



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

19th December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another term comes to an end – culminating in the excitement of many Christmas related activities. The concerts have been a huge success once again and I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff and children who worked so hard to produce concerts of such high quality. The performances were all memorable: Reception – The Nativity; Year 1 – The Little Fir Tree; Year 2 – It's a Party and Year 3 – Aladdin. I would also like to thank staff across the whole school, who have worked so hard to provide the very best for the children this term – we have such a dedicated and committed team. Our Board of Governors have continued to provide guidance, support and challenge to help ensure that we continue to move forward – we are very grateful for their tireless work in support of the school. Also, I am incredibly thankful for the support that we receive from all the parents/carers across the school – thank you.

We say goodbye to Ms Tester this term – as mentioned in the last newsletter she is taking up a new post as Head of School at a large infant and nursery school in Richmond. Miss Tester has been an excellent colleague – tirelessly working to ensure that each child has a positive start to their West Lodge journey. Her energy, enthusiasm and passion have inspired pupils, parents, staff and governors and I am sure everyone will join with me in wishing her all the very best in her new adventure. I know she will be a fabulous Head of School. Miss Rolnick, who has a lot of experience with Early Years, will oversee Reception and provide support to the team.

We welcome Julee Mistry to the staff. Mrs Mistry is an experienced teacher who has worked both as a SENDCO and Early Years Leader. She will be based in Kaleidoscope for four days and will spend the fifth day working with the pupils, parents and staff in Reception.

I would like to pay tribute to Michelle Gilbody, who has been a Governor at West Lodge since 2012 – Michelle's term has now come to an end. Michelle has worked incredibly hard in support of the school and has taken on a number of key roles: Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, Safeguarding Link Governor and Inclusion Link Governor. Michelle has provided both a lot of support and good challenge to the school and we are very grateful for all the work she has put in over the last five years.

There have been many enjoyable events this half term. Year 5 enjoyed their trip to the theatre to see Hamlet – this stimulated an interesting topic on Shakespeare – they are planning to perform Midsummer Night's Dream in March. 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 this term. We enjoyed a wonderful Cluster Carols event in early December – where we joined with Nower Hill, Pinner High, Pinner Park and Cannon Lane at the Pinner Baptist Church for a morning of festive singing. Our own Carol Concert, also held at Pinner Baptist Church, was a huge success. Also, the annual Pinner Pantomime was as enjoyable as ever – with our Year 4 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 to thank Jamie Kidd the Minister at Pinner Baptist Church for his continued support.

On the 23rd November, our Local Authority Adviser (Brian Netto) came into West Lodge to carry out his termly visit and to review our practice. He carried out a learning walk across the school and met with senior leaders and middle leaders. He was very pleased with progress and learning at West Lodge. I have included a summary of his report:

'A short learning walk was undertaken with the headteacher. It was evident from this that teaching, learning and assessment is consistent across the school. Pupils' learning behaviours are strong, and adults' expectations are high, including in Kaleidoscope. Middle and senior leaders provide a strong contribution to the school's on-going improvements - this is a school that never stands still. Innovation is at the heart of the school's improvement agenda, as long as this contributes to enriching the pupils' learning experiences.'

Thank you, once again, for all your continued support – I do believe we are very fortunate to have such a supportive and active parent/carer body. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, I hope the Christmas period is filled with love, joy and happiness for all.

Kind regards,

Jim Dees
Headteacher



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Rights Respecting Schools – Behaviour Health Check



This half term, all children at West Lodge have strived to keep to the West Lodge Way and to ensure everyone's rights are being respected. This year we have introduced the concept of three, simple, overarching rules: Ready, Respectful, Safe! Children must be 'ready' to learn; 'respectful' of each other, the environment and equipment and ensure that they stay safe and keep others safe.

To embed our positive behavior policy we invited Darrell Williams of Pivotal Education in to audit our systems and review behaviour at West Lodge. Darrell has carried out behavior health checks in over 100 schools. This behavior health check happened on Tuesday 28th November and Darrell Williams came into school and visited classrooms, the playground and the dining room throughout the day. As the aim of this was to get an external viewpoint of where we are what we need to do in our quest for continuous improvement we did this without any fanfare or build up as we wanted Darrell to see a 'normal' day at West Lodge. Our plan is for staff training on 5th January to further enhance our skillset and embed greater consistency. Here are the findings from Darrell's visit, which we will use to focus the training:

Green: Doing well already

- *The overall atmosphere was caring, calm and enthusiastic. The movement of children around the school, whether they were directly supervised or independently was exemplary. I lost count of the number of times a door was opened for me by the children.*
- *The lessons I saw were characterised by a high level of engagement. Students were active in their learning, they asked questions of the teacher and themselves.*
- *Lunchtime was really interesting. The school has organised lunchtimes so that there is almost no queueing for anyone. There was a fantastic sign on the wall of the lunch hall that said "We all have the right to relax". In many ways this is the culture of West Lodge. There was a distinct lack of tension, anxiety or sense of stress.*
- *The playground had an extensive range of activities in which the children were quite simply having a good time. There has been thought and care put into this. Watching one of the learning assistants enthusiastically refereeing a basketball match was so enjoyable. The students were also able to transition from this context into the classroom at the end of lunch and be ready for their learning in calm and ordered way.*
- *Throughout the day there was not a single moment of anything other than a relaxed, caring and thoughtful approach from the adults. Nobody was in a rush. Everyone seemed to have time. This is, I am sure, one of the key reasons the day I spent at west Lodge was so memorable.*

Amber: Recommendations for action medium to long term

- *In the classrooms there was array of messages - there needs to be a rationalisation of these concepts. This does not mean that they are not used but would come under an umbrella of "Ready to Learn" in order to get to an even higher level of consistency.*
- *The ready, respectful safe (RRS) message was in the majority of classrooms but the language of RRS was only used in one instance. It would link in with the point above that it be helpful to revisit Ready to Learn in order to rationalise (not make it prescriptive and unyielding) so that there is common language and shared understanding around the school.*
- *In classrooms there were some recognition boards that included negative recognition elements. The public display of students "not getting it right" is at odds with everything I saw across the whole school. "Praise in Public, Refocus, Redirect in Private" would be a good way forward.*

Red: Immediate action

- *Having discussed with Jim Dees and his leadership team the training in January would focus on a greater consistency around using Ready, Respectful and Safe.*
- *There was a really positive ethos that was evident across the whole school. It would still be really important to look at the concept of "First Attention for Best Conduct". It would be to emphasise the very clear process of noticing children more and more when they are doing so well and further enhance the consistency that pervades the school.*

West Lodge has an ethos of "There is a brilliant child locked inside every student", "Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible". It isn't just written in the policy, it is evident in all the interactions I saw. The next stage is a reflective one for the school. The next stage is to build even more capacity and sustainability in an ever changing educational landscape. The purpose of the training in January would be to pay attention to the keystone behaviours of the adults that have created such a positive and caring environment. Not to change or transform but to "tweak" those consistencies in order to enhance and take the school to an even higher level.



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Chess at West Lodge

The children in Mr Long's Chess Clubs enjoyed a special visit earlier this term when the President of the Harrow Chess Club - Nevil Chan – popped in to both chess sessions. He offered a range of top tips and practical advice, as well as providing inspiration for the enthusiastic and budding chess masters at West Lodge.



Recipe for Change

Our new lunchtime experience continues to go from strength to strength. Children are enjoying their new designated tables and the whole experience is now much more enjoyable. All children are now able to sit in the dining hall to eat lunch with their friends, and each year group has a set time at which to eat. This allows for plenty of time to eat, chat and enjoy the atmosphere of the new restaurant-style dining hall. We have enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch over three days this year. This has helped to make it a really fun experience and has meant that all children have time to spend pulling crackers, telling jokes and socialising with their peers. The staff have enjoyed the food too!



OPAL

Thank you to those of you who have donated items for OPAL over the last few weeks – they have really made a difference. However, we are still in real need of more equipment:

- Items with wheels/castors
- Suitcases
- Road signs and cones
- Desks, little tables, stools etc.
- Tools like spades, trowels, brooms and buckets
- Nets and ropes
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/tablets that are no longer working
- Cable drums

Digital Leaders

The Digital Leaders enjoyed their second Green Screen Workshop in November. This was led by a professional from the company that supplied us with the equipment. During the day, the children expertly filmed and edited a clip of the latest West Lodge News. They focused on using interesting camera angles, adding moving backgrounds and selecting appropriate backing music to add to their movie. The final version of the short film can be viewed at

www.westlodge.harrow.sch.uk/digital-leaders/.

Road Safety

You may have seen the orange jacketed JTAs on Friday mornings, notebooks in hand, patrolling the school entrance on West End Lane. We send regular reminders to our community to ensure that we all remain respectful to the local residents if driving to school.

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

Christingles at Pinner Methodist Church

Year 2 walked down to Pinner Methodist Church to make Christingles. The children impressed the Minister and her volunteers by sharing their understanding of Christmas and Christingles, as well as learning a song about Christingles. Thank you to Pinner Methodist Church for their continued support.



Ancient Greek Workshop

This term Year 6 have been studying Ancient Greek History. They enjoyed having the opportunity to take part in an Ancient Greek Workshop on 6th December. During the workshop they took part in acting out different scenes in Ancient Greece. After being organised into four groups, each group acted out a different part of the scene while the other groups watched. The scenes acted out were - Life in Athens; Sports in Ancient Greece; The Greek Alphabet and Ancient Greek Myths and Legends. To finish off the workshop we learnt an Ancient Greek Dance. Year 6 had a great time and learnt a lot from the workshop.





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FOWLS

I would like to thank the FOWLS team for all their hard work and dedication this term. The term culminated in the Christmas Fair – once again a wonderfully enjoyable community event. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to support this event and to Jen Allsop (Chair of FOWLS) for working tirelessly to co-ordinate it all.

This academic year the total raised (including match giving) so far is over £10,000. This is for all of the events combined: Christmas Fair, Navratri, Cinema Experience and Health & Beauty Fair. Also included in the total raised is the donation from Andrew Pearce and also money raised from uniform sales. This figure does not include the money raised from the Christmas design project. Plans are in place for developing the adventure playground – we are hoping that the work will be completed in the summer.

Another Plea for 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. For the Christmas Fair alone, we raised £1,700 through match giving. If you are interested to know more or would like to apply for match funding for our forthcoming FOWLS events please contact FOWLS Treasurer, Parvatha Swaminathan, at westlodge.fowls@barclays.com. Thank you to Parvatha for working so hard in her role as treasurer. Also, to Nilaxi Patel for working so hard setting up new links and new projects this term.

FOWLS events in the Spring Term:

Upper School Cake Sale: Monday 29th January

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

FOWLS Quiz Night – 2nd March

Foodbank Mondays

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 'Foodbank Mondays' appeal. We had an overwhelming response, collecting 170 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.



Y4 Trip to Aladdin

On the 23rd November, Year 4 travelled to The Prince Edward, in London's West End, to watch Aladdin the Musical. The children came away humming many of the songs and trying to work out how the magical carpet actually flew across the stage during 'A Whole New World'! Everyone's favourite character was the Genie due to his larger than life character, huge singing voice and vivid costumes. This was certainly a trip to remember!

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 all chosen to work in a school because we are passionate about supporting and helping children – our reward is in the progress that the children make. Thank you for your continued positive support and generous spirit.

Staff Learning

At West Lodge we are always looking at ways to improve our practice and over the last four years we have developed 'Learning Study' as a key vehicle for staff professional development. Learning Study is developed from 'Lesson Study' a model of professional development originally from Japan. The focus this term has involved teachers exploring different feedback strategies to support children's independence when learning. Teachers have used learning study to explore the impact of these strategies – this involves teachers observing the impact that these strategies have on pupil learning during a lesson. Time is then devoted to discussing, as a team, how the feedback explored has supported children's learning and how the key findings can be used in future planning. In the Spring Term, teachers will be using learning study to explore the impact of Bar Modelling on children's ability to solve problems.

Social Media

In this world where there seems to be an exponential increase in the use of varying forms of social media – I feel that it is important to share a couple of key points. The use of social media can be a very positive tool in many ways – in terms of bringing people together and increasing the speed of communication, however comments can easily be misinterpreted and can lead to upset and people feeling left out. The setting up of WhatsApp groups can be a really useful way of creating a positive community – however please ensure that they don't become a vehicle to create division and ill feeling. We have such a positive parent community – this is a real strength of West Lodge and we hope to maintain this.



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Performing Arts at West Lodge

Pinner Panto

On Thursday 30th November, three of our performing arts groups performed at the atmospheric Pinner Panto. Both the Lower School and Upper School Choirs sang their songs beautifully and, as always, the dance club entertained us with their version of 'Deck the Rooftops'.

Cluster Carols

Five schools from our local cluster (Nower Hill, Pinner High, Pinner Park, Cannon Lane and West Lodge) attended this concert on Friday 1st December at the Pinner Baptist Church. Each of the schools involved really enjoyed singing the traditional carols, accompanied by the Nower Hill Orchestra. Our Head Boy and Head Girl read their bible reading beautifully and the Year 6 Choir performed our version of 'When Christmas Comes to Town' with finesse and musicality. Again, a lovely occasion to be involved in!

Christmas Fayre

Parents, carers, family and friends were all well entertained by many of our groups at the fayre this year. The Year 5 Steel Pans Club started off the music part of the proceedings beautifully. This was then followed by both of the choirs and the dance group executing their various acts well. To close the fayre, it was great to see 'Neon Lights', a band made up of ex-pupils, singing and playing their hearts out. Congratulations to all involved.

On Monday 11th December, upper school children were joined by their parents at Pinner Free Church for an evening of carol singing. Both choirs performed as well as the Year 6 Dance Group. The Year 5 Drama Club told the story 'The Spirit of Christmas' which explored the true meaning of this time of year. Thank you to Sophie, Charlie, Saanjh and Dylan for compering the evening which raised money for Crisis at Christmas.

Carol Singing at Haven Nursing Home & St Vincent's Nursing Home

Our Y6 Choir had the privilege of singing at Haven Nursing Home on Friday 15th December. Not only did they sing their chosen songs beautifully, but they also socialised and mixed with the residents really well, demonstrating how kind and caring the children here at West Lodge are. In every way, the group should be very proud of how they performed and it was great that they even managed to encourage some of the audience to join in with the singing. The Y5 Choir entertained the residents of St. Vincent's Nursing Home on the 13th December with a selection of Christmas carols. They also enjoyed talking to their audience and wishing them a Merry Christmas.

Pinner Playtime

The Y4 Choir performed at the Pinner Methodist Church on Thursday 14th December. They sang three carols to the children who attend the Pinner Playtime Nursery and also to some local older residents. The children sang beautifully and the young children and older residents really enjoyed the performance.

MUSIC AWARDS

Ciara Buchanan	Bronze - Instrumental Learning
Parnita Prasad	Bronze - Instrumental Learning
Mariana Ovsyankina	Bronze - Instrumental Learning
Nisha Evans	Bronze - Instrumental Learning

Saffron Adey	Grade 1 Merit - Flute
Sophie Sheldon	Grade 1 Distinction - Flute



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Sports Update 1

Reading Half-marathon and Green Park Challenge- Sunday March 18th

We have great interest in the Reading half-marathon with the school set to enter close to 30 adults made up of teachers, friends and parents. Some parents and teachers are also running in the Green park challenge which is a 3km run taking place just before the half-marathon. The school will be raising money for charity the Centre for Education Rights and Transformation (CERT is a department of the University of Johannesburg). A just giving page will be set-up in the New Year.

Schools' Challenge

As in previous years we will be running the schools challenge which involves children running 1 mile (approximately) in each of the 12 weeks preceding the race date with the final mile being completed in the same week of the half-marathon. West lodge will run a finals day in March during school time (date tbc). All children in years 4, 5 and 6 will take part in this challenge starting in the first week of the Spring Term.

November 20th Indoor cricket, Whitmore High School

West Lodge A 124 - 56 Grange

West Lodge A were clear winners in this final group game. High scoring batting performances were put in by Jamie (24), Keigan (17), Adhrit (15) and Ishan (15). The team fielded well together, and Julian even took 2 wickets in a row!

Team: Jamie, Charlie, Keigan, Adhrit, Julian, Kaelan, Raafey, Ishaan

November 27th Year 5 & 6 Table Tennis, Harrow Leisure Centre

West Lodge sent a Year 5 and a Year 6 team to compete in the Harrow Table Tennis competition. Overall, the Year 5 team came second and the Year 6 team came fourth out of the thirteen schools that attended, with all the children thoroughly enjoying the afternoon's play.

Year 5 Team: Aarav, Eashan, Rian and Adhrit. Year 6 Team: Brian, Freddie, Keigan and Matthew.

