



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the year draws to a close we reflect on what has been a year beyond compare. The experience we have all shared together over the last few months has changed us all – individually and collectively. We have endeavoured to learn lessons at each stage of the crisis and to implement our learning across all aspects of how we work: how we interact with you; how we provide learning experiences for the children; how the staff improve their pedagogical practice; how we collaborate with each other (as a staff team, but also as a wider community team) and how we support well-being.

We have always been an inward reflecting and outward facing school – as a community we have a growth mind-set and aim to keep learning and improving. We will continue to carry this mind-set into the new academic year – this experience has changed us – but we will ensure that this change is a positive one – as we take on the feedback from the various surveys we have carried out and look to keep moving forward and improving. The support you, the parents/carers of West Lodge have provided for the school has been amazing, we recognise how challenging it has been for you over the last few months as you have had to balance so many roles, and juggle so many balls. Thank you for engaging so enthusiastically with the school and providing so much support in such a variety of ways. A special thank you to Sandeep Nahata who inspired us to begin our journey with Zoom, set up the school accounts and provided training and support for staff!

I would also like to thank the West Lodge staff team have worked incredibly hard during this time – overcoming the challenges placed in front of them and venturing into uncharted territory. Staff overcame their own fears, worries and concerns to ensure that the school stayed open for key workers and vulnerable pupils, and worked hard to get to grips with new technology and provide the very best learning experiences for children. Balancing working in school supporting key workers, whilst also delivering remote learning – many of them supporting the home learning of their own children at the same time. We are very fortunate to have such an incredible staff team who are passionate about unlocking the spark in each child.

We say goodbye to Mrs Eastwood and Miss Mrowiec this term, who have both been excellent colleagues, valued members of staff and have had a positive impact on the lives of a number of children. Mrs Eastwood is retiring and moving to a new life in Devon. She joined West Lodge in September 2001. Mrs Eastwood was initially employed as a teacher in West Lodge First School, where she worked as a classteacher. After West Lodge First and Middle Schools amalgamated in 2009, Mrs Eastwood began teaching in Key Stage 2 at the newly formed West Lodge Primary School. She then embarked on a period of training in supporting children with specific learning difficulties. She gained qualifications and began supporting children in small groups across Years 4, 5 & 6. Mrs Eastwood made a huge difference to the lives of a large number of children whilst in this role – helping to ensure that they left West Lodge with core skills intact. She is passionate about supporting pupils with SEND and has provided very useful training for staff during her time at the school, where she has shared her skills and expertise with the staff team. Miss Mrowiec is moving to Kellett International School in Hong Kong where she will be taking up a role as a Y6 teacher. Miss Mrowiec joined West Lodge in 2017, she initially took up a post teaching Aquamarine Class in Year 5 and for the last two years has taught Amethyst Class in Y6. Miss Mrowiec has been an excellent teacher and inspired all the children she has worked with. Over the last academic year she has also led Science across the school. Leading Science with passion and enthusiasm, Miss Mrowiec has made some positive changes to this area of the curriculum. We wish them both the very best for the future.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the West Lodge Board of Governors – they are a very committed team who provide invaluable support to the school. We feel fortunate to have such a strong board of governors, who continue to provide robust challenge and invaluable support to the school. I would like to thank Amar Patel – who in his first year as Chair of the Board of Governors has led the team expertly – with energy and passion. Also, Jessel Patel, who as vice chair has formed a great partnership with Amar. Throughout this time they have both been in regular contact with the leadership team providing a listening ear, wise advice and positive encouragement. We have welcomed three new governors to the team this year: Claire Barrett – Claire brings experience in management, coaching, recruitment, marketing and strategy. Darpan Patel who brings experience in finance and business transformation. Reena Anand who brings experience as a lawyer and as an ombudsman.

We are also hugely grateful for the ongoing support and hard work of the FOWLS team, we want to extend a huge thankyou to Nilaxi, Rashmi, Mona and Nikita who have brought tremendous energy, innovation and creativity to their roles of leading FOWLS over the last two years – they have raised over £45,000 during their tenure – an amazing achievement considering their tenure was cut short by COVID19. Thank you very much to you all for your commitment and support. We welcome Vigya, Mita, Bijal and Anil as the new team of co-chairs and co-treasurers – they have lots of exciting and creative ideas for the coming months.

I would like to wish you all a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to the return of all pupils in September and the new academic year. All my best wishes.

Jim Dees, Headteacher



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Parent Information

Parental Contribution Fund

As I am sure are all aware this period has been a challenging one for schools. We have remained open throughout the lockdown period for children of keyworkers and our vulnerable pupils and have worked hard to ensure all pupils are able to return to school safely in September. Unfortunately this has a significant impact on the school's finances, in terms of both additional expenditure incurred and income lost. We have had to purchase additional handwashing and sanitisation facilities, cleaning equipment and health & safety items such as signs and protective screens. We have also purchased additional stationery such as pens, pencils and glue sticks to allow each child to have their own equipment when they return to school rather than sharing such items.

In addition we have lost a significant amount of income through not being able to run lettings and extended day activities, and with FOWLS also not being able to run events through the summer term. With school budgets already tight we are having to look for ways in which we might raise some much needed additional funds to allow us to continue to offer the same broad range of opportunities we pride ourselves on here at West Lodge. One of the ideas that has been suggested is that we offer parents the opportunity to help us by setting up a parental contribution fund.

We have therefore set up an item on Parentpay which allows parents to make a contribution of whatever amount you are able or wish to donate. We know that some families are suffering financial hardship themselves at this time so please do not feel obliged to contribute but if you are able to make a donation we would be very grateful. Rest assured that any funds raised will go towards helping us continue to deliver best possible outcomes for all our pupils.

A big thank you to those parents/carers who have already donated so generously.

School Lunches

We have recently retendered our school catering contract and are pleased to announce that ISS won the tender and will be continuing to serve school lunches from September. To reflect cost increases there will be a slightly price increase from £2.10 per meal to £2.15 from September. Please check your child's lunch account before they return and ensure there is sufficient funds. For pupils moving to year 3 in September please note that your child will no longer qualify for an Infant Free School Meal so you will need to pay for any meals taken.

In order to ensure we can safely distance pupils at lunchtime and keep them in their year group "bubbles", ISS will initially be serving a cold lunch from September. This will include a choice of sandwiches/wraps etc, a salad pot, fruit pot and homemade cake or biscuit. We will be working with ISS to see how we might safely move to a hot lunch option later in the term. A menu of cold meal options will be sent nearer the start of term.

Uniform

Please note that uniform (including PE tops) is no longer available to purchase from the school office. Our uniform stockists are Angels in Rayners Lane (<https://angelsuniforms.co.uk/>) or Kevins in Pinner.

Breakfast & After School Clubs

We are planning to restart Breakfast & After School Clubs from September. We will be reviewing the waiting lists at the beginning of term and will contact parents as places come available. If you wish to add your child to the waiting list, please email the school office with details of the day(s) you require. Please note that the waiting list is still fairly long on most days and we cannot guarantee when a place will become available.

Parentmail

From September we will be continuing to use Parentmail as our main means of communication to you. We will also be using Parentmail forms more regularly as a way of obtaining information, permission slips etc. Please ensure that you know your Parentmail login details and can access the forms. If you have any problems with this, please email the school office.



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FOWLS Update

To our Committee members 2019/2020

Well this is not what any of us expected and not how we wanted to finish the end of our tenure, but the time is here for us to say farewell and hand over to a new team!

Our final event, of helping to make sure our current Yr6 leavers leave West Lodge on a high was a great success. Fab weather, entertainment, popcorn, a movie and Darren our regular Mr Ice Cream man made sure they all had fun after a long time away from each other.

For those that are not aware we would like to introduce the 2020-2022 FOWLS Team:

Chair - Vigya Nahata
Co-Chair - Sushmita Meredith
Treasurer - Bijal Vaducha
Co- Treasurer - Anil Awasthi

We hope that you will support them, as you have us. As you all know none of this is possible without the whole school helping to take part. With the current restrictions and financial insecurity a lot of us are facing there is no doubt fundraising is going to be an even harder challenge.

