



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

27th November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been enjoying the second half of the Autumn Term – and many exciting experiences lie ahead in the coming weeks as we lead up to Christmas. Staff continue to work incredibly hard to provide a range of opportunities for all the children. So far this term, Year 5 have been to watch a performance of Hamlet at the theatre – this has given them inspiration for their production in the Spring Term. Reception enjoyed the 'Under the Sea' show and Year 4 had a wonderful time in the West End watching Aladdin (this will form the basis of their upcoming English lessons). Last week we held a successful 'Children in Need' fundraiser organised by Mr West. The children had a lot of fun and we would like to thank you for your kind donations in support of this – there is a more detailed report later in the newsletter.

Miss Tester will be leaving West Lodge at the end of this term – she has been appointed as Head of School for a large infant and nursery school in Richmond. Miss Tester joined West Lodge in 2008, initially as a Year Group Leader for Reception. After the amalgamation of West Lodge First School and West Lodge Middle School in 2009, Miss Tester was appointed as an Assistant Headteacher. I am sure that you will all remember Miss Tester fondly as the initial point of contact for families at West Lodge. Miss Tester's passion for early years is infectious and she has worked incredibly hard to ensure that each child has a positive start to their West Lodge journey. Many children have been inspired by Miss Tester during her time at West Lodge - her first cohort are currently in Year 9. Miss Tester has made an excellent contribution to whole school life at West Lodge - as a key member of the school leadership team she has been instrumental in helping to shape the direction of the school. She has played a key role as a designated safeguarding teacher, been an integral part of the Maths team and worked hard to ensure the correct provision is in place for pupils with additional needs. We wish her all the very best for her exciting new adventure as a Head of School.

From January, Miss Rolnick will oversee Reception and provide additional support to the team. We have also appointed Mrs Mistry, who will be joining West Lodge in January. She will be working in Kaleidoscope for part of the week as well as providing additional support for Reception. Mrs Mistry has extensive experience as both an Early Years Leader and as a SENCO.

I would like to congratulate Namita Bhatia, who was voted in as Parent Governor following our elections last week. The voting was very close and we had five very strong candidates. I would like to thank all those parents who put their name forward and also to everyone for taking part in the process and casting your votes. Namita will take up her position at the next meeting of the Board of Governors on Thursday 7th December.

As we move into December we are all looking forward to our Christmas activities that lie ahead: the Christmas Carol Concert; the Pinner Pantomime; Christmas dinners; the FOWLS Christmas Fair and our nativity performances. This year children in Reception will be performing 'The Nativity'; Year 1 will be performing 'The Fir Tree'; Year 2's performance this year will be 'It's a Party' and Year 3 have been busy preparing for their own rendition of 'Aladdin'. Included at the end of the newsletter are the dates for the remainder of the term – be sure to book your seats for the Christmas shows.

Kind regards,

Jim Dees

FOWLS

A reminder of upcoming FOWLS events:

Friday 1st December – FOWLS Parents Disco

Friday 8th December – Christmas Jumper Day – final donations for the Christmas Fair (bottles, cakes etc..)

Saturday 9th December – FOWLS Christmas Fair



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Pastoral Assistant Role at West Lodge

In September, we were very fortunate to have appointed Mrs Caroline Kinsella as the school's Pastoral Support Assistant. This is a new role in school and one we believe to be absolutely vital in helping to support the mental health and emotional well-being of all our children.

This term, Mrs Kinsella has been supporting individual/small groups of children both in the classroom and the playground. Some of this support has included helping to reduce children's anxieties and building positive relationships with their peers. She has also had the opportunity to meet with parents/carers and staff to discuss individual children's needs. We look forward to Mrs Kinsella further developing her role and providing valuable support for many children across the school both now and in the future.

West Lodge PALS

The children have now been chosen for PALS and will be starting in their new roles next week. They have had training and are very excited to get started! We will be monitoring the effectiveness of the PALS as the term progresses and will carry out further training to help them develop their skills of peer assisted leadership later in the term.

