



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

9th February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had an enjoyable half-term at West Lodge, with the children taking part in a wide range of exciting experiences and working hard across the curriculum. I would like to thank all the staff of West Lodge for working so hard to help the children progress in all areas – and also to provide such a rich range of experiences. Also – I would like to thank our Board of Governors for their continued support. This half-term Year 3 had a wonderful trip to the Roald Dahl Museum in January, whilst Year 2 had a really exciting and informative workshop on the Great Fire of London. One of the highlights of the half-term was the visit of Paul Jackson – the storyteller – the children sat mesmerised in the roundhouse as Paul transported them to a range of magical worlds. Year 6 recently travelled into Central London to see Wicked – our traditional February trip - it was a great experience and there are a whole host of follow-up activities planned for after half-term. The Upper School Choir had a wonderful time on Tuesday 30th January performing at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices Choir – a wonderful experience for the whole choir.

With regards to staffing we have said goodbye to Miss Pushparajah, Mr Elmore, Miss Vidal, Mrs Sheikh and Miss Inness who had provided additional support as Learning Assistants during the Autumn Term. I would like to thank them for their hard work supporting children at West Lodge during the Autumn Term. Mrs Dines has returned to full health and will be back to working full days after half term. I would like to thank Mrs Nina Mole for helping out this term – her hard work and support has been invaluable.

We are looking forward to the next half term with many events to look forward to including Y5's production of Midsummer Night's Dream. Thank you once again for all your continued support - wishing everyone a relaxing, enjoyable and safe half-term break.

Jim Dees, Headteacher

Swimming Workshops – Please Sign up

We are holding two workshops for parents/carers on **Thursday 22nd February**, one at **9:00am** and one at **6:30pm**. As a school we are strengthening our links with Highgrove Pool and staff from Highgrove will be coming to lead these sessions alongside Mrs Dunn. Our aim is to ensure that each child leaves West Lodge having achieved the National Curriculum standard and we feel we have some work to do to achieve this. We will be changing our approach to how we provide lessons next year, however raising awareness amongst the community and creating better links between West Lodge families and Highgrove will play a crucial role in helping all children to become confident swimmers and develop this crucial life skill. I would urge you to attend the workshops – please sign up using the following link.

<https://westlodge.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

FOWLS

I would like to thank the FOWLS team for all their continued hard work and dedication. You will have received the latest letter regarding the **Smarties Challenge**. We hope everyone takes part to help us raise money to redevelop the adventure playground. Please fill the Smarties tubes with all the 20p pieces the children have earned over half term and return to school on **Monday 19th February**.

Dates for your diary

FOWLS Book Fair – 27th Feb, 28th Feb & 1st March

FOWLS Quiz Night – 4th March

FOWLS Football Tournament – Saturday 28th April

FOWLS AGM – Thursday 24th May

FOWLS Summer Soiree – Saturday 23rd June

FOWLS Summer Fete – Saturday 30th June

Bug Busting Day

We have noticed a recent upsurge in head lice at West Lodge. This is a problem that can affect anyone and can become widespread very quickly, especially among school-age children. The only way to eradicate the problem is to remain vigilant. Please check your child's hair regularly and ensure that long hair is always tied back. If you are concerned, please contact your local pharmacist who will be able to offer advice. You are also very welcome to speak to Mrs Thomson in our Welfare Office. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Please remember that **Saturday the 10th February** is a **Bug Busting Day** - if we all work together we can make West Lodge a louse free zone. Mrs Thomson has a supply of nit combs – please contact the school office if you would like to purchase one. Thank you for your co-operation.

Term Dates 2018-19

The term dates for the next academic year have now been agreed (including teacher training days). These have been attached separately for your information and will be posted on our school website in due course.

Dogs and Safety

I would like to remind parents/carers that if you are walking your dog whilst bringing your child(ren) to school please ensure that the dog is on the lead at all times and avoid congested areas – such as the entrance to the upper school playground. Please keep the dog on the park side of West End Lane.



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OPAL

We have had another fantastic half term on the playground, with OPAL at the forefront of many children's play experiences. The children have enjoyed a wide variety of play opportunities and have continued to surprise us every day! The cable drums continue to be exceedingly popular, as well as the tyres and keyboards. As the sun begins to shine (every now and again!) children are beginning to make hammocks once again, and it is so good to see children from a variety of year groups playing, laughing, exploring and relaxing together. New digging areas are going to be creating during the half term break (see separate wellies letter) and we are excited to introduce those in the next half term. The children were shown plans for the new adventure playground in assembly last week and were ever so excited! The plans were also shared with parents at this term's Parents' Forum. They are on display in school should you wish to view them. We will be contacting you with more information about how we intend to raise more funds for this huge project after half term. In the meantime, please continue to donate your unwanted objects for the playground:

- Cable drums
- Electrical equipment – keyboards, mobile phones, laptops, tablets, headphones, torches, computer mouses, kettles
- Nets
- Fabric
- Washing baskets
- Pots and Pans
- Buggies
- Plastic bins of any size (not very thin plastic as this shatters)
- Hoover hoses (the bendy plastic tube – not the hoover please)

Thank you so much to PMC Pinner for donating all the tyres that we have in the playground. These are such an important part of children's play and are being used in a wide variety of exciting ways.



Upper School Council

Miss Rolnick attended our Upper School Council meeting to discuss the OPAL Project for the playground. She explained that it is a journey - schools take about 8 years for it to be fully up and running - and she reminded them that contributions of equipment from home would be appreciated. She also discussed plans for the playground, which include creating a mud kitchen equipped with a sink, shelves, desks, units which would hold pots, pans and pans and utensils. Other ideas include an outdoor performance area, a covered quiet area and a den building space. The plans are displayed in the school corridor near the children's entrance and have already generated lots of discussion, anticipation and excitement.

Lower School Council

After the very successful Christmas 'Foodbank Mondays' Appeal, the Lower School Council has suggested that we should support the Harrow Foodbank again at Easter. The donations they have suggested are as follows –

Mon 12th March - large individual Easter eggs
Mon 19th March - bags of mini eggs/bunnies etc
Mon 26th March - shower gel/ shampoo/ body lotion

Further details will be sent out nearer the time. Meanwhile, we look forward to hearing from a volunteer from the Harrow Foodbank who is coming to take an assembly on Friday 23rd February. Many thanks for all your support.



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Visit to 'The Roald Dahl Children's Gallery'

Year 3 launched their English topic on Roald Dahl by visiting 'The Roald Dahl Children's Gallery' in Aylesbury on 16th January. The children were immersed into the wonderful world of Roald Dahl, where they were introduced to Dahl as a writer and his amazing characters. The children learnt about where Dahl got his ideas and inspiration from and how his writing developed to the stories we read today. The interactive workshop also allowed children to explore scientific and historical ideas. For example, the children travelled through Mr Fox's tunnel and came across underground treasure, including a Stone Age hand axe! The children were miniaturised like Mike Teavee, using cameras and mirrors to create the illusion. They also spent some time in the Bucks County Museum exploring their exhibits on toys and local history. A truly phizz-whizzing day!



Plague and Great Fire of London Workshop

Year 2 really enjoyed learning about The Plague and the Great Fire of London during their Crew Workshop. It was an interactive workshop where all the children were given individual roles and encouraged to participate in the re-enactment of stories about the major historical events. The children were thoroughly entertained, whilst being encouraged to ask and answer questions and recall important facts. They really seemed to enjoy this learning experience!



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 6th February. Children across the school discussed some of the risks they could face in the digital world and how to make sure they are staying safe when online. The Digital Leaders led assemblies across the school, discussing how to protect private information and ways to stay safe. They also created quizzes which all children took part in across the school. There were lots of interesting and thought-provoking discussions throughout the day!

Performing Arts

Young Voices at the O2 Arena

On Tuesday 30th February, 59 children from the year 5/6 choir performed with the Young Voices Choir at London's O2. The children sang and danced their way through a variety of musical numbers with 7,000 children, from schools across the South East, to a packed arena. The children performed with endless enthusiasm, making the most of this fantastic opportunity. Thank you to all the parents and staff who supported this event.