November 28th Year 6 Boys Football League Match vs Pinner Wood 4-0

Another dominant display saw West Lodge complete their 3rd successive league victory. The team started strongly creating a number of chances early on. The first goal was a brilliant flick from Freddie. This led to West Lodge creating further chances only to be thwarted by some excellent saves. Winning the ball back high up the field, the home team put Pinner Wood under relentless pressure. This continued into the second half where Freddie scored his second goal thanks to an amazing pass from Aayush. Brian was the provider for Freddie's hat trick goal delivering a fantastic dribble and pass. Matthew and Brian combined well for Freddie's 4th goal. This was a team performance with the defence rock solid and high energy from the midfield.

Squad: Freddie, Brian, Matthew, Aayush, Noah, Keigan, Dylan, Charlie, Jamie, Mayowa,

November 28th Year 6 Boys Football Friendly vs Longfield 6-1

West Lodge started off well creating chances to score but just couldn't put any away. Longfield started to come into the game with some good moves and managed to take one of their chances to make it 1-0. Just before half time, West Lodge managed to get back into the game with a well taken goal. The score at half time was 1-1. We wanted to try and improve our finishing by staying calm when in front of the goal. We also wanted to defend better as a team and not let Longfield get as many chances. West Lodge started the second half on the front foot and showed good finishing, scoring two goals in quick succession. With the score at 3-1 to West Lodge, Longfield pushed hard to find a way back into the game. However, there was no way through and they left spaces at the back which West Lodge managed to capitalise on. Another three well taken goals meant to game finished 6-1. The team showed good character to come back strong after letting the first goal in.

Scorers: Zak A (2), Arjun, Reece, James, Finn.

Squad: Nojan, Jack, Dennis, James, Arjun, Mihail, Navandip, Finn, Zack, Ibrahim, Reece



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Sports Update 2

December 1st

Year 4 and 5 Brent Cross-Country Championships, John Billam Playing Fields

West Lodge competed as guests at this competition and made the most of the opportunity and firm ground. To gain experience, the year 4s - in their first cross-country race- ran with the year 5s and produced some brilliant performances. In the boys' race Max and Angel (both year 4s) placed inside the top 10. There was good support from Eashan in 20th, Abu in 21st, Aaryan in 27th, Alexios 42nd, Deji 43rd, Adhrit in 52nd, Iustin in 59th and Alfie in 63rd. In the girls' race, year 4s Nisha and Audrey ran superbly. They were involved in a tight finish placing 8th and 9th respectively. Isabel in 35th, Aishi in 42nd, Pranati in 48th all ran well to grab top 50 places in a field of over 100 runners.

December 5th

Year 6 Netball League Match vs Pinner Park

3-9 vs Pinner Park

The West Lodge Netball Team had their first match of the season against a talented Pinner Park side. We started well getting up to the post frequently, but we just couldn't get the ball into the hoop. Unfortunately with their first attacks, Pinner Park showed really good composure to take their chances and go 2-0 after the first quarter. In the next quarter Pinner Park scored again, but we were able to finally take an opportunity and get back into the game. The second quarter finished 3-1 and in the third quarter a few more points were scored, as the game was really end to end. Now with the score at 5-3 to Pinner Park the game was quite close going into the last part. Pinner finished really strong and scored a flurry of goals making it 9-3. Apart from the last quarter it was quite a close game and the team did well to compete against a strong and organised team used to playing with each other. The game was a good experience because it was fun to play and also showed us what we need to work on.

Squad: Lola, Amelia, Evie, Chloe, Keigan, Dylan, Dennis.

December 5th

Year 6 Netball Friendly Match vs Pinner Park

West Lodge Netball Team won the friendly match against Pinner Park 13-8. The team worked together extremely well and showed great determination in defending and attacking on the court. Dylan was an excellent goal shooter and Umair was a cunning defender. Everyone played extremely well as they applied their skills that they learnt and also showed outstanding sportsmanship.

Squad: Aksheaay, Maryam, Umair, Grace, Charlotte, Madeleine, Jamie Waller

December 5th

Year 5 & 6 Table Chess, Harrow Leisure Centre

West Lodge took part in the Year 5/6 Harrow Primary Schools Chess Competition at St Teresa's Primary School on 5th December. Reyhan and Aniya from Year 6 and Raafey and Harry from Year 5 pitted their wits against school from across the borough. West Lodge managed 4th place in a very competitive tournament but special mention must go to Raafey who won all his seven matches, with all but one of them taking only three or four moves! Well done.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr Nevins, Mrs Dunn, Mr Beckwith, Mr Went, Mr O'Rourke, Mr Bennett, Mr Dees, Mrs Gobindlal, Miss Zhang.