Autism Learning Hub

We are very excited to be offering our support to other schools in the borough through our Autism Learning Hub this year. Our first session, taking place at the end of November, will focus on how to implement purposeful visual timetables to support independence. This will be part of a four session programme focused on developing independent learning and autonomy in autistic learners in the mainstream classroom. We look forward to welcoming fellow colleagues, developing and sharing our knowledge and understanding of autism.

Recipe for Change

We have been following our new lunchtime routines for two weeks now, and each day it gets better and better! 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, of course, had a few teething problems which we are working hard to iron out.

The US School Council met last week and discussed the strengths and areas for development. The strengths included being able to sit with their friends, Table Captains doing their jobs of waiting for slower eaters and clearing away the tables' plates well and an altogether happier lunchtime experience. The areas for development were around having to be signed in by the kitchen staff as this slows service down (we have now eliminated this as teachers are signing the children in in the morning instead) and some Table Captains leaving children alone. We will be addressing the ongoing issues through assemblies over the next few weeks.

ISS Catering have worked hard to ensure that food does not run out. We have seen a real improvement in this area and many children have commented to me that the food is much better now. We continue to monitor the lunchtime provision and our Recipe for Change mentor – Paul Aagaard – will continue to visit us over the coming months.

Thank you to all the children for being so patient and understanding whilst we have made these large changes. It has been hard work for everyone involved but the children appear to be reaping the rewards now which is great!



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School Travel Plan

Thank you to everyone who entered the 'Walk to School' poster competition. All entries that were labelled as requested have been sent to the Travel Planning team at Harrow Council. All other posters will be displayed around the school to encourage as many people as possible to walk to school.

Recently, we carried out a survey to find out how our pupils get to school each day, and we are now looking at how we can encourage everyone to use more sustainable means of getting to school. Later in the school year, we hope to have enough pedometers for every child in a year group to be involved in a weekly Step Count Competition. Watch this space!

Finally, a rota for the Junior Travel Advisors is now in place. Look out for the 'high vis' JTAs each Friday morning patrolling outside the front of school, checking that all children are arriving at school safely. Very many thanks for your continued support.

Lower School Council

Thank you very much for your donations of chocolate advent calendars and bags of chocolate coins for the Harrow Foodbank. As a reminder, these are the future requests for the Foodbank:

Week 3 – Monday 4th December – LARGE TUBS OF SWEETS/CHOCOLATES

Week 4 – Monday 11th December – CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

Upper School Council

Upper School Council met with the Governors this week for a question and answer session. They learnt more about a governor's role in school, current priorities, budget constraints (i.e. no swimming pool!) and what each governor was most proud of at West Lodge. The children also had an opportunity to speak about the new initiative, Recipe for Change, led by Miss Rolnick, to improve their lunchtime experience. The Governors were very interested to hear the children's views and problem solved with them to make the new procedures even better.

Autumn Term – Remaining Dates

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
27th Nov – 1st Dec	Pearl Swimming Harrow Table Tennis Competition				Aquamarine Class Assembly FOWLS Parents' Disco
4th – 8th Dec	Pearl Swimming	Harrow Chess Competition	Y6 Ancient Greek Workshops	Y5/6 Gymnastics Full Board of Governors 7:30pm	FOWLS Christmas Jumper Day
11th – 15th Dec	Pearl Swimming Years 4, 5 & 6 Carol Concert – Pinner Free Church 7:00pm	Year 2 Production LS Hall 9:00am	Year 3 Production US Hall 2:00pm	Year 1 Production 9:00am LS Hall Year 3 Production 7:00pm US Hall	Christmas lunch – Rec/Y1 Year 2 – Christingles at Pinner Methodist Church
18th – 22nd Dec	Christmas lunch Y2/Y3 Pearl Swimming	Reception Production 9:00am LS Hall Christmas lunch – Y4/Y5/Y6 Class Christmas parties 1:30 – 3:00pm	Pantomime LS – Sleeping Beauty US – Reluctant Dragon End of Term – LS finish at 1.15pm US finish at 1.30pm		



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Year 4 Residential Visit

As mentioned during last year's curriculum meeting, our current Year 4 children will return to the Gordon Brown Outdoor Education Centre in May of next year, but this time for a residential visit!