The Online Safety Parents' Workshops that took place on Thursday 8th February were very well received – although we were disappointed with the turnout. This area of safeguarding is always changing and we will continue to run sessions for parents but would urge you to attend in the future. After half term Mr Jefferson and Mr Revens will add a section to the school website providing answers to some frequently asked questions.

Storytelling Workshops

From January 23rd to the 25th our Roundhouse became the perfect setting for the storyteller Paul Jackson. It was magical to see how all children from Reception to Year 6 were captivated and spellbound by his stories which fired their imaginations. Over the course of the three days children experienced a range of instruments and stories from Europe, Native America, Africa, Asia and Australia. These tales included Greek Myths, Inuit Folk Tales and the story of the Gingerbread Man.



Dhwani – Sounds of Musical Souls

Congratulations to the following children who performed with great skill at the recent event held at the Jewish Free School. Naishal Shah, Sonakshi Dave, Riya Shah, Shanaya Malkan, Kiaan Mirchandani, Kashvi Fadia, Anya Khatri, Manav Mehta, Vraj Choksi, Nikhil Tripathy, Arjun Agarwal, Anvee Dandawate, Raiya Rajabali. The children have all been attending the Indian Music Club led by Mrs Ghosh, who we would like to thank for her hard work in this area.



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Sports News

Reading Half-Marathon and Green Park Challenge 18th March 2018

The following staff and parents will be running 13.1 miles or 3km to raise money for The Centre for Education Rights and Transformation (CERT is a department of the University of Johannesburg).

Parents and family: Michelle Thomas, Alan Thomas, Sheetal Riyat, Michelle Thwaites, John Cadman, Jo Samiullah, Colin Barnes, Lorraine Abrahams

Staff and family: Mr Dees, Mr Went, Mr Beckwith, Mr Revens, Mrs Mc Haffie, Mrs Dunn, Mr Dunn, Miss Zhang, Mrs Seymour, Mr Seymour, Mr Lappas, Mr Nevins, Mr O'Rourke, Mr and Mrs Gobindlal, Mrs Vaghela, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Kinsella, Mrs Green, Mrs Grant.

The Centre's work is anchored in the ideals of social, political and economic democracy; racial, class, gender and language equity; diversity in knowledge creation, discovery and dissemination. It defends education and human rights and promotes transformative teaching and learning. CERT works to promote and facilitate education opportunities for youth in impoverished areas surrounding Johannesburg. They have setup community education clinics (run by volunteers) within isolated townships to provide further learning and teaching support for children. These clinics are a safe haven for children; a place where education is valued and nurtured to empower the next generation, which is for a great cause. With the funds raised, the school aims to buy resources to help support the work of CERT, in some of Johannesburg's most impoverished communities.

We encourage parents to donate any money towards this worthy cause using the following link. Please share with friends and family.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/readinghalf-cert>

9th January Year 5 and 6 Girls Football Harrow 7-a-side, Belmont School

The girls' football team had a great start to 2018 as they won the Harrow 7 a side cup. The first match was a resounding 12-0 win against Grimsdyke (Lola 7, Chloe 2, Sophie 2). The next match against Cannon Lane was a test of character as we fell behind to an early penalty but showed lots of perseverance to equalise in the last few minutes- a well taken finish by Lola from the right wing. This was the best team we played so a draw was an excellent result! Our penultimate match was a 3-0 win against St George's (Chloe 2, Sophie). Hosts Belmont were our opponents in the final match and we scored two goals (Sophie and Chloe) to secure our place represent Harrow in the Middlesex Cup.

Squad: Isabelle, Charlotte, Amelie Coyle, Madeleine, Fearne, Sophie, Chloe, Amelia Humphris, Hana, Lola.

13th January Year 5 and 6 Boys Football Middlesex 7-a-side Tournament, The Hive

West Lodge represented Harrow in the Middlesex 7-a-side Tournament and played against representatives from Haringey, Brent and Barnet. The first match was against Rhodes Avenue Primary School from Haringey – West Lodge started slowly and were 1-0 down within the first two minutes. We showed great spirit and fought back with two goals from Freddie, winning the game 2-1. The second match was against John Keble Primary School from Brent. This was a tough game and West Lodge were under a lot of pressure. Eventually we scored with an excellent individual effort from Freddie. Later in the game, Matthew doubled our lead and we won the game 2-0. The final match was against Summerside Primary School from Barnet. West Lodge conceded a goal early on but fought back and equalised when Freddie scored in the second half. The game finished 1-1. With a total of 7 points from the three matches West Lodge won the tournament and were crowned Champions of Middlesex. We now go forward to the South East Regional Finals as Middlesex representatives to be played in March.

Squad: Brian (Captain), Freddie, Mayowa, Matthew, Jamie, Keigan, Max, Charlie, Dylan and Julian.



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13th January Year 5 and 6 Girls Football Middlesex 7-a-side Tournament, The Hive

The West Lodge Girls' football team competed in the Middlesex Cup in a tournament for the four best teams in the county and West Lodge did tremendously well to finish runners up. The first game was against eventual winners Rhodes Avenue from Haringey and despite great spirit from the girls, Rhodes Avenue were clinical with their chances and won 2-0. The girls took confidence from some of the nice moves they put together and the way they fought hard in defence. The second game was against St Robert from Brent and the game was end-to-end but neither team managed to get a clear chance to score. Following some heroic defending, the game finished 0-0. The girls had their first point and were keen to build on this in their final match of the day against St Vincent's from Barnet. This was the team's best performance as they created chances but also remained organised in defence. West Lodge scored a lovely goal and St Vincent's missed a late penalty so the game finished 1-0 to West Lodge.

Squad – Isabelle, Charlotte, Fearn, Madeleine, Chloe, Amelia, Lola, Amelie, Sophie.

15th January Year 5 and 6 Indoor Cricket Final West Lodge 1 vs West Lodge 2

This year, for the first time ever, both of our indoor cricket teams made it through to the final of the league. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at Whitmore High School cheering their children on. West Lodge 2 won the toss and elected to bat. After some excellent play from the fielding team, West Lodge 2 scored 55 in their ten overs with Yash scoring a commendable 24 runs. Due to some hard and accurate hitting, particularly down to deep fine leg, West Lodge 1 scored the required runs within half of their allotted overs resulting in a win for them. Well done to all involved; sportsmanship and teamwork really were evident throughout the match to the end.

West Lodge 1: Jamie, Charlie, Keigan, Adhrit, Julian, Kaelan, Raafey, Ishaan

West Lodge 2: Dehan, Raafey, Shray, Niall, Amelie C, Josh, Rian, Yash

16th January Year 6 Badminton Harrow championships, Harrow Leisure Centre

This competition between 6 schools was a very close contest with some tight matches which saw Norbury secure first place. West Lodge 'B' performed brilliantly as they were joint 2nd with two other schools (Grimsdyke, and St George's). This was a great team effort from the squad, many of whom were taking part in their first Badminton competition.

Squad: Saffron, Grace, Maryam, Oliver, Eashan, Abbas, Vrishin, Rayan.

18th January Year 6 and 7 Harrow Schools' Cross-Country Championships, Harrow School

The year 6 boys produced another outstanding display of cross-country running in a race where only 3 other primary schools competed in the under 13 race comprising year 6 and 7 boys. On the 2.5 km circuit with mud and hills, Matthew led the way as he took the lead at the half way point and held his position only to be overtaken by former pupil Joshua right at the end! The next three West Lodge runners all grabbed top 10 places as Max (4th), Brian (6th) and in his first cross-country run Zack finished 8th helping the team to win the event! West Lodge 'B' team put in an excellent performance also and finished in 5th place in the team competition, the individuals in this team finished as follows - Charlie (11th), Jamie (20th), Kaelen (28th) and Aayush (33rd). There was further exciting news as Zack and Charlie went on to represent Harrow in the Middlesex Championships.

