



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

20th December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all your support this term – I am very grateful for the wonderful support you all provide to the school. Our Board of Governors have worked tirelessly once again this term, playing such an important role guiding, supporting and challenging us – I am very thankful for all they do in helping to ensure that we continue to move forward as a school. The FOWLS team – led so well by Nilaxi, Rashmi, Mona and Nikita have had a very successful term raising vital funds for the school and continuing to build our sense of community – thank you to them all. Over the last two weeks we have enjoyed all the Christmas productions – the children produced such memorable performances and they were all a huge success: Reception – Shine Star Shine; Year 1 - The Minty Mice; Year 2 – Sparkle and Year 3 - Cinderella Rockerfella. I would also like to thank the staff team at West Lodge – who are so dedicated and committed to ensuring that they provide the very best for the children of West Lodge. I witness how hard they work and I feel very fortunate to work with such an incredible team of people.

I want to take this opportunity to say goodbye to the following members of staff, who are beginning new adventures from January: Miss Rolnick, Miss Fenton, Mr Mendis, Mrs Holcombe and Mrs Stalley. Miss Rolnick is taking up a role as a Read, Write, Inc Consultant Trainer in January. Read, Write, Inc is a passion for Miss Rolnick and the opportunity arose allowing her to take this different route in her career. Miss Rolnick joined West Lodge as Deputy Headteacher in September 2015 and has played a crucial role in a period of transition for the school as West Lodge changed Headteachers. She has been instrumental in the leadership of the school in this new era – leading the curriculum as well as the development of teaching and learning. Miss Rolnick has driven the embedding of Read, Write, Inc. in Reception and Key Stage 1, thus helping to ensure children develop a strong foundation in phonics and early reading. In addition to this leading on the positive changes we have made to the children's lunchtime experience through the OPAL and Recipe for Change programmes.

Mrs Holcombe is also leaving West Lodge as she is relocating to Somerset. Mrs Holcombe joined West Lodge First School in September 2004, this was prior to the amalgamation. She worked in a number of roles across the school – working initially as a classteacher - she worked in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. In recent years Mrs Holcombe has worked incredibly hard setting up interventions and systems to support pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL). This also included leading training sessions for staff.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Stalley this term. Mrs Stalley joined West Lodge soon after the amalgamation as an Autism Advisory Teacher – she has worked one day a week at West Lodge over the last seven years. As the former Deputy Headteacher for Alexandra Special School Mrs Stalley brought a huge amount of experience to the role – supporting pupils and providing training and advice for staff. Mrs Stalley played a crucial role in the establishment of Kaleidoscope and she has provided invaluable expertise over the years enabling us to build our knowledge, capacity and experience in this area. To such an extent, that we are now a Learning Hub for other schools.

Miss Fenton would like to gain a range of different experiences during her time in the UK and would like to pursue a role as a day to day agency teacher. This will provide her with greater flexibility. Miss Fenton has brought great energy and enthusiasm to her role as Orange Classteacher. She has really enjoyed her time with Orange Class and played a crucial role in supporting their transition from the EYFS curriculum to Year 1.

There have been many enjoyable events this half term. Year 5 enjoyed their trip to the theatre to see Midsummer Night's Dream – this stimulated an interesting topic on Shakespeare. A trip to the West End was enjoyed by Year 4, as they went to see Aladdin in November. Studying Ancient Greece has been an interesting topic for Year 6 and their topic culminated in some excellent Ancient Greek workshops. We enjoyed a wonderful Cluster Carols event in early December where we joined Nower Hill, Pinner High, Pinner Park, Pinner Wood, St John Fisher and Cannon Lane at St Alban's Church in North Harrow for a morning of festive singing. Our own Carol Concert, also held at St Alban's Church, was a huge success. Also, the annual Pinner Pantomime was as enjoyable as ever – with our Y4 Choir, Year 5/6 Choir and Y6 Dance Club all performing to a very high standard. I would like to thank Mr Went, Mrs Taylor, Mr Revens and Miss Rolnick for working hard with the Choirs, Dance Club and Drama Club to prepare their performances for both of these events – they were magical evenings. Also, I would like thank Reverend Kate Tuckett from St Alban's Church for her continued support.

I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas break.

Kind regards,
Jim Dees



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Recipe for Change

We have worked very hard to improve our lunchtime and are delighted that our new dining hall systems are working so well. We believe that we have turned our dining hall into a restaurant style setting where children are given time to talk to their peers, eat their food and contribute to keeping the area tidy and safe. Before we launched our restaurant style dining room in October last year the environment was noisy and rushed. Now it is calm, relaxed and social. School meal uptake has increased by 20%, food waste has gone down and children are ready for learning in afternoon lessons. Children working as Table Captains, which includes waiting for slow eaters as well as clearing away finished plates and bowls, is an important part of this new service.

The Table Captains role continues to be extremely successful. There are many reasons why we believe that this role is so important. We believe that it is a fundamental part of teaching children about Character Education – the teaching of core ethical values. It is a basic life skill. Children learn to clear up after themselves rather than presume someone else will do it. The Table Captain duty is something we feel makes a positive contribution to our school ethos and supports our core values of being ready, respectful and safe. Do go to our website and watch the video where some of our Year 5 and Year 6 children talk about how the Table Captain role has taught them new skills and supports our core values. We also believe that the Table Captain role gives our Midday Supervisors time to engage with the children and teach children the social curriculum - role model good manners, encourage eating and facilitate good conversation.

Our new dining room service was developed by [Recipe for Change](#) who specialise in helping schools improve their lunchtime provision. The company have helped many other schools locally. Recipe for Change has introduced a new dining room service for 25 schools over the last 3 years and the total number of children involved from all 25 schools is over 9,000.

We are proud of the work we have done to create a positive learning culture. Improving our lunchtimes both in the dining room and the playground have been instrumental in helping us create that culture.

OPAL and the Adventure Playground

It has been yet another fantastic term of OPAL. The children continue to wow us with their constructions and the play continues to evolve. As you can imagine, after a very rainy few weeks, many of the OPAL items are pretty exhausted and we need to replace them. Please remember to keep the following items and send them in when we return in January:

- 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
- Keyboards/torches/kettles/calculators that are no longer working
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric/saris)

Our fabulous new adventure playground has been completed and all children have been given a chance to explore the new area. The most popular zones so far seem to be the mud kitchen and the den building area! We look forward to putting an outdoor table tennis up in this area too. Please can we ask that children do not play in the adventure playground before or after school. The slopes that lead up to the adventure playground from the main playground are out of bounds at the moment. They will be available in the new year once they have their ropes attached to them.

Thank you so much to the whole community for raising the funds that have allowed us to install the adventure playground. We wouldn't have been able to do it without you!



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Chess at West Lodge

During the autumn term, chess at West Lodge has been thriving with the Advanced Club containing thirty two experienced chess players from Upper School learning and practising the game in a breakfast club on Wednesday mornings. The Intermediate group meets on Thursday mornings with a dedicated core of twelve players.

Throughout the spring term, the top thirty players will take part in the largest school chess tournament in the world, the UK Chess Challenge. The children will compete in 7 rounds of chess over 7 weeks to find the best girl and best boy for each year group. The top players will then go on to the Mega-Final stage and compete with children from all over the country.

An exciting addition to the chess programme at West Lodge has been the teaching of chess through the prism of computational thinking. During computing lessons in Year 4 we have been using chess to explore problem solving and the writing of code (algorithms). All three Year 4 classes have participated in this new part of the Computing curriculum and have shown great enthusiasm for the subject. It has been a great pleasure to teach the uninitiated the basics of chess and linking it to the process of computational thinking and helping the more experienced chess players deepen their thinking and understanding of the game.

MindUp Update

This term the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning the neuroscience behind how their brain works. They have learnt all about their Amygdala (Guard Dog), Hippocampus (Hippo) or Pre Frontal Cortex (Wise Owl). The children have also been participating and sometimes leading, 3 daily brain breaks. These brain breaks are part of the core practice of MindUp, and allow the children to spend a few minutes focusing on regulating their breathing, with the aim of sharpening their focus and slowing their heart rate.

Over the next half term, the children will be experiencing the relationship between their senses, our moving bodies and the way we think.

On Wednesday 6th February, there will be a session for parents to find out more information about MindUp.



Brain Break Script

- o Sit down in a comfortable position.
- o Close your eyes or look down at your palms (to be respectful of others in the classroom).
- o Take calm, slow breaths, and listen to the sound of the chime for as long as it lasts.
- Hit chime- wait until you cannot hear the chime.*
- o Pay attention to your breathing.
- Pause for 10 seconds.*
- o Feel your stomach rising and falling.
- Pause for 10 seconds.*
- o If your mind wanders, that's ok. Try to bring your focus back to your breathing.
- Pause for 10 seconds.*
- o Picture the air coming into your body and going out again.
- Pause for 10 seconds.*
- o When you hear the chime again, listen for as long as it lasts.
- o When you can't hear the sound any longer, slowly open your eyes, look to the front of the room and smile!
- Hit chime- wait until you cannot hear the chime.*

Road Safety

I am disappointed to say that I have witnessed incidents of unsafe driving and parking around the school. I would like to remind everyone that we have a joint responsibility to ensure that the roads are safe at drop-off and pick-up times.

Remember - Please don't block driveways or park on double yellow lines. I would urge everyone to walk to school where possible – if you do have to drive please park in a safe place away from the school entrance and walk the remainder of the journey. I would encourage everyone to adhere to the three core principles of our school travel plan:

- Encourage an active lifestyle
- Improve safety for pupils on the school journey
- Cut down pollution

Photo Gallery





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FOWLS

Dear Parents and Carers

Well what can we say except a BIG thanks to you all, for an amazing fundraising term, with the grand finale of our Christmas Fair last week! None of this is possible without your support, and the support of our children. We would like to pay a special tribute to the Mini FOWLS helpers from Yr5 and Yr6, who did such a wonderful job at the Christmas Fair:

Meliyah, Anaya, Rafaela, Inika, Zahra D, Rowen, Alexi, Reuben, Martha, Ria, Adhrit, Udayashree, Libby, Sienna, Siddarth, Zahra A, Aaron, Simran, Sachi and Ella.

Many congratulations to all our raffle tickets winners, we hope you enjoy your prizes. All of the money raised goes directly back to our school, to fund new projects for all of our children to benefit from. I'm pleased to say that this year's Christmas Fair alone raised £7,000.

In total this term we have raised just over £11, 000, which includes funds raised from second hand uniform sale, cinema night, Navratri, Christmas Fair and the Halloween disco.

The Art Project is still to be finalised, as purchases can still be made through their website. We will be relaunching The Fundraising Project which was the class year group aprons and class tumblers in the New Year. We have a final thank you to the Rollason family who have made a very generous donation to FOWLS, and to the Pandya family, who have Match Funded at the Christmas fair. Both of which have boosted funds for FOWLS and in turn for our school.

Match Funding

Match funding is a simple way through which we can maximise funds raised for FOWLS (a registered charity supporting the school). The majority of companies provide an opportunity to permanent employees to apply for match funding where the company will match £ for £ on the funds raised in a stall volunteered by the employee. If you are interested to know more or would like to apply for match funding for our forthcoming FOWLS events please contact the FOWLS Treasurers Nikita or Mona.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to another successful term ahead! 🎄🎁🎅🎊

Regards,

Nilaxi and Rashmi - Chair
Nikita and Mona - Treasury

FOWLS events in the Spring Term:

Upper School Cake Sale - Thursday 31st January

£1 a Book Sale – Thursday 14th February

FOWLS Book Fair – Tuesday 5th March, Wednesday 6th March & Thursday 7th March

FOWLS Quiz Night – Saturday 16th March

Pop-up Mother's Day Shop – Monday 25th March – Friday 29th March

Christmas Gifts

We would like to say thank you to all parents/carers for the gifts given to staff – we appreciate the generous spirit that these are given in. However we are aware that Christmas can also be a very expensive time of year and we feel it is important to say that we don't ever expect gifts and feel that no parent should ever feel compelled or obliged to give a gift or donate to a collection. We have chosen to all work in a school because we are passionate about supporting and helping children – our reward is in the progress that the children make.

Foodbank Mondays

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 'Foodbank Mondays' appeal. We had an overwhelming response, collecting 100 kg of donations. Through one small idea from the Lower School Council, we have been able to make the lives of many families in need, a little more festive this Christmas.





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Performing Arts at West Lodge

Band Festival 2018

On Tuesday 27th November, a rather wet night, a record eighteen of our brass and woodwind players were involved in the Band Festival at Harrow Arts Centre. It was also lovely to see ex pupil Sebastian Clifford-Varley performing and supporting with his trombone once again. They performed such an eclectic mix of music from 'The Greatest Showman', 'The Dambuster's March' and 'Is this the way to Amarillo?' The children should be so proud of their effort and musicality as after such a long day of rehearsing, they still had the energy and enthusiasm to perform to such a high standard. The audience were thoroughly entertained and we all left with smiles on our faces. Congratulations to all the performers: Inika Acharya, Dylan Mistry, Aleisha Dhalla, Marianna Ovsyankina, Tristan Johnson, Shriya Jerath, Lowena Alberici, Ethan Chu, Sophiya Dhanani, Anli Breckenridge, Jasmine Clifton, Anoushka Balaratnam, Amelie Hogberg, Lucy Groom, Rohan Sohal, Sofia Samiullah, Aymen Albayati, Vishaka Dhankhar

Arts Award

We are pleased to announce that 22 children from Amber class have been successful at achieving the Arts Award, Explore level for their illustration project at The Heath Robinson Museum. Lorenzo De Almeida Bowen has also been awarded a scholarship to attend the Art Club at The Heath Robinson Museum – what a fantastic achievement!

Pinner Panto

On a rather wet and blustery 29th of November evening, three of our performing arts groups performed at the Pinner Panto. It was lovely to see so much support for our children both from parents/carers and also ex pupils. Congratulations to the Year 4 Choir, Year 5/6 Choir and the Dance Club for their wonderfully entertaining performances.

Joint concert with Northwood Choral Society

On Saturday 8th December, some of our Year 5/6 choir took part in a joint venture with NCS. Within the concert, both choirs sang separately and together. All of the participants should be very proud of their efforts; particularly Eesha and Anoushka for their stunning first verse solo in Once in Royal David's City.

Year 4 Choir – Pinner House Care Home

The Year 4 choir had a lovely time singing at Pinner House. The residents really enjoyed hearing some new Christmas songs as well as joining in with some old favourites.

Year 5 – St Vincent's Nursing Home

Year 5 entertained the elderly people at St. Vincent's Nursing home with traditional carols. It was lovely to watch the children bring smiles to the resident's faces and give time to share their talents.

Year 6 Choir – The Haven Nursing Home

On 13th December the Year 6 choir thoroughly enjoyed sharing our carol singing at The Haven Care Home in Hatch End. The residents really loved the singing and the choir should be so proud of their performance as well as the way they so naturally communicated with the audience. A lovely experience enjoyed by all.

Christmas Fair

Thank you to all the children who gave their time and talents to perform at the Christmas Fair. Both choirs, the Year 6 dancers and Steel Pans Club helped us all get into the festive spirit.

Carol Concert

On December 17th many children and their families came together for our annual Carol Concert at St Alban's church. There were performances from both choirs, the Year 6 Dance Club as well as a fantastic interpretation of The Christmas Story which was performed by the Year 5 Drama Group. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this evening special.



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Performing Arts

New Keyboard

We are delighted to announce that Pinner Folk and Blues club; an amateur group of musicians, has purchased for us a brand new keyboard. So many of our children here at West Lodge play instruments and their lessons will be enriched by the arrival of this new resource!

Here is a photo of some of the PINFAB playing during an assembly for us on the 4th December. The keyboard in the picture is the actual one they have given to the school. Many thanks to PINFAB for their very generous donation!



Khaliya on BBC Breakfast

We were very excited to witness Khaliya performing on BBC Breakfast as part of her choir on Wednesday 19th December, she was superb!!

We would also like to thank all parents for their continued support with all of our performing arts events.

Music Awards

Ojas Shrestha	Silver	Tabla
Thomas Haria	Bronze & Grade 1 (Merit)	Cello
Mahi Tufail	Bronze & Grade 1 (Merit)	Cello
Pranati Akella	Grade 1 (Merit)	Violin
Ellay Vaughan	Grade 1 (Merit)	Violin
Jessica Akinboro	Grade 1 (Merit)	Violin
Ali Abouel Hassan	Grade 2 (Merit)	Violin
Riya Patel	Grade 1 (Merit)	Violin
Jenani Muralitharan	Grade 1 (Merit)	Violin
Yash Kedia	Grade 1 (Distinction)	Violin
Lowena Alberici	Grade 1 (Distinction)	Flute
Inika Acharya	Grade 1 (Distinction)	Flute
Lucy Groom	Grade 1 (Merit)	Flute
Imran Merali	Bronze	Flute
Kian Chauhan	Bronze	Flute
Atharva Sahay	Bronze	Cello
Amie Yifter	Bronze	Cello
Lalita Shoor	Bronze	Cello
Crystal Bird	Bronze	Cello
Thomas Haria	Grade 1 (Merit)	Cello
Mahi Ella Tufail	Grade 1 (Merit)	Cello
Simran Vara	Grade1 (Merit)	Violin

Arts Award Discover

Iustin Alexa
Aaryan Bhosale
Ciara Buchanan
Nisha Evans
Stuti Ghosh
Thomas Haria
Anaya Johnson
Tristan Johnson
Alexandra Makar
Nittant Moudgil
Vivan Paul
Alma Petel-Tzuck
Meliyah Phylactou
Joshua Rhodes
Aliza Rizvi
Tvisha Shah
Darren Stefanescu
Zahara Taj
Boyko Videnov
Sarah-Louise Ward
Abbey Wilabraham
Nahom Yifter



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Sports Newsletter – Autumn 2

12th November – Indoor Cricket League Match

On 12th November our Indoor Cricket team took part in another group match against Longfield School. We batted first and scored an impressive 144 run in our ten overs with Julian, Ariv, Adhrit and Josh batting beautifully. Due to our consistently tight and accurate bowling, we then managed to restrict Longfield to only 17 runs all out. Hopefully this fantastic result will mean that we are now through to the semi-finals in January - watch this space. Congratulations to all!

Indoor Cricket Squad - Eshan, Adhrit, Ariv, Julian, Josh, Yash, Sai and Zain.

13th November, Year 5 and 6 Barnet FC League Cup, The Hive

West Lodge fielded a squad made up of year 5s and lost a tight first game 1-0, drew the second game 1-1 thanks to a goal from Aaran. The third game was a 4-2 defeat with goals from Deji and Aaran. The final game was a 2-2 draw with two goals from Darren. This was a great experience and will make the squad stronger in the long term.

Squad: Zac, Angel, Deji, Aaran, Darren, Ameer, Henry, Max.

23rd November, Harrow Cluster Sportshall Athletics Competition

West Lodge gained a narrow but well deserved victory at this cluster competition to qualify for the Harrow sports hall finals in the New Year. Our combined running, jumping and throwing total was just 58 points ahead of Norbury. The next round promises to be even more competitive but the squad will be ready if they show the same determination and willingness in preparing for this competition. Well done to the whole squad!