Last year's day trip was a fabulous introduction to the centre and its facilities for the children, who enjoyed shelter building and gladiator training activities. We hope that all of them are looking forward to returning to the centre, but this time to enjoy the experience of an overnight stay too and all the possibilities for extra activities which that allows for.

There will be a meeting for parents in January where we will share the outline of the residential, the proposed activities and format of the trip.

Young Mathematicians Awards

On Wednesday 8th November, four Year 5 pupils from West Lodge - Adhrit, Zahra, Adi and Hana - competed in round one of the National Young Mathematicians awards. The children competed against Year 6 teams from across Harrow and Brent and were very successful. Despite being the youngest participants in the competition, they were able to keep up with the other teams and demonstrated fantastic team work and leadership skills. They will find out if they've made it to the next stage of the competition after their results are compared with other schools nationally. We wish them the best of luck.

Year 5 Millfield Theatre Trip

On Monday 6th November, Year 5 went to the Millfield Theatre to watch a production of Hamlet. It was an interactive play where the children had the opportunity to act in the play itself. The children gained a thorough understanding of the play which they will be studying for the rest of the term.

Reception 'Under the Sea' Show

The children have immersed themselves into our theme of 'Under the Sea' at the start of this half term. They have learnt the names of different sea creatures and some different species of fish and shark as well as other sea animals. They were very enthusiastic about taking part in the 'Under the Sea' drama workshop where they had the opportunity to move around like different sea creatures and sing songs. They have enjoyed stories such as 'The Rainbow Fish', and 'Commotion in the Ocean' to tie in with this theme. They have also been creative by making jellyfishes, sharks and fish tanks.

Year 2 Puppet Workshop

Year 2 were inspired by their Puppet Workshop. The morning began with a hilarious 'One Man' Puppet Show. The children were thoroughly entertained by a variety of puppets telling a story about a pirate. During the second half of the workshop the children learnt about different types of puppets and how to make them. It has been lovely to see the children making their own puppets at home afterwards and bringing them in to show us. We are also look forward to making our own puppets in school.

Children in Need

On Friday 17th of November, West Lodge took part in its annual day of fundraising for Children In Need. Children came to school dressed for the theme 'Spotacular' and the day kicked off with Emerald Class' assembly where we learned a little bit about the charity itself and how it provides support for children all around the UK. In the afternoon, pupils in Years 4-6 took part in a rotation of activities, carefully planned by the Year 6 House Captains. Children in Reception to Year 3 took part in Children In Need themed activities in their classrooms throughout the day as well. By the end of the day, we raised a fantastic £749.61 in donations from across the school community.





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Sport News

31st October Year 6 Boys Football League Match vs Longfield 13-0

In a totally dominant display, West Lodge started with real intent playing some irresistible football as they stormed to a 4-0 lead within 5 minutes with Freddie scoring a hat-trick and at the heart of most of our attacks. Further goals followed –another 3 from Freddie, braces from Keigan and Brian. Aayush, Dylan, and Jack scored a goal each to secure a 13-0 win.

Squad: Charlie, Keigan, Jamie, Max, Brian, Matthew, Freddie, Dylan, Aayush, Finn.

31st October Year 5 and 6 Girls Football League Match vs Longfield 10-0

West Lodge Girls' football team got their league campaign off to an impressive start with a comfortable win against Longfield. On a very tight pitch, the girls moved the ball around well and maintained a high tempo throughout the game that the opponents could not keep up with. The game was a nice way to start off and hopefully the experience will give the girls confidence for their upcoming matches.

Goals: Lola 3, Charlotte 2, Sophie 3, Isabelle 1, Madeleine.

Squad: Layla, Isabelle, Charlotte, Amelie C, Madeleine, Fearnie, Sophie, Chloe, Amelia H and Lola.

7th November KS1 Sports Festival

Some children from Year 2 had a fantastic time at the KS1 sports festival. They had the opