



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

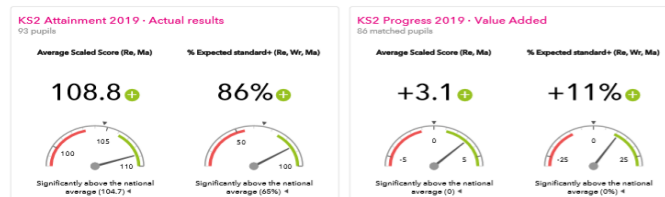
18th October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have enjoyed a really positive first few weeks of the school year. The children have settled into their new classes well and have been working very hard. Thank you for continued support – we are very grateful and fortunate to have such a supportive parent community. When we work together as a whole community – what we can achieve for the children is incredible, we continue to look for the spark in each child, to ignite it, to nurture it and to watch it grow! There have been many exciting curriculum experiences so far this term. Children across different year groups have been on trips to Stonehenge, Southend, the Bracknell Discovery Centre and the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Year 5 experienced the story of Macbeth in their experiential Shakespeare Workshops earlier this term and are looking forward to visiting the Millfield Theatre to watch a performance after half-term; later in the year we look forward to their own interpretation of Macbeth. Year 6 also had fun solving evolution puzzles with a visiting paleontologist this week. The Harvest Festival was particularly enjoyable this term – I would like to thank you for your support with this event and for the donations to the Harrow Foodbank.

We say goodbye to Mrs Dunn after almost four years at West Lodge. Mrs Dunn has achieved an incredible amount in her time at the school since joining in January 2016. Mrs Dunn taught in Year 4 when she joined and proved to be a consistently outstanding teacher, an excellent colleague and committed professional. She took over the role of PE Leader in September 2017 and led the school to achieving the School Games Platinum Award twice – West Lodge was one of the first 100 schools in the country to achieve the award. Mrs Dunn has also transformed our swimming curriculum – the percentage of children achieving the national curriculum standard has dramatically improved and she led the school to become swimming champions of Harrow for the first time. Mrs Dunn will be back to visit on 1st November before travelling back to New Zealand. We wish her all the very best for the future.

As a school we continue to maintain very high standards, and as a school with an excellent reputation for inclusion – we are very pleased that we are able to provide support, challenge and extension for the diverse range of needs within the school. In the latest Fischer Family Trust report our 2019 outcomes places West Lodge in the top 8% of schools nationally for attainment and the top 9% of schools nationally for progress. We are proud of the achievements and believe that this is a result of; the hard work put in by all members of staff and the children, our embedded learning culture and the wonderful support that we get from parents/carers. The image below provides a summary of the end of Key Stage 2 SATs. We are very happy to be significantly above the national average for both attainment and progress.



I would like to thank our Board of Governors once again who provide incredible support – working as volunteers to support the school in many ways. At the recent Full Board of Governors we appointed a new Chair and Vice Chair. Amar Patel was voted in as Chair of Governors; the Vice Chair role will be carried out by Jessel Patel. Phillip Lawder has been voted in as Chair of our Quality and Standards Committee and Mitul Chandarana as the Chair of our Resource Management Committee. We have co-opted two new governors, who both started their terms of office in September: Anita Garg and Sarah Brook. We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor – we will send out an initial letter for nominations on Tuesday 29th October.

I am also incredibly grateful to the FOWLS team – led by Nilaxi Patel and Rashmi Kripalani – who have worked very hard once again this term to provide a range of enjoyable and successful events (see FOWLS section later in the newsletter for more info). I heard that the comedy night went incredibly well and was an enjoyable night with jokes that were (relatively) clean – thank you to Lucy Porter, Justin Edwards, Nilaxi and Rashmi for their hard work organising such a fabulous event – I heard a rumour that we might have a repeat event later in the year.

I would like to finish by paying tribute and offering my gratitude to the staff of West Lodge. The staff are all incredibly committed and continue to think creatively and compassionately about how to ensure the very best provision for all pupils. There is a strong sense of collaboration and support amongst the team and a dedication to continually improve outcomes for all pupils.

A reminder – Monday 28th October is a staff training day and the children start back at school on Tuesday 29th October. I would like to wish everyone a relaxing and safe half term break.

Kind regards,

Jim Dees, Headteacher



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Attendance

Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution. Parents to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age to be punctual and to attend school regularly. With regards to requests for leave of absence during term-time, these will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and if a pupil's attendance has not fallen below the school's expectations. We expect children at West Lodge to have 97%+ attendance over a school year – this is equivalent to a maximum of 6 days absence. The information below shows the number of days absence and what this equates to in percentage terms.

Less than 5 days absence = 98%+ attendance
14 days absence (approx.) = 93.5% attendance
20 days absence (approx.) = 90% attendance
30 days absence (approx.) = 88% attendance

Request for Leave During Term Time

The Government have issued new regulations in September 2013 regarding Leave of Absence; The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

Parents are strongly urged to avoid taking leave during term time. Parents do not have the right to take their child out of school. **No requests for holidays will be authorised during term time.** Headteachers may NOT grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In cases of exceptional circumstances, the Headteacher can authorise up to 5 days absence from school. Any leave requested for holiday at the start or end of the school term will automatically be classed as unauthorised and will not be granted. The Headteacher **will not** grant **any** Request for Leave during term time **unless they consider** there are **exceptional** circumstances relating to the application. Exceptional circumstances being defined as being of unique and significant emotional, educational or spiritual value to the child which outweighs the loss of teaching time.

- Parents do not have any entitlement to take their children on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must establish that there are **exceptional circumstances** and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave
- Headteachers will determine how many school days a child may be absent from school if the leave is granted
- Requests for Leave must be made in advance and failure to do so will result in the absence being unauthorised
- The school can only consider Requests for Leave which are made by the legal guardian of the child
- Requests for Leave which are made in advance and refused will result in the absence being unauthorised which may result in legal action against the parent, by Fixed Penalty Notice, if the child is absent from school during that period.

In considering whether or not to authorise leave, the School will reflect on each case individually, taking into account a child's overall attendance and the reason for the leave. Parents should request leave of absence in advance, and all requests should be submitted at least two weeks before the first day of intended absence using the school proforma.

West Lodge Primary School understands that holidays are generally less expensive during term time but this does **NOT** count as an exceptional circumstance. Leave which is taken for the following reasons will not be authorised:

- Availability of cheaper holidays
- Availability of desired accommodation
- Poor weather experienced in school holidays
- Overlap with beginning or end of term
- Booked the wrong dates by mistake
- Booked by another family member
- Attending a wedding that is not immediate family
- Family birthdays

Exceptional circumstances will be considered on an individual basis at the discretion of the Headteacher.



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Year 6 Roles and Responsibilities

Over the first two weeks of the school year, our Year 6 pupils were busy writing their letters of application for the positions of Head Boy and Head Girl, as well as Sports and House Captains. After listening to some amazing persuasive speeches on the morning of Tuesday 10th of September, the Year 6 pupils cast their votes and **Deji Okikiade** and **Martha Kinsella** were elected as our **Head Boy** and **Head Girl** for the 2019/2020 academic year and **Aaran Shah** and **Rose Barrett** were voted in as **Deputy Head Boy** and **Deputy Head Girl**.

On the afternoon of 18th September, children in Years 4, 5 and 6 voted the following children in as their **Sports Captains**: **Max Agarwal, Audrey Anderson, Rayaana Haq, Zainab Kanji, Alma Petel-Tzuck, Katie Allsop, Aymen Albayati** and **Timothy Odegov**. Also that afternoon, the following children were elected into the roles of **House Captains**: **Ziyana Patel, Sarah Ward, Vivan Patel, Lakindu De Silva, Ashwin Suganthan, Nisha Evans, Dylan Mistry** and **Lily Black**. 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.

West Lodge Primary School Council

There is going to be a new format for the School Council this year. No longer will there be two separate Councils, but one Council, with members from each class from Years 2 – 6. Once a term, there will be a full Council Meeting, but between these meetings, the Council will split into three separate committees with each committee having two children from each year group. Mr Dees will oversee the Council and will meet with them once a term; the three committees, each with a different focus, will be headed up by Mrs Rackham, Mrs Perrotta and Mrs Vaghela. We shall be looking to the children for ideas for the focus of each strand, however Sustainability will be high on the agenda.

Meanwhile, let me introduce the new look School Council.

Committee A	Committee B	Committee C
Green – Valentina, Evyavan	Red – Aria, Oakley	Purple – Anya, Alfie
Turquoise – Catherine, Rishi	Maroon – Megan, John	Lilac – Nina, Ishaan
Topaz – Emily, James	Ruby – Jemima, Shaurya	Pearl – Anika, Ethan
Emerald -Amie, Nikolas	Amber - Honey, Pranav	Aquamarine - Olivia, Avyaan
Sapphire - Aliza, Cameron	Diamond - Kritvi, Sean	Amethyst - Ziyana, Vivan

West Lodge PALS, Digital Leaders and Digital Innovators

It is a pleasure to announce the new Digital Leaders for this academic year. Congratulations to **Alina Truscott, Aisha Khan, Aliza Rizvi, Saanvi Karamchandani, Shyam Chandarana, Alexandra Parkus, Aravan Chhibber, Charlie Harvey, Saumya Satpathy, Rishi Watsalya, Zahra Khan, Saachi Jani, Arjun Chandarana, Boyko Videnov, Kritvi Agarwal** and **Tvisha Shah**.

We are also delighted to have appointed Digital Innovators who will be working closely with Mr Jefferson. They are- **Sienna Patel, Tristan Johnson, Cameron Bristow, Arun Karunadasa, Mahi Tufail, Sri Puppala, Nahom Yifter Nittant Moudgil, Alfie Smith** and **Hrithvik Vimalnath**. Mahi has already completed an excellent mini film on our recent Harvest Festival.

There were many applicants for the roles, each of whom wrote excellent application forms and spoke clearly and confidently during their interview about various Computing topics, including how to keep children safe online. The new team of Digital Leaders and Digital Innovators are all very excited to take on their new role. Digital Leaders will be taking part in green screen training early November and are looking forward to support staff across the school in e-safety and other Computing areas.



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Safeguarding Update



As part of our drive to continue to keep our children safe we have signed up to a partnership project between schools and the Metropolitan Police – **Operation Encompass**.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has been exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident. Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Designated Safeguarding Lead, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.



<https://tutorful.co.uk/guides/the-expert-guide-to-help-your-child-with-anxiety>

With featured advice and resources from The Children's Society, the link above takes you to expert guidance for parents to help children understand, cope and become strengthened by their experiences of anxiety at a young age. The aim is to equip parents across the world with a significant bank of knowledge to ease panic and educate their children about the science of the mind. The chapters on offer include:

1. Symptoms of anxiety in children
2. Talking to children about anxiety: Top tips
3. Recommended by experts: Techniques to help your child with anxiety
4. Opening up: How to encourage your child to confide in you
5. Nurturing optimism in children
6. Go-to anxiety relief tools for children

Our Safeguarding Team

A reminder of who constitutes our the West Lodge Safeguarding Team – if any concerns please speak to one of the team.

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kathy-Ann McClean
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Jim Dees
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Hilary Haines
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ian Bennett
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Sarah Cooper
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Caroline Kinsella
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Hayley Bowerman
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Jeremy West
Health & Safety Lead	Claire Larkman
Safeguarding Governor	Namita Bhatia
Deputy Safeguarding Governor	Victoria McFarland



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PASTORAL UPDATE

On Wednesday 20th November at 9am-10:30am, Harrow Early Support will be coming into school to introduce their local offering to parents. They offer a range of parenting courses, drop in sessions, play sessions and support for local families. Do book your space via our online booking system on our website and come along and hear what they may have to offer to support your family. <https://westlodge.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

PALS

We had over 40 applications for our Peer Assisted Leader (PALs) programme this year which we run at lunchtimes. If you aren't already aware of this, this is a scheme where Year 5 & 6 pupils can apply to be a PAL and support our children (and staff!) at lunchtime. They are recognisable on their playground by their orange PAL branded hi-vis jackets, and they organise games, play with the children, and also mediate on any playground disputes. We have now appointed our latest PALs - they always do a great job and I'm sure this year's new recruits will be no exception!

Sustainability

As a school we recognise the need to be more environmentally conscious but also environmentally proactive.

In our efforts to reduce waste and become a more sustainable school we're happy to inform you that in the Summer term we have started recycling most of our used writing tools. A member of our staff takes them to Ryman's stationery shop in St George's shopping centre where they have a recycling point. These tools are sent to be cleaned and melted down to be remould into new products. Also, all unclaimed lost property is given to Barnados in Pinner for recycling.

Mrs Constanti has started a petition with "38degrees" for free food waste collection in all Harrow schools to become mandatory, if you would like to sign and share with friends and family for this good cause please click on the link below. <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/school-dinners-landfill>

In the mean-time we are in the process of signing up with Harrow council food waste collection for all our lunch food waste.

Cashless Payments and Uniform

Just to remind you that from **January 2020** we will no longer be accepting cash or cheques as payment for lunches, trips, extended day, music tuition etc. Please ensure you know your Parentpay login details and are able to log in (Reception parents will receive their login details in the New Year).

From January we will also be ceasing the sale of uniform items. All items of uniform will be available to purchase from Kevins in Pinner or Angels in Rayners Lane. We will be running a uniform sale later this term to sell off some of our remaining stock.

SEND Parents Support Group

We have a parents' group that meets on the 1st Monday of every month, at 9.00 am in Daisy's in the Park. Please feel free to join in as this open to anyone with a child with SEN or has a keen interest in this area.

We will be hosting regular forums at school with the group – the first will be in mid-November, we will send out a date after half-term.

UNWANTED SOCKS/TIGHTS NEEDED PLEASE

Mrs Thompson says we are running out of socks and tights in the welfare room - so if anyone can kindly donate any pairs that would be highly appreciated. Thank you.

Healthy Fruit Snack

We would like to remind parents that only a fruit snack is to be brought into school please. This is to encourage healthy eating habits for our children. Thank you.



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Educational Visits and Workshops

Southend-On-Sea – Year 2

Year 2 have been really enjoying their Seaside topic. A special treat this term was the trip to Southend-On-Sea. The children loved playing with the sand and finding shells. They also enjoyed learning about starfish at the Sealife Centre and touching a real starfish. At the RNLI the children had great fun trying on some of the volunteers' equipment. What an exciting trip it was!

Stonehenge – Year 3

On Thursday 26th September, as part of our History topic on 'Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age' Year 3 visited Stonehenge. The visit brought to life all that the children had been learning in their History lessons about Stone Age and what an incredible feat of team work and engineering it was in constructing this site. Whilst walking around the monument the children got a real sense of the importance and significance of Stonehenge and the area surrounding it. The children were able to see the tools and methods used in the construction, displayed in the Visitor Centre, as well as experiencing what it would be like sitting in the centre of Stonehenge during the different seasons in an audio-visual 360-degree video experience. The children also had an opportunity to explore the homes of the Neolithic people. Luckily the rain held off and a great day was had by all.

The Chiltern Open Air Museum – Year 5

On Tuesday 17th September, Year 5 started our Victorian and Street Child topics with a 'bang' by visiting The Chiltern Open Air Museum. The whole group looked great in their Victorian costume and we were very lucky with the weather. Through taking part in workshops throughout the day, we learnt a great deal about what cooking, home life and schooling were like during the mid to late 19th century. All of the memorable experiences from our special day will now help the children to empathise better with characters as well as understand how people used to live within the UK. Thank you to the accompanying parents for the support.

Shakespeare Workshop – Year 5

All three Year 5 classes worked with a professional actor to re-enact Shakespeare's Macbeth. The children became part of the ensemble and also took on the roles of the main characters to explore the themes and language of the play. We are looking forward to seeing 'The Scottish Play' at The Millfield Theatre on Tuesday 5th November and then using the text and themes to stimulate our work in Drama and English.





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Performing Arts Update

Harvest Festival

On Thursday 10th October, we celebrated our Harvest Festival at Pinner Baptist Church. Both the Lower and Upper School festivals were well supported by parents and were lovely occasions to be involved in. The choirs sang beautifully and our Head Boy, Deputy Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl led the event clearly and professionally. Thank you to the church for creating such a lovely Harvest Display and supporting us with the talks and a big thank you to Mr Bristow for giving up the majority of his day to help us with the sound technology.

Year 5/6 Orchestra

Our season has started well with a good number of new players joining us from Year 5. They are already starting to make a good sound and are developing the skill of listening to each other when playing in a group (a much harder skill than simply playing by themselves). Mrs Lyczba has arranged some lovely pieces for the children and we have just purchased a medley of Christmas tunes, ready for the Christmas Fete.

Year 5/6 Choir

Our year has started well with a huge number of children showing real commitment to our Friday lunchtime rehearsals. 67 children have signed up for the choir and we are particularly excited to mention that that number included 17 boys (that's a record). Our first outing to The Harvest Festival went really well and we are now starting to work on Christmas. The children should be working on The Young Voices songs from now onwards in preparation for the concert at the O2 on February 6th. As mentioned on the 'Choir Community' on Db Primary, the choir children all now have access to the lyrics, song videos and dance moves within the 'Children's Music Room' of the Young Voices Website. The code they need to type in is YV2020.

Keyboard Club

Some of our Year 5 children have just started their 'Introduction to the Musical Keyboard' after school club with Mrs Jones. Within these sessions, the children will develop their skills of fingering, reading staff notation, playing together and listening to each other. We look forward to hearing from them during our Music Evening, later in the year.

String Ensemble

We have an active string ensemble that meet on Friday mornings at 8:00am. This is led by Richard Wade and there are still places available – so if your child learns the violin, viola or cello please contact the school and we can arrange for them to join. It is a really enjoyable free session and the children benefit from playing with others – the group hope to perform at the Christmas Fair and other future events.

MUSIC AWARDS

Aliza Rizvi	Grade 1	Violin
Sienna Patel	Grade 1	Violin
Anaya Johnson	Grade 1	Violin
Simran Vara	Grade 2	Violin
Jenani Muralitharan	Grade 2	Violin
Thomas Haria	Grade 3	Cello





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School Travel Plan

West Lodge Primary School seeks to promote the benefits walking to school – but also want to ensure the safety of all children at pick-up and drop-off times. I would like to remind everyone of the three core principles of our School Travel Plan: 1) Encourage an active lifestyle; 2) Improve safety for pupils on the school journey; 3) Cut down pollution.

I would like to ask for your help in upholding these principles, so firstly please choose the healthy, safer option and walk your children to school instead of driving. If you really must drive, please:

- **Under no circumstances stop or park on the yellow 'SCHOOL-KEEP-CLEAR' zig-zag markings, or the white zig-zag markings.** The intention of these markings is to restrict parking so that pedestrians, in particular school children wishing to cross, have a clear view, making it safer to cross the road. Having a clear area outside school is very important, as often drivers are unable to see small children wanting to cross between stationary cars.
- Park in a safe place away from the entrance and walk to school for the remainder of your journey.
- Under no circumstance stop or park in front of local residents' driveways.

Our school council wrote to Harrow last year about improving safety on the roads around the school – the consultation period has now closed and Harrow have agreed to extend the time period for the restricted parking on the yellow zig-zag lines. I would also remind parents that we should not be turning into Dickson Fold to park – this causes congestion and becomes incredibly dangerous.

SEWA Week

Over two weeks, West Lodge celebrated SEWA by performing selfless acts of kindness. It was to see a wide range of different projects across each year group that met the three guiding principles of SEWA: to help relieve hardship and poverty; to bring some joy to those who have little; and to help the environment. Some highlights are Topaz Class baking cakes for the Armed Forces at the Northwood base, Year 2 raising money for the RNLI, and Year 6 hosting a tea party for the elderly. Well done to all of the children for their enthusiasm when participating in their SEWA activities, but remember 'Everyday is SEWA day!'

Author/Tale of the Month and Book Bingo

This year at West Lodge we have decided to launch some new reading initiatives. We want to ensure that children at our school are always developing a love and pleasure for reading. It has been lovely to see the buzz that these reading initiatives have started to create around school! In Key Stage 1 and 2, children will focus on a different author for each month of the academic year. Children in Key Stage 1 have loved bringing in books by Kes Gray and Dr Seuss, whilst in Key Stage 2 children have enjoyed reading books by Michael Morpurgo and Sita Brahmachari. Children in reception have begun focusing on a monthly traditional tale and will be encouraged to find and explore different versions of these texts. They have already loved learning the story of the Little Red Hen and sharing different texts in class! In Key Stage 1 and 2, children have also been completing their book bingo challenges.

Please encourage children to show their class teacher once they have reached bingo! Keep up the super reading West Lodge!

Author Visit

Just last week, with the help from and organisation by Brooks Bookshop in Pinner, we were visited by acclaimed UK author and illustrator Jim Smith, author of the Barry Loser series of books. He led a captivating and interactive assembly with the children, which included a fun draw-a-long illustration session, enjoyed by both pupils and staff. Following the assembly, he held a book signing session with the children where they received a personal caricature alongside his signature in their books.



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OUTDOOR LEARNING

Our outdoor learning prompt for October is to create leaf art with Autumn leaves. Children in Kaleidoscope have already made some colourful Autumn trees using paint and leaves. We literally got our hands dirty this half term. In the Adventure Playground we introduced small spades for the children to dig with. The addition of water to the Mud Kitchen has led to the creation of many potions. We have harvested the crops from our raised beds, including tomatoes, corn on the cob and a whopper of a marrow! A big 'thank you' to Neil Reidman who is donating plants and bulbs, offering his advice, expertise, as well as his time to support the school with weeding and planting the raised beds ready for winter.



OPAL

OPAL play continues to go from strength to strength. The children have made some amazing structures this half term, despite some varied weather conditions! Neil Coleman, our OPAL Mentor, visited with a number of other schools last week to and they were all very inspired by the play that was happening. Thank you to those families who continue to donate their loose parts. We always need the following:

- Suitcases of any size and type - anything on wheels/castors
- Plastic milk crates and wooden pallets
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, work tables, wooden spoons, chopping boards
- Tools like spades, trowels, brooms and buckets
- Nets and ropes
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators that are no longer working
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric/saris)
- Cable drums

Recipe for Change – West Lodge Restaurant

Earlier this term, we had a successful meeting between Paul Aagaard from Recipe for Change, and our lunch staff. We have since re-invigorated our lunchtimes, inside and outside. In the dining room, children have been organised as usual, via table seating plans completed with their class teachers. They continue to take turns to be Table Captain, and it is lovely to see our children take their responsibilities seriously, ensuring that no-one is left on their own to eat.

We have introduced a daily **thank** to help conversations flow and widen our lunchtime conversations; this is being helped along by extra adults in the dining room, as staff are having their lunch in the dining hall on some days too. Wall displays and displays on each table remind our children about dining room expectations and etiquette, as well as providing visual information about food available each day. Assemblies and modelling expectations in the dining room have reinforced positive lunchtime behaviours and we have been very proud to receive a number of visitors from schools near and far, who recognised the benefits of our hard work in making lunch times a more positive experience for all of our children in our restaurant.



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FOWLS Update

Dear Parents/Carers

It's been a less active term than the previous one, and for that I think we are all slightly grateful, as we prepare for a very busy year ahead.

We are pleased to report that of our two events so far, the first event, the second-hand uniform sale and £1 book sale raised a total amount **of £315**.

The second, a brand-new FOWLS event, the Comedy Night raised an amazing amount of just over **£2,000**. It really was a fun and exciting evening that was only made possible by our lovely West Lodge mum and professional comedian Lucy Porter and her wonderful friends who kindly joined us last weekend to entertain us. I'm sure you will agree that this is a fantastic result so early in to the academic year.

A big thank you to our eco-team (Joanna Sargent, Sheila Pandya and Mrs Aldrich) who have come on board to support and advise us – the comedy night was our first eco aware event with the aim of creating minimal waste and using eco-friendly products. Those who attended may have noticed the distinct lack of single use plastic! We hope with our new team, to make this a more visible feature of all our events including the upcoming Christmas Fair.

We still have a number of fundraising events in the second half of this term, starting with the Halloween pop up shop on the 30th October, where you will be able to purchase various Halloween items at Spooktacular prices! We hope you can join us after school in the playground.

We will also have the opportunity to assist local business Andrew Pearce with their window display for Pinner Panto again this year. Artwork created by some of the children and Ms Taylor will be chosen specially to promote this year's special Pinner Panto theme.

And finally, not forgetting our Christmas Fair, we continue to plan for this annual event. 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 raise awareness of this event by displaying a Gibbs Gillespie board outside your house to help promote this event. 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.

If you can help please let us know by contacting us at westlodge.fowls@gmail.com.

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.

We hope you have a restful half term.

Nilaxi and Rashmi - Chair
Nikita and Mona - Treasury



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2019 Bebras Challenge

What is the challenge?

The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organised in over 40 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. The challenges are made of a set of short problems called Bebras tasks and are delivered online. The tasks are fun, engaging and based on problems that Computer Scientists often meet and enjoy solving. The tasks can be solved without prior knowledge but instead require logical thinking. At West Lodge, we are integrated into challenges into our computing lessons and are inviting all pupils in KS2 to have a go when the window opens from 4th - 15th November. The challenge will be done in school and every student who enters will receive a certificate for their efforts. More information can be found here: <http://www.bebas.uk/students.html>

What can we do at home?

The challenges are a great way of initiating stimulating discussion around problem solving. There are two previous challenges, which can be found on the homepage of www.bebas.uk or by following this link: https://challenge.bebas.uk/index.php?action=user_competitions.

You can dip in and out of them so you only need a few minutes to have a go at each one. Don't panic if you don't know the answers, as there is also the answer booklet on the homepage too! If you are feeling brave you may want to have a go at the harder levels yourself!

Have a go and have some fun!

Healthy Lifestyles

To maintain a basic level of health, government guidelines recommend children and young people (aged 5 to 18 years) need to do at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day ranging from moderate activity (cycling, playground games) to vigorous activity (running, gymnastics, tennis, team games).

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/physical-activity-guidelines-children-and-young-people/>

The Youth Sports Trust has undertaken considerable research on children aged 7 to 16 years on the link between mental wellbeing (happiness) and those undertaking or supporting physical activity. Those with the highest mental wellbeing were active daily with the next best scores seen in those who were active for some of the week. There was also positive correlation between rates of physical activity and attendance at school, reading, writing and maths scores. Harrow has the highest rates of tooth decay amongst children in the whole of London. There is a strong correlation between poor oral health and obesity amongst children. The percentage of children overweight or obese at West Lodge in reception (12%) and year 6 (20%) is lower than the rest of Harrow (18% and 36%) which in turn is below the figures in England (20% and 34%). However, in any population, children who are overweight and obese should not exceed 10% and 5% respectively.

In accordance with the Youth Sport Trust, West Lodge has a commitment to healthy active lifestyles. The school embeds a policy to deliver physical education in curriculum time as well as promoting general wellbeing through practising physical literacy and inclusion in PE lessons and extracurricular time.

The National Curriculum states children leaving primary school in year 6 should be able to swim confidently and competently for at least 25 metres using a range of strokes and perform safe self-rescue. Despite these guidelines, nearly a third of 11 year olds in England leave primary school unable to swim. Crash courses for children learning to swim can be found on this link: <https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/hillingdon/highgrove-leisure-centre>



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.



Sports News



School Games Platinum Award

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success – we have now achieved the Platinum Award (the highest level) for the second time!

23rd September, Year 5 and 6 Indoor Cricket vs Pinner Park, Whitmore School

The team got our season off to a great start by beating a very strong Pinner Park Squad. We won the toss and elected to bowl first. The whole team bowled really well even managing to bowl some excellent maidens! When it was our turn to bat, we reached our target within six overs. Congratulations to the whole team but particularly Aaran for some tactical captaincy. We now look forward to our next match in November against Norbury School.

Squad: Aaran, Sai, Lakindu, Zain, Aravan, Leighton, Ben and Max.

7th October, Year 5 football Friendly vs Longfield

West Lodge took two Year 5 teams to participate in 5 a side football matches. For some of the children, it was their first time representing the school and their excitement was clear to see; the West Lodge anthem was sung with great enthusiasm for the majority of the 25 minute walk to the venue! We took part in a series of matches over the course of the afternoon. The children showed good leadership skills to referee their own games as much as possible, sort their team's substitutions, and to organise the team formation for each game. Except for one of the matches, all the games were close in terms of the score line. The performances of the West Lodge goalkeepers were a particular highlight as they made many impressive saves. We also managed to create some chances and score plenty of good goals. It was a great experience for those involved and look forward to more sport afternoons in the future.

Squad: Kian, Adam, Fraser, Siddarth, Kanish, Shayan, Daniyal, Savith, Arin, Max T, Niam, Imran, Aaryan, Nikolas.

8th October, Year 5 and 6 Away Friendly vs Byron Court

Byron Court proved to be the better side on the day and earned a 5-2 victory in the pouring rain. The match was a worthwhile experience as it showed us where we needed to improve and gave us some ideas of how to approach the Harrow Cup competition on Saturday 12th October. Squad: Henry, Deji, Max, Ethan, Joseph, Aarav, Ben, Leighton, Zac, Angel, Darren.

12th October, Year 5 and 6 Barnet FC cup, The Hive

The winners of this competition would go on to represent Harrow in the Middlesex County Cup competition in 2020. After a confident start, winning our first game 4-0, we suffered two narrow defeats in a row. Despite this, we managed to turn it round in the semi-final and scored late on to win 1-0 and make it through to the final to play one of the teams that had beaten us in the group stage. It was a very tight final and eventually went to penalties. We held our nerve to win on sudden death and book our place in the Middlesex round. This was the first competitive football match of the season and it was the perfect way to start. The whole team worked incredibly hard, showed great calmness under pressure, and should be extremely proud of this tremendous achievement. Squad: Henry, Deji, Max, Ethan, Joseph, Aarav, Ben, Leighton, Zac, Angel, Darren

Chess

Advanced chess club has begun in earnest on Wednesday mornings with 36 members. Intermediate club (Thursday) has fewer members which allows for more focused teaching. West Lodge Primary School will have the honour of hosting the Harrow Primary Chess competition on 3rd December 2019. ***Every chess master was once a beginner. Irving Chernev***

Table Tennis

Nicholas Li's Monday morning club has begun for Year 6 players with some being chosen to take part in a league taking place at Oak Wood School in Hillingdon.