As challenging as we have found our tenure, we have also taken great pride in what we have achieved. Fundraising a total of **£45,000** in our 2 years through various events.

We wish the new team every success, and
will shortly be deleting our current committee whatsapp group.

We would encourage you to email the new team if you are happy to continue your support of FOWLS fundraising so that they can form a new group/committee.

westlodge.fowls@gmail.com

Many thanks for all your help, support, volunteering and coming along to help take part in the events. We couldn't have done any of it without you all so, to the children, parents and staff of West Lodge School we thank you wholeheartedly for your support during our tenure.

Very best regards and wishing you all a restful summer break!

Nilaxi, Rashmi, Nikita and Mona

Chair and Treasury Team
FOWLS 2018-2020 🧑🏫🧑🏫



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Pastoral Update

Congratulations Home Teachers, you've made it to the end of term and done a truly outstanding job in the strangest of circumstances! You have undoubtedly carried much uncertainty and fear on behalf of your children, and shielded them from the worries of the world – you (and us at school) have spent the last few months trying to ensure that the wellbeing of our children is not being compromised. And many of you did ALL of this whilst juggling your own careers with the demands of home learning, facilitating your children's class zoom calls, bike riding, walking, clapping for carers, and baking more banana bread than you ever thought possible. And now, you have a long summer ahead of you and many of you are already feeling burnt out and wondering how you will survive 6 weeks!

A recent New York Times article '*How to entertain your kids this summer? Maybe Don't*' is an interesting read and embraces the idea of allowing your kids to feel bored in a quest to allow them to develop their own sense of 'old fashioned fun'. It suggests that the desire for play in children is innate, and that even with the most rudimentary equipment, they will find a way to amuse themselves – it's worth a read if you too are tired of only seeing the tops of their heads from behind devices, but you still need them to engage in some independent play so that you can get on with your own work (or rest)!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/18/arts/kids-summer-activities-virus.html>

So now is the time to get your wellbeing in check too. Try to take some time for yourself, whether it's meeting a friend (1 metre away obviously!), watching a movie, enjoying a nice dinner or exercising - grab yourself a moment or two.

Why not join our very own Mrs Ahmad in one of her wonderful yoga classes, currently on Zoom until restrictions are lifted, so even easier to access if you have childcare issues (I've succumbed to the lure of this practice, and it's glorious!) Set firmly in ancient yogic tradition, Dru Yoga works on body, mind and spirit - improving strength and flexibility, creating core stability, building a heightened feeling of positivity, and deeply relaxing and rejuvenating your whole being.

Please contact
Shahn Ahmad
Dru Yoga and Meditation Teacher
shahn@teenyogatribe.com
07941 075881

And if you are really struggling with meeting the demands of your children, why not get in touch with the Harrow Early Help team? They have plenty of ideas for supporting you and your children, and can give practical advice, as well as letting you know of any activities that they have planned over the summer at the local children's centres. For more information, visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/harrowcc

Enjoy the break (whatever that means!), and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Caroline Kinsella



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Support over the Summer Break

As we approach the summer holidays, we wanted to remind you that there are a number of services that provide support to individuals and families. A number of them are free and just a phone call away. Please note some of the information provides a link directly to the website.

Some Harrow Sources of Support

Whether it's emotional support or practical advice on any aspect of parenting or broader family life, call: 0808 802 6666, text: 07537 404282 or email: familyline@family-action.org.uk.

Family Action's [SEND information for parents and carers webpage](#) offers useful information on topics as varied as money, health, leisure and education. You'll also find a FAQs section and a list of national support organisations.

Visit our [Harrow SENDIAS SEND Information and Downloads page](#) for key leaflets, factsheets etc.

[Harrow Council's Local Offer](#) sets out the services and support available in Harrow for children and young people under the age of 25 with special educational needs and those who are disabled.

Compass Harrow - A free, confidential service for children and young people who need support around their own or another person's drug or alcohol (substance) use. Young people under 18 years of age can be referred to us and we can then work with them up to the age of 24. Compass Harrow is co-located with other providers of children and young people's services. These services include support around domestic violence, sexual health (including free condoms and HIV testing) and mental health, as well as careers and employment opportunities.

Our caring and friendly team are available at a time that suits you and at a place where you feel comfortable.

Tel: 020 8861 2787 / 07917261962

Email: adminharrow@compass-uk.org

Ground Floor, 21 Building, 21 Pinner Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 4ES

Resource Directory The Harrow FIS Resource Directory

www.harrow.gov.uk/fiso is a free on-line search directory created to assist families (and professionals) to find and use a range of services and resources locally and nationally. The Resource Directory can be used to search for:

- Ofsted-registered childcare
- Local services for Harrow families
- Local and National advice agencies and support organisations
- Activities for children and families
- Useful websites and helplines

Therefore, whether you are looking for childcare in your area, local services, voluntary organisations, support groups or activities; the Harrow Resource Directory has the information you need. Furthermore, the Directory is constantly updated with new information by Harrow FIS.

Harrow Mental Health Support Services for Children and Young People - <https://www.northwicksurgery.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Mental-Health-Support-in-Harrow-Flyer-Children-and-Young-People-V1-Jan-2019.pdf>



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Other Sources of support

General – for parents

Samaritans

Call 116 123

<https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritan/>

Mind UK

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

UK Mental Health Charity with information and an online mutual support community

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/support-community-elefriends/>

General – for young people

www.kooth.com

www.youngminds.org.uk

www.keep-your-head.com

Parenting pressures

Family Action

Telephone: 0808 802 6666

Text message: 07537 404 282

The FamilyLine service supports people who are dealing with family pressures in a new and innovative way by using a network of volunteers from across the country to support family members over the age of 18 through telephone calls, email, web chat and text message.

<https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/familyline/>

Family Lives (previously Parentline)

Call: 0808 800 2222

Family Lives offers a confidential and free helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life.

The helpline service is open 9am – 9pm, Monday to Friday and 10am – 3pm Saturday and Sunday.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/confidential-helpline/>

Gingerbread

Single Parent Helpline: 0808 802 0925

One Parent Families/Gingerbread is the leading national charity working to help lone parents and their children.

www.gingerbread.org.uk

Grandparents Plus

Call: 0300 123 7015

Grandparents Plus is the only national charity (England and Wales) dedicated to supporting kinship carers - grandparents and other relatives raising children who aren't able to live with their parents.

grandparentsplus.org.uk



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A visit from Greg Rutherford

On Wednesday 20th May, Olympic Gold Medal long jumper, Greg Rutherford surprised some children of key workers with a special zoom chat. During the chat he paid tribute to all the amazing work their parents have been doing and answered the children's questions. A highlight for the children was being shown Greg's Gold medals. An edited version was shown on Eurosports and can be seen on our school website and twitter account. Greg told the children "when you guys get a bit older, you'll break all my records!" and promised that he would love to visit West Lodge in the future!

Performing Arts

Choir

During the past thirteen weeks, it's been lovely meeting on a Friday afternoon as a choir to sing some of our favourite tunes. What's made it even more special is that our two choirs have joined to create a really large group of enthusiastic singers. The children have loved having the chance to choose songs to sing – these have included Somewhere Over the Rainbow, Dancing Queen and I'm Still Standing. Our term concluded with a choir party where we sang the Pop Medley from Young Voices 2020. Keep singing guys and we look forward to seeing you in September when we will start preparing (virtually) for our Harvest festivities etc. Happy Singing!

It was lovely to see so many children and staff join us for a very special Zoom to celebrate VE Day on the 8th May'. We all sang a lovely rendition of 'We'll meet again' made so famous by Vera Lynn.

'As a choir, we were also excited to be involved a special **#YVatHome** project. On 2nd June 2020, from the safety of our own homes, we joined with families and children from across the world to pay tribute to all teachers by joining together to sing "The Power in Me". During the weeks prior to the concert, we rehearsed the song led by musical directors from the different corners of the globe. This was yet again, another experience to be remembered!'