Year 6: Amelie C, Lucy, Amelie H, Lowena, Julian, Rian, Jenani, Josh, Eshan, Jenani, Florence, Niall, Lois, Aarav, Udayasree, Mohammed/

Year 5: Nisha, Boyko, Aaran, Audrey, Zac, Angel, Max, Henry, Aishwini, Deji, Lulah, Sahil,/ Year 4: Maya, Honey

29th November, Harrow Tag Rugby Competition, Harrow Rugby club

On Thursday 29th November, West Lodge took three Year 4 teams and three Year 5/6 teams to Harrow Rugby Club for the Saracens Tag Rugby Festival. It was great to see the skills they have been developing in PE lessons put into play, making some excellent tags and scoring tries. The most pleasing thing was seeing the great team spirit. Win, lose or draw, the children supported each other throughout. Well done to all the children involved.

Year 4 Squad: Ben, Leighton, Clem, Maria, Anika, Honey, Haris, Joseph, Cameron, Adam, Rayan, Aarav, Ridhi, Lili, Mia, Shanaya, Nikolas, Zac, Lalilta, Ethan, Aryan

Year 5/6 Squad: Abu, Hana, Milo, Rowan, Ellie, Mia, Ethan, Aaron, Aiden, Abbey, Alfie, Ashwini, Alina, Rose, Sri, Isabel, Inaya, Ameer, Ojas, Aaryan, Lowena

4th December Harrow Chess Championships

On Thursday 4th December, West Lodge took two teams to compete in the Harrow Chess Tournament, which was held at St Theresa's Primary School. West Lodge competed against teams from Roxbourne, Marlborough, St. Theresa's, Grimsdyke and St. Joseph's. They all played extremely well with Team 1 finishing 1st (they were crowned Harrow Chess Champions); team 2 finished 3rd. Well done to both teams! The squads were – Team 1 – Raafey, Aaran, Audrey and Max; Team 2 – Sai, Parnita, Hrithik and Vidip

5th December Netball League vs Grimsdyke 3-1

In dying light and rain, West Lodge put on a brave battle to repel Grimsdyke's onslaught at our goal in the first quarter. Grimsdyke eventually scored in the second quarter to take a 1-0 lead only for Aleisha to respond with a well taken goal from her first shot! West Lodge conceded two more goals in the third quarter and had chances to reduce the deficit but on this occasion it was not to be! This was a great effort for the first match of the season. Squad: Rian, Eshan, Simran, Ella, Yash, Aleena, Anli, Aleisha, Mia



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6th December Year 5 and 6 Gymnastics Championships, Norbury School

A packed Norbury hall was the venue for these championships. Ten schools from across Harrow all brought an 'A', 'B' and 'C' team which a packed hall and some competitive gymnastics. The highlight of the day was first place for Rowan in the boys 'C' individual standings. This helped the 'C' team to 3rd overall with the 'B' team placing 6th. Our year 6 'A' team placed 6th with Lucy being awarded a judges badge and our year 5 'A' team was 6th. Well done to everyone who took part!

Squad: Lowena, Shriya, Lois, Amelia Hogberg, Lucy, Mahi, Lulah, Katie, Alexandra, Jaiden, Hana, Rowan Devlin, Jasmine, Manya, Charlie, Meliyah, Cordell, Florence

12th December Basketball, Hockey, Tag Rugby Tournament vs Longfield

West Lodge put on an excellent home performance showing great versatility in competing across 3 different sports at this tournament. All 3 teams managed to secure victories with team spirit, sportsmanship and energy. The highlights were a 5 minute hat-trick from Ojas in basketball and our 3 teams winning all but one of their games in the tournament.

Squad: Tejas, Mohammed, Anish, Vidip, Adi, Gokul, Rohan, Ellay, Siddarth, Haider, Michael, Daniel, Aarman, Ojas

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

PE Team