



# West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The first half-term of the year has come to an end – one that has proved to be challenging for us all, but has once again provided evidence of the strength of the West Lodge 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 have risen to the challenge of providing a safe return for the children and for working hard to identify gaps in learning, support well-being, re-establish routines and provide a range of rich, exciting learning experiences. The children have been wonderful this half-term – it has been a joy to greet children at the gate in the morning and see the wide smiles as they enter school – they have settled back into school life very positively and 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 this difficult time – providing the right balance of challenge, encouragement and support. We are very grateful for all that they do for the school.

## COVID Protocol

Here is a reminder of where to access our COVID Protocol documents [COVID Protocol - Flowcharts & Guides](#). We will continue to access and check the [office@westlodge.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:office@westlodge.harrow.sch.uk) email account during the half-term break. If your child becomes unwell and experiences any symptoms of COVID-19 please continue to follow the COVID-19 protocol as outlined in the flowcharts. If there is a confirmed positive case following a COVID-19 test please inform the school immediately so that we can carry out a contact risk assessment and contact any identified contacts if required.

## Parent/Carer Survey

We value your feedback and we would like to continue to carry out regular surveys to help inform our future developments. Here is the link to the latest survey [Parent/Carer Survey October 2020](#); please complete by 5pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

## FOWLS Update

Our new FOWLS team have been working incredibly hard and have been doing a wonderful job this term. They have been thinking out of the box and coming up with a range of innovative ideas to help ensure that FOWLS events can continue during such a challenging time. Here is a reminder of our great new FOWLS team.



Vigya Nahata,  
FOWLS Chair



Sushmita Meredith,  
FOWLS Chair



Bijal Vaducha,  
FOWLS Treasurer



Anil Awasthi,  
FOWLS Treasurer

The next few FOWLS events are:

From **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Scholastic Book Fair (COVID safe)

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – deadline for submissions for the West Lodge Children's Cookbook

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November** – Festival of Light

For more details of these events please visit the FOWLS page on the school website - [Upcoming FOWLS Events](#). The list of books available at the Scholastic book fair can be found here: [Scholastic Book List](#).

We are moving to using **Classlist** as a new communication tool for FOWLS – Classlist will provide FOWLS and also the school with a powerful new way of connecting. Classlist is GDPR-compliant and will enable the community to connect more easily with each other. Classlist also has a market place where we can carry out online sales, therefore helping with our move to online payments.

Thank you for your continued support during this half-term.

Have a lovely half-term break.

Jim Dees



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## BBC OWN IT

### Safeguarding Update

BBC Own It has been updated with new content for Sept 2020, including a new section on “Returning to Learning” to support young people through the transition back into the classroom learning environment. The BBC Own It site is a free resource for young people that aims to support their digital wellbeing as they explore the online world for themselves. There is also an app and keyboard which can be downloaded directly onto children’s devices, offering them simple online safety advice and support whenever they need it.

Domestic Abuse Support App Bright Sky is a free mobile app providing support and information to those who are in an abusive relationship, or concerned about someone they know. The app focuses on how to tackle domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, and provides advice about online safety and sexual consent. It can be downloaded from any phone's app store. The app is available to use in English, Punjabi and Urdu. The app encourages people experiencing domestic abuse to log private journal entries in the form of text, photos and videos, which are then sent to a designated email address. This information can be sent to the authorities later. The app also uses GPS to find help points nearby and offers advice for people in an abusive relationship, or for people who are concerned about someone else.



### Year 5 assemblies.

During these unprecedented times, Year 5 had the huge challenge of creating the first remote class assemblies of the year. This posed many challenges including many, many attempts to film scenes, and hours of editing time!

Aquamarine kicked things off with their assembly all about the number 5, portraying Shakespeare’s Sonnet 5, Beethoven’s 5th Symphony and 5 of David Walliams’ Worst Children through acting and dance!

Following on from that Emerald Class wanted to highlight the everyday heroes that are in the world. After all our learning about the NHS, they quickly realised that there have been many unsung heroes over lockdown; shop workers, bin men, parents to name a few!

Last Friday, Amber class completed the set with their assembly all about Artists, inspired by Banksy from our 'One Picture Project.' Travelling back in time, the children highlighted how artists throughout the centuries have continued to inspire one and other.

Well done Year 5!



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## Year 6 Roles and Responsibilities

During the month of September, many Year 6 pupils put themselves forward for various roles of responsibility. On Monday 14th September, Year 6 staff and pupils heard very carefully prepared speeches from boys and girls across the year group. Not only did these students have to face a crowd, they also had to contend with the sounds of nature as these speeches were delivered outside on the field. All pupils who put themselves forward did a fantastic job; they delivered their speech with great confidence and showcased excellent public speaking skills.

### Head & Deputy Head Boy and Head & Deputy Head Girl

Pupils and staff voted Kai Kothary and Hrishi Guruprasad to be their Head and Deputy Head Boys, and Maria Tzanidaki and Avni Patel to be their Head and Deputy Head Girls.

### Sports Captains and House Captains

The speeches for Sport Captains and House Captains were carried out in a very different way this year. Rather than having to face a crowd, the applicants had to face an iPad and talk to a screen. The children adapted well to the new process and there were some impressive speeches and creative ideas. A large number of students put themselves forward for the roles and all of them can be really proud of how they did. Well done to the following children for receiving the most votes:

#### Sports Captains

Lancaster: Lilli Alexander and Leighton Elliott  
Stuart: Sophie Malhotra and Niam Morjaria  
Tudor: Maya Parmar and Ben Waller  
York: Honey Aldrich and Leo Walter

#### House Captains

Lancaster: Sophie Groom and Nikolas Brooks  
Stuart: Ridhi Poddar and Dilip Nagra  
Tudor: Niamh Shah and Clem Stone  
York: Aaniya Rajput and Arin Dandawate

Many thanks to everyone for their effort put into writing their speeches.

## Woodwork in Reception

Last year the parents and children in Reception took part in a bake sale to raise money to purchase a woodwork bench. The funds we raised, together with a generous donation enabled us to finally purchase the woodwork bench. Thank you, we can't wait to start using it.





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## Reading Update

This year we have launched our Genre of the Month reading initiative in Key Stage 1 and 2. Key Stage 1 focused on poetry in September and diversity in October. It has been great to see children recommending different books to each other that link to these genres on dB Primary. Key Stage 2 focused on the genre of comedy to start the year in September, with the mentality that we all needed to start the year with a laugh and some playfulness. As we moved into October, we focused on the elements of age appropriate horror stories to officially kick off the beginning of the spooky season.

Some useful documents have also been uploaded onto the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 dB primary pages and school website; you might find these helpful when supporting your child with their reading at home. We have also updated our list of suggested stories for each year group, which we hope will give you ideas for different books you may enjoy sharing with your children at home! The zoom recording of the Reception and Year 1 reading meeting is also available on DB Primary. We will be sending out on November 5th a zoom recording of our English parent meeting for parents of Years 2 - 6. We hope that you find these meetings help you to be able to support your child at home.

## EYFS Update

### The Importance of Play

Play is essential for children. More and more research confirms the importance of play and why it should be an integral part of a child's life. During Lockdown, it may have been hard to give quality time to your child just to 'play' but why is play so important and what does it do for children?

Humans are biologically wired to play. Play serves as a way for people to practice skills they will need in the future. According to The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds (2007), free play allows children to practice decision-making skills, learn to work in groups, share, resolve conflicts and advocate for themselves. It also allows them to discover what they enjoy at their own pace.

Free play "is critical for becoming socially adept, coping with stress and building cognitive skills such as problem solving" (The Serious Need for Play, 2009).

Play is so important that it's even part of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 31 states that children have the right "to engage in play and recreational activities"

Play isn't always easy for everyone. The goal would always be to have children be able to play and interact without adult support. But for some, that's not realistic. For those kids who struggle, they'll need additional adult scaffolding until they can play on their own. So, don't be afraid to think back to your own childhood and reminisce about the games you loved to play with your Parents. Most important thing of all is to have fun and enjoy spending the time together.

Below are links to some brilliant websites to support you and your family.

[www.nhs.uk/guidance/condemning-violence-against-children](http://www.nhs.uk/guidance/condemning-violence-against-children)

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/early-years-development/learning-and-play/play-ideas-and-games/>

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/why-play-is-important/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/why-play-is-important/)



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## Just One Tree Day

To see real change, we must envisage the world we know is possible. On Friday the 16th of October we came together as a school community to take action for a kinder, fairer, and greener world because every small action, every conversation and every thought we have of a better future edges us closer to achieving it. We watched the premiere of 'The Promise' an animation with an environmental focus and wore green and autumnal colours to raise money for 'Just One Tree'. Together, we have raised enough money to plant a **whole woodland** with more than 500 trees in one of the countries that is being affected by deforestation! Thank you for all your support.

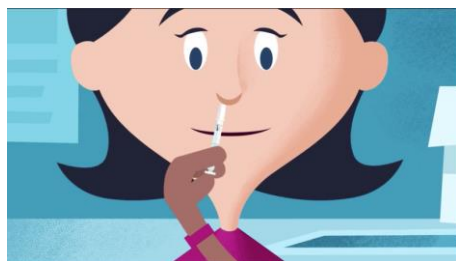


## Health Update

As we move into the winter months, coughs, colds, and runny noses will occur more frequently. It is especially important this year not to send your child to school if you have administered Calpol or Ibuprofen.

### Flu Nasal Spray.

The Immunisation Team will be doing a catch-up session at the Alexandra Clinic for any child who missed having the flu nasal spray at school. Please call 07557 158102 to book an appointment.



### Vision Checks.

Vision checks will be taking place in school for children in **Year 1 only**. This will take place on the **9th, 10th and 11th November**. This normally would have taken place whilst the children were in Reception but has been delayed due to the Covid lockdown.

## Equality in Education

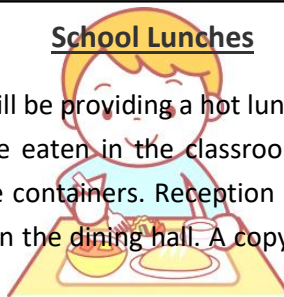
As a staff, we are embarking on an exciting project this term to ensure we at West Lodge are delivering a curriculum that has equality at the heart of it. We are working with our subject leaders to conduct an audit of the curriculum subjects to examine how gender equal our teaching within the range of subjects may be, that content reflects the backgrounds of our families and community and that we move away from a Eurocentric focus of subjects, ensuring we are sharing the stories of all and not just the victors. Staff are participating in CPD that will help us shape our curriculum to reflect the visibility of everyone in our school community; you can't be what you can't see!

## Lost Property

We are continuing to collect a large amount of lost property. Please remember to name ALL items of clothing and other property which your child brings into school; this will enable us to return any lost items to your child. Unfortunately, we cannot hold on to large amounts of lost property so any unnamed items may have to be disposed of.

## School Lunches

After half term ISS will be providing a hot lunch service. Lunches for Years 2-5 will still be eaten in the classrooms, and meals will be delivered in reusable containers. Reception and year groups 1 & 2 will continue to eat in the dining hall. A copy of the new menu will be sent out shortly.





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## Take One Picture Project

During the first two weeks of this academic year, each year group selected an image that highlighted one of the many events that they would have been aware of during this pandemic. The principles of this project were based around the National Gallery's - Take One Picture Project.

The project allowed the children to reflect on events, discuss these openly and honestly and explore how together they could move forward as individuals and as a community.

The children also produced fantastic artwork that can now be seen around the school and has supported them to be able to continue to talk about these events when needed.



## Parental Contribution Fund

Thank you to all the parents who have donated to the school via our Parental Contribution Fund. As you can appreciate it has been a challenging year for schools and the Fund was set up in response to parents asking how they could help. Donations can be made through Parentpay ([www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)); for Reception parents we will be sending details on how to access the system (including login details etc) after half term.

## Parentpay

Please check your Parentpay account regularly and ensure there are no payments items outstanding. Please help us by making payments by the due date and remember to keep your child's lunch account topped up if they are in Year 3 or above.



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## SEND Update

The year Group Representatives of the **SEND Parent Partnership** met with school staff on 28<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting covered many areas of SEND, the first relating to the vacancies on the Reps group - please see below for Year Group Representatives details. The next Rep meeting will be on SEND Reps meeting – **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 9:30 – 10:30am**

There will be a zoom Parents' Forum meeting on **17th November** to share more details with the wider school parent community about the aims of the Parent Partnership Group, ethos, and the role of the parent reps. More details after half term.

The other zoom Parents' Forum for this term, will be on **Tuesday December 1<sup>st</sup>** where our school Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT), Victoria Walker and Jane Bevan-Cotton, from the Autism Advisory Service, will give short presentations to parents.

**External Agencies** – we are very pleased to have welcomed back into school our SaLT, and Occupational therapist, as well as our Educational Psychologists, School Counsellor, and therapists from Harrow Horizons. They are all back working with our children, following our School risk assessment procedures, and supporting the progress of our children.

**Kaleidoscope News** - Kaleidoscope children and staff took part in SEWA week by planting tulip bulbs in Forest School (taking care of the environment). The year 4 mainstream classes had the same approach but they picked up litter in the nature trail (The Kaleidoscope Y4 children suited up ready to pick up litter and involve themselves with the mainstream class, separately off course).

Kaleidoscope have introduced a telephone call morning where the focus is on telephone etiquette. The children call an adult of their choice and ask them three questions (in line with the SLT wh-question targets). How are you feeling? Why are you feeling that way? What can we do to continue to make you feel that way? Mr Dees, Mrs McClean and Mrs Kinsella have been the favourites for this term 😊 We will be extending the conversation to our mainstream teachers and peers too. The phone calls last around one minute. We also participated in the Green day activities. We went on an acorn hunt. We used the acorns for our art activities. We made autumn wreaths, autumn trees, we planted an acorn (we will watch it grow) and autumn leaf printing. This links with the SEWA initiative, taking care of our environment. Since September, some of the Kaleidoscope children have also taken part in Harrow Music School drumming lessons. It was lovely seeing the children participate and follow directions from the music teacher.

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](mailto:send@westlodge.harrow.sch.uk)
- Deputy Head for Inclusion – Kathy-Ann McClean
- Assistant Head/ SENCo – Hilary Haines
- Governor with responsibility for Inclusion – Jessel Patel
- West Lodge School Offer – West Lodge School website - policies
- Harrow Local Offer - [www.harrow.gov.uk/cst](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/cst)



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## SEND Update – cont...

West Lodge SEND Parent Partnership Year Group Representatives

- Year 1 - Agnieszka Piatkowska
- Year 2 - Reena Anand
- Year 3 - Shikha Tiwari
- Year 4 - Sushmita Meredith
- Year 5 - Alice Lynch
- Year 6 - Balbir Lehto
- Kaleidoscope - Guinevere Moffett

## Pastoral Update

### Managing our Children's 'Coronxiety'

Just like the rest of the world, our school community is hugely impacted by the changes in the daily routine that COVID-19 has brought about. This will certainly increase anxiety for many of our children, and there is no point avoiding the topic, as it is everywhere!

Our website contains useful information for how to support your children with conversations around COVID (links below), including tips from Harrow Early Help team and a brilliant downloadable PDF book with illustrations by Axel Scheffler.

In summary though, when thinking about your children and their possible worries around the pandemic:

- make time to talk to your children about COVID-19 with no distractions - don't avoid the topic
- be honest with your answers, stick with the facts but don't overload them.
- Focus on what WILL remain consistent, our children need consistency and routine.
- Wonder aloud "I notice that you seem a bit worried about ....., shall we talk about this a little more?"
- Be patient with their worries, it's a worrying time for all of us, but we have bigger shoulders!
- If you have any specific concerns about your child's emotional wellbeing in light of current circumstances, please discuss this with the class teacher, or Caroline Kinsella, our Pastoral Lead.
- Useful links:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/westlodgeprimary/UploadedDocument/a88b7e5a89144a00bd1a75f413c9cae7/coronavirus-mental-health-and-wellbeing-resources.pdf>

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>



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## Digital Leaders Update

I'm delighted that we have recruited an enthusiastic and knowledgeable set of Digital Leaders. After completing an application form and attending an interview, I was delighted to appoint 15 of the children. They have so many great ideas about how they want to promote learning in computing and how to help the West lodge community to be safe online.

We have a range of expertise within the group, ranging from avid coders through to individuals who are keen to ensure that the online safety message has a high profile in school.

There are of course, going to be some challenges whilst being a Digital Leader this year, as year group 'bubbles' cannot mix. I am sure though that we will find a digital solution for this.

Across the year the digital leaders will have a range of responsibilities, including becoming experts in some of the new technologies we have in school, eg Virtual Reality and sharing this with other children. They will also lead on Safer Internet Day (9th Feb 2021) and create some kind of video or quiz for the other children.

## Music Update

Children have been enjoying music tuition this term. Please ensure your child knows when these lessons are and has their instrument in school.

We are currently auditing parent's involvement and experience in the creative arts in the hope that we are able to utilise this to support and enhance children's learning. Please complete and return the form if you are interested in sharing your expertise. Thank you.

## Sports News

West Lodge took part in the Barnet Cup Tournament on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.