee Rhiannon will be joining the West Lodge Team as our Education Mental Health Practitioner Trainee (EMHP). This is a new role that will help to shape what mental health support in settings, needs to look like in the future. This is a new initiative to Harrow schools, but has been rolled out in schools within other local authorities over the last two years.

Trainee Rhiannon will be completing her training alongside the West Lodge inclusion team who will be looking to promote well-being and positive mental health across the school, working with children, staff, parents/carers, Governors and other agencies. We are really excited to welcome Rhiannon to West Lodge. She will be coming in for an initial visit before the Christmas Holidays. We are looking forward to working with her to develop our school to become more aware of the issues surrounding mental health.

We will continue to keep you updated with the development of this programme throughout next year.

Year 2 Christmas Concert



Year 2 performed amazingly during their recording of the Christmas Concert this year! They really enjoyed rehearsing and were excited to film their concert. They worked hard to learn their lines and the actions to the songs. A huge thank you to all the parents for all their support with the performance! We hope you enjoy the video!

Year 1 Christmas Show

Year 1 have been working really hard to be ready for their Christmas Show! Thank you to the parents for helping the children to learn their lines and sort out their costumes. The show was a great success and made us all smile!

We are so proud of all the Year 1 children! We hope you enjoying watching it!



Welfare Update

Winter brings the normal coughs, colds and runny noses, not forgetting the winter vomiting bug. This year we have also had to contend with COVID.

A decision to send a child home is not taken lightly or without reason. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your understanding and co-operation during this challenging time. Wishing you all a peaceful holiday and a Happy New Year!

Mrs Thomson
Welfare Assistant





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FOWLS UPDATE

Dear Parents / Carers,

As your new FOWLS team, we can't thank you enough for all your support through our first term. We have settled in and understand things a little better, thank you for bearing with us!

We have really enjoyed our roles as FOWLS Chair and Treasury. Obviously, it came with its own challenges, especially in current times, but we've tried our best to keep with the times and keep moving no matter what, while always keeping safety in mind. One big achievement has been successfully implementing Classlist as an online platform for social networking and ticket sales, helping the school in their plans to go cashless. We also organised many new and different events and activities this term and hope the children have enjoyed them.

Financially we have done better than expected and raised just over £7500. The monies raised from Scholastic will help the school with new books worth £654. The Light Festival helped sponsor the Air Purifiers for classrooms and the funds raised from the Christmas Raffle will be used to pay for an updated Geography scheme to support teachers in teaching high quality Geography lessons. Plus, the toy and food donations that were Collected for Elf Workshop were donated to various charities and institutions and will bring Christmas Cheer to over 500 families! The Children's Cookbook will be a precious asset for school as it brings together many different recipes and cultures from around the world and will hopefully be cherished by many West Lodge families for years to come!

We would like to thank all children, parents, teachers, admin team and Mr Dees, for supporting us throughout in many different ways. Whether you've bought tickets for events, donated toys / food / uniforms / clothes for Bag2school, helped us physically push trolleys, wrap Scholastic books, shared recipes, arranged match-funding, sponsored the cookbook, organised prizes for Raffle, signed up for Amazon Smile, created artworks for Light Festival, agreed for Display Boards outside your house, organised the Christmas Quiz or any other way you've helped - we want to say a massive thank you and we couldn't have done any of this without your support! You rock!!

In addition to all support provided by parents, we also had very kind sponsorships from local businesses, especially Gibbs Gillespie who have continued to support us this year. Another big source of income has been match-funding organised by parents which has helped in doubling our income. Another fantastic news is that we have now registered FOWLS as a charity with HMRC and hence can now also claim GiftAid. This will definitely help with raising more funds for school.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! We will return in the New Year with lots more fun activities for children, and hopefully for everyone else as well, fingers crossed!

Regards,

Vigya, Sushmita, Bijal & Anil





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Sports News

It has been wonderful to see competitive inter-school sport return to Harrow this term – two events have taken place this term and we are proud to be one of the few schools that have taken part in both events. The reports on both competitions can be found below.

December 10th, Year 5 and 6 Gymnastics competition

The first ever zoom gymnastics competitions for West Lodge was a new and exciting format! All gymnasts performed a floor and vault routine. The Year 6 squad of Amie, Honey, Sophie, Lilli, and Maria competed very well to claim 2nd place in the team standings. Honey and Lilli were joint 3rd in the individual placings with Amie and Maria in 8th and 9th place. The Year 5 team of Devi, Jemima, Maryam N, Emily, Anassa, Chloe did brilliantly to learn a new routine in just a few sessions and clinched 3rd team spot. A great effort from both squads!



October 10th, Harrow 7-a-side Football Tournament

West Lodge took part in the Barnet Cup Tournament on Saturday 10th October 2020. As champions of the competition 5 times in the past 6 years, the team knew the other opponents would be desperate to dethrone them. Despite this pressure, the boys played superbly. They won their first match 4-0 against St Bernadette's thanks to goals from Elarno, Emran, Clem and Leighton, and continued their great run of form into their second game with a 1-0 win over a strong Cannon Lane team, after a crucial goal scored by Haris. With their confidence sky high, the team's performance continued to improve in each game, leading to an important 2-0 win over St John Fisher in their penultimate game with the goals being scored by Ben and Leighton. Going into the final game, the team knew that if they won, they would top the league and be champions of Harrow once again. Just as they had done in every other game, the boys battled, performed and supported each other superbly to secure a comfortable 3-0 win over St Joseph's after goals from Leighton, Clem and Ben. This meant that without conceding a single goal, thanks to the heroic and stubborn defending and saves by Max, Joseph and Ethan, West Lodge were once again crowned deserved champions of Harrow and will now go forward to the Middlesex tournament as representatives of Harrow.