Squad: Matthew, Max, Brian, Zack, Charlie, Jamie, Kaelen and Aayush

25th January Year 5 and 6 Indoor Athletics Competition, Harrow Leisure Centre

A tight contest saw West Lodge overcome both St Teresa's and Pinner Park. We scored 220 points to grab victory from St Teresa's by 16 points! A much-improved performance from the girls in the running races was one of the main reasons for this- all the extra practice paid off. The boys running races were exceptional. In the field events we were just as consistent as in the qualifying round. This all-round excellence meant we qualified to represent Harrow at the West London qualifying round in February.

Squad: Ronnie, Aayush, Matthew, Sravan, Issa, Nojan, Arjun, Lola, Fearn, Freddie, Ahmad Oosman, Keigan, Max, Amelia, Brian, Madeleine, Charlotte, Mayowa, Lowena, Laila, Jenani, Lucy, Amelie, Julian, Amelie, Florence, Rian, Audrey, Nisha.



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Sports News

30th January 30th Year 5 and 6 Hockey Competition, John Lyon Playing Fields

West Lodge had three teams at this competition who all performed brilliantly! All three teams won their groups qualifying for the semi-finals one of which saw West Lodge 'C' against West Lodge 'A'. This was a tense game as the A team fell behind to two Keigan goals in the first half they counced back in the second half with a goal from Charlie. West Lodge 'C' held on to their lead and secured a place in the final. The final was a repeat of 2017's final as West Lodge were up against St George's again! West Lodge 'C' fell behind to an early goal but showed great determination to recover with 2 goals from Keigan to take the score to 2-1. With only a minute left St George's grabbed an equaliser to take the game into extra time. In the two halves of two minutes, St George's managed to score, therefore taking a 3-2 lead and sealing their place at the 2018 London Youth Games.

Scorers: Keigan 9, Matthew 6, Brian 4, Charlie, Jamie, Zack A, Maryam, Dylan.

West Lodge 'A': Jamie, Brian, Mia, Nisha, Dylan, Zak H

West Lodge 'B': Matthew, Charlie, Ellie, Lois, Zack A

West Lodge 'C': Keigan, Aayush, Evie, Maryam, Max, Hana

6th February Year 1 Key Stage 1 Festival, Harrow Leisure Centre

10 children from across Year 1 had a brilliant time at the KS1 Sports festival at Harrow Leisure Centre. They were able to experience a variety of different activities that worked on their fundamental PE skills.

Squad: Riyan K, Anna, Eesha, Aarav, Daelen, Nina, Shruti, Beth, Amelia, Zaki

6th February Year 6 Netball vs Whitefriars and Cedars, Whitefriars Primary School

This double header was played in sub-zero conditions and it took a while for West Lodge to warm-up in both games. Falling behind against host's Whitefriars, West Lodge produced a great second half performance as goals from Madeleine, Amelia, Jamie and a Keigan brace saw us finish as 5-2 winners. Against Cedars and far stricter umpiring, the squad were 2-0 up at half-time but our greater strength and adaptability when playing in different positions meant we ran out 9-2 winner thanks to hat tricks from Chloe and Charlotte as well as goals from Keigan and Jamie.

Squad: Lola, Chloe, Jamie, Keigan, Amelia Humphris, Charlotte, Madeleine.

8th February Year 5 & 6 Basketball Competition

On Thursday 8th February, West Lodge attended a Year 5 & 6 Basketball Tournament at Pinner High School. Two teams were coached by Mr Long and Ms Gudaal to compete against 11 other teams from Harrow schools. After five tough games, West Lodge A and Pinner Park played in an exciting final which culminated in Brian scoring a free throw in the final seconds to win the tournament. Well done to all the players who took part. West Lodge will now represent Harrow in the London Youth Games in July.

Team A - Eshan, Rian, Evie, Mayowa and Brian

Team B - Julian, Aarav, Amelie Coyle, Sami and Aayush

Wishing everyone a wonderful half term – stay active!