Health and Medical Matters – An Update from Mrs Thomson

Summer Sun

Remember to stay safe. Don't dehydrate, drink plenty of water during the day. Prevention is better than cure. Apply high factor sun cream generously and wear a hat. Lastly enjoy!

Asthma

If you child has an inhaler in school, please be aware that during the pandemic, schools are not allowed to use emergency inhalers and spacers. Please ensure that you return medication to school on the first day of term (07/09/20), clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

Head Lice

During the summer break, please take the time to check your child's hair and if necessary, treat with appropriate medication.

Winter 2020/2021

As part of the National Immunisation Program, this year the flu vaccination is being offered to all children at West Lodge Primary. The date will be confirmed. Nearer the time you will receive a consent form. Please sign and return even if you decide not to participate.



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Year 5 Rainforest Experience

Year five has thoroughly enjoyed developing our knowledge of the Rainforest Ecosystem this term. Our activities have ranged from mapwork to data handling and making rain makers. One of the highlights have also included watching and learning from our Live Zoolab video created by a real Rainforest Explorer. During the presentation, we met Rosie the Tarantula, Selena the Stick Insect, Jeremy Fischer the White Tree Frog and Hunter the Python. Each week, we met as a year group to share our artwork, music, rainforest animal models and 'dance moves'. Such fun had by all!

Composer of the Week

There is a wealth of research that suggests that listening to orchestral music when you study or learn, increases the brain's ability to receive and store information. Listening to classical music is also proven to make you feel happier and release good chemicals in the brain – this means that you are more receptive to new information and are more likely to embrace challenge and persevere! During lockdown, and our period of home learning, children have had the opportunity to learn about a different composer each week. The composers that children have listened to and enjoyed have ranged from Classical composers such as Mahler, Prokofiev and Debussy, to contemporary film composers like John Williams and Joe Hisaishi.

Home Learning over the Holidays

Please find below a link to the Government websites where you will find a comprehensive list of websites that you may want to visit to help support your child over the summer holidays. Try to ensure a balance of activities that are engaging and fun for all involved as this will often lead to a more successful outcome.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

Whole School Projects during lockdown

During our remote learning, we wanted to provide the opportunity for families to collaborate on special projects together, regardless of what year group children were in. This was following feedback from our first parent/carers survey which we carried out during the Easter break. From the 20th April, we began a series of weekly tasks that saw children and families tackle memorable projects such as their Covid-19 time capsules, the Andy Goldsworthy land art challenge, the 3D and 2D mapping project, the book cover challenge and the outdoor sun dial experiment in Science. We really enjoyed seeing everyone's efforts and hope you all enjoyed working on projects across the curriculum together as a family.





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Autism Acceptance week

"If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism"

– Stephen Shore, PhD

This year for autism acceptance week we used DB primary to enable students to learn more about autism and how they can best their friends with social and communication difficulties.

The autism community has for a number of years put forward the idea that awareness should not be the main focus of an autism week but rather they want to see a push for acceptance and people in general being better placed to support and interact with them. This is why West Lodge has, over the last couple of years, moved from autism awareness to autism acceptance.

This year we set a number of online challenges for students to complete, these ranged from artwork and watching videos to using the National Autistic Society Website to research answers for a quiz. The students who were in school on the day also produced some fantastic artwork, which you can see on the right.



EYFS Update

Well, what a year for our new children of West Lodge Primary School! The year started well, with all the children settling well into school life and embracing the world of learning. March came and our youngest had to embrace a new way of learning and we couldn't be prouder of them all. The children have worked so hard in lockdown and we want to take this opportunity to thank the Parents and Families for all their commitment in supporting us and their child during this time. The children loved the learning and story times arranged by all the staff in Early Years and we loved receiving all the messages, picture, and videos via DB primary.

We were delighted to see so many of the children returned to us in the last part of term and we have been astounded by their progress. The curriculum will transition into Year 1 and allow the children opportunities to continue to reach the Early Learning Goals. However, we know that they are all ready for Year 1 and will enjoy every moment of this new adventure.

September brings a new cohort of children for WLPS and transition has been slightly different this year. A first for us as our 'Welcome to West Lodge' was done through Zoom this year but we hope that our new families are feeling prepared and ready to join us. Home visits will to be able to take place in September, but we have been able to facilitate 2 play session to ensure a smooth transition to school life. We hope our new children and families will be very welcomed into the West Lodge family.

Home Learning Platforms

We were in a fortunate position when we were put into lock down to have an established online learning platform in dB Primary. All year groups were able to provide weekly online learning and communicate with their classes through dB Primary emails. To help guide the children further, teachers got to grips with Zoom and began creating lives assemblies and story-time sessions as creating pre-recorded Zoom videos so that the children had a better understanding of what was expected of them. This developed in to live Zoom sessions where teachers taught small groups and whole class sessions which had such a positive impact on the children and their learning. We have also used this period to trial other online platforms such as Seesaw and Purplemash and will evaluate whether we want to continue with these platforms in the future.



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SEND Update

A big thank you to parents, children and staff for their patience and understanding during this difficult period. The absence of face-to-face meetings has been challenging but zoom has allowed us to continue almost as normal with annual reviews and some liaison with external agencies. Although this has meant time scales have been very different, we will continue to ensure that your children receive the support that they need and are entitled to, to the best of our ability, during these times.

The West Lodge SEND Parent Partnership

The West Lodge SEND Parents' Group began as a group of parents who met regularly to support each other with shared experiences and to share expertise in various SEND matters. This parent group still meet as a group, but now have a Representative from each school year group and Kaleidoscope.

The West Lodge SEND Parent Partnership comprises school staff and these Year Group Representatives from the Parent Group. It meets half termly and its aims are;

- *To work in partnership with parents and carers to enhance our SEND policy and practice.*
- *To help parents/carers feel part of a group and avoid isolation.*
- *To work together to identify what information would be useful to you and invite speakers from inside and outside the school to help you access information.*
- *To provide a network of support for parents/carers of pupils with SEND.*
- *To share information about our SEND policy and practice with parents and carers.*
- *To provide opportunities to share information, advice and resources on specific areas of SEND.*
- *To seek parent and carer views and suggestions – which will support the school in improving our practice.*

Ordinarily, the Parent SEND Group meet for coffee mornings on the 1st Monday of every month, at 9.00 am at Daisy's in the Park. More information will follow in September about meetings and other support networks.

Currently, there are vacancies for Representatives in Reception (Yr. 1 in Sept 2020) and Reception starting in Sept 2020. Please contact the school if you are interested in joining the group and becoming a Representative and we will pass your details onto the Group members.

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-Anne 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



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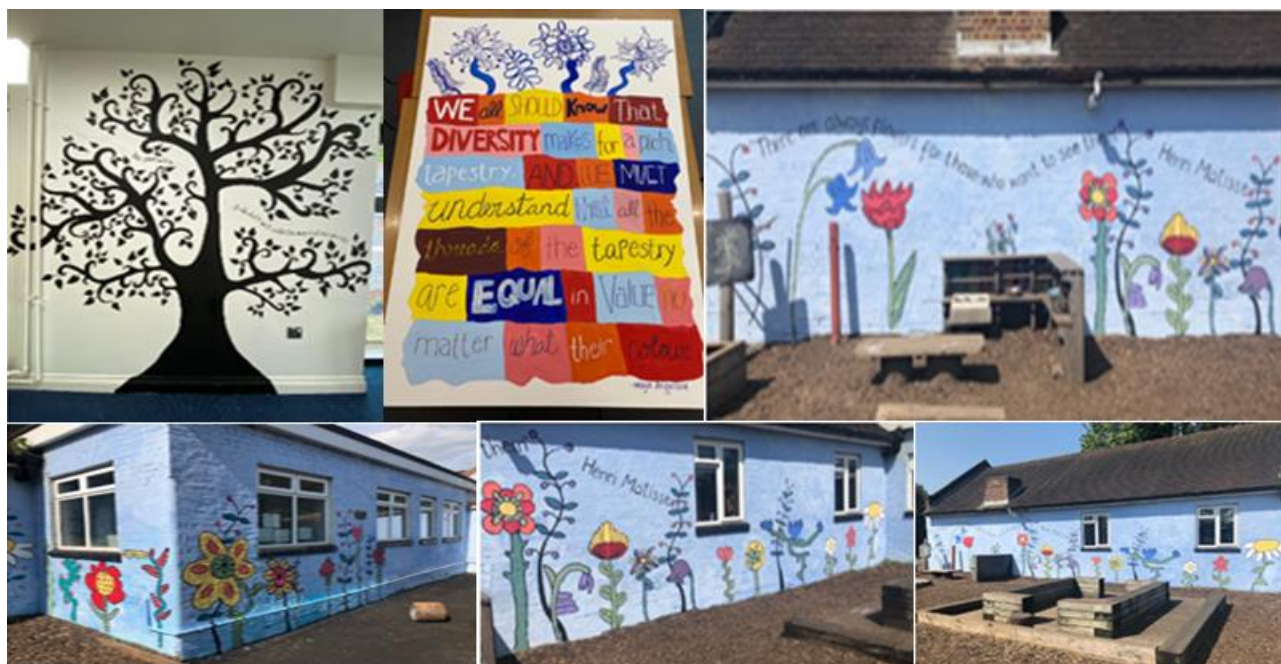
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West Lodge Art Mural

Over the last 4 months children in school have been creating a mural in the adventure playground. We started with the Henry Matisse quote 'There are always flowers for those who want to see them.' The children from all year groups designed and painted flowers using ideas from nature as well as their imaginations. Since their return to school, the year 6 children have worked in groups adding their floral creations. We hope to continue to grow our meadow of flowers in the coming year to remind us of the resilience and strength shown by our school community during the spring/ summer of 2020.

The creation of the Maya Angelou canvas represents the diversity at West Lodge and a determination to embrace equality. The tree painted in the foyer represents growth, interconnection and life and shares our vision of igniting the spark in every child.

West Lodge Art Gallery



Lockdown Videos

The staff at West Lodge really enjoyed creating the videos for the children and also seeing the wonderful creations made by the children from classes across the school. The staff had fun participating in the toilet roll football challenge, creating the Count on Me video and the Message to you, Children video. At the start of lock down, it was the perfect opportunity to do something to raise everyone's spirits and something challenging (VERY challenging for some). It was a nice thing to do for the children and gave them the chance to see the faces of familiar adults who they may have been missing whilst stuck at home. Thank you to all the children for the videos they created, they certainly put a smile on the faces of the staff and thank you to the staff team for their contributions to the staff videos.

Lockdown Memories





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Outdoor Learning, the Environment and Sustainability

One of the positive outcomes of being in lockdown has got to be how we have developed a greater appreciation for the outdoors. We have enjoyed hearing about the many ways the children and their families have become more active and have enjoyed many outdoor activities such as walking, gardening, cycling etc. As a school we are passionate about using the outdoors as much as possible to enhance children's learning. We are also committed to looking after our environment and creating an ethos of sustainability.

Our mission towards zero waste within our school community has expanded and our efforts doubled towards sustainability. It's great to see that our pupils are very aware and are genuinely concerned about the environmental impact plastics and food waste have on the environment and planet in general. Our children have been proactively involved in sharing ideas creating posters and raising awareness on sustainability and writing letters about plastic pollution and suggesting ideas to cut back on plastic waste.

Hundreds of plastic writing tools have been taken for recycling and great efforts were made by lunch time staff ensuring children eat their lunches to minimise waste. We have also started using compost bins. Everyone has a role to play in the fight against climate change. When we are back next term, our ethos will continue, and our efforts will be bigger and stronger than before.

A big thank you to Neil Reidman who has generously donated his time, plants and his expertise designing and planting up our raised beds. Each class planted a tree during Sustainability Week, the children learnt about the importance of trees to the environment. The children in the key worker group have been watering the plants and the array of colourful blooms is stunning. Also, a thank you to the families who have temporarily given our three hens a home.

After the citizen science project of the Big School's Bird Watch earlier this year, the children got to design a birdfeeder for their outdoor space to observe birds from home during the lockdown. As a school community we have grown in confidence identifying native species. Families have been creative using free and natural materials to make beautiful land art in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. Throughout the month of June many of you have taken part in the 30 Days Wild Challenge and have made connecting with nature part of your daily routine.

Year 6 Farewell

Year 6 pupils had a wicked end to their primary school journey. Monday and Tuesday were jam packed with many activities: team building, relay races, art, bonfire, problem solving and an outdoor cinema experience. The two days were filled with joy, laughter and excitement; year 6 voices could be heard throughout the school through their chanting and cheering. Bonfire with George was a highlight as pupils learnt to build their own fire then roasted their marshmallow. Some children roasted their marshmallow until it was 'well-done' as the marshmallow turned jet black! The pupils thoroughly enjoyed watching the movie, Onwards out of the field. Thank you to FOWLS for providing yummy snacks and getting an ice-cream van to come to school- what a treat! Year 6 children have enjoyed weekly Yoga classes since returning to school after lockdown. If children would like to join Mrs. Ahmad's Teen Yoga classes from September, please get in touch: Shahn Ahmad, Dru Yoga and Meditation Teacher, shahn@teenyogatibe.com, 07941 075881

We wish all the Year 6 children the best of luck as they embark on their next adventure. It has been an unusual but an incredible year, one that we will all remember. Good luck everyone!





West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

Sports News during Lockdown

The Summer term is usually packed with lots of outdoor learning and activities in classes, year groups and the whole school like PE week, Sports day, London Youth Games. Instead staff, children and parents have had to adapt and find new ways to remain active. There have been two activities this term which have highlighted this.

An event which has engaged over 200 members of the school and local community is The West Lodge School Challenge. This was inspired by the 2.6 challenge- set up on the day the London Marathon was due to take place (April 26th)- to encourage the general public to exercise and move in creative ways using the numbers 2 and 6 in the activity and raise money for a worthy cause.

The West Lodge School Challenge set every participant a minimum of 2.6 miles of exercise to complete weekly. Starting on May 4th we had a slow start but gradually gathered momentum, adding more members, and logging more activities as the weeks went on. This challenge has also raised £1336 for 'Save the Children'. The challenge was initially to travel the distance from Pinner to New Zealand but we achieved our target 4 weeks ahead of schedule, a new challenge was set to return to Pinner via South America and America. We made it – having travelled 24,000 miles in total we have made it back home! An incredible achievement – well done to everyone who took part and contributed by walking, running or cycling!



Another challenge which got pupils excited and active was the West Lodge School Games week which encouraged children across the school to carry out a different activity each day and film themselves to inspire others! Children ran, jumped, threw, balanced and sprinted all week.

School Competitions

London Youth Games

This year was set to be a record breaking year in terms of West Lodge qualifying for The London Youth Games Finals in so many sports. The winners of the Harrow competitions go on to represent the borough at the London Finals. Before lockdown, we had already secured our place at The London Finals in the following sports:

Year 5/6 Girls Football
Year 3/4 Girls Football
Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics
Year 5/6 Hockey
Year 5/6 Netball

Unfortunately, the Harrow qualifiers for other sports were unable to take place, so we did not get the chance to add to the already impressive list. Furthermore, the London Finals themselves were cancelled but we know the children would have performed brilliantly as they had worked so hard throughout the year and made huge progress.



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Other sporting achievements

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Swimming Gala- Winners

Year 5 and 6 Cross-country championships- year 5 girls finished 2nd, year 6 girls finished 1st, year 5 boys finished 2nd, year 6 boys finished 1st

Year 5 and 6 Harrow Gymnastics championships- 5/6 B team- finished 3rd

Year 6 Harrow schools cross-country championships- year 6 boys – finished 3rd

Year 5 and 6 Middlesex Cup Football-5/6 girls- finished 3rd

Year 5 and 6 Barnet FC cup – finished 1st

Year 5 and 6 Gymnastics London Youth Games Qualifier- year 5- finished 2nd

Farewell to Year 6

It has been a pleasure working with such dedicated and grateful children who always strive to give their absolute best. We wish them well in their new schools and hope they remain active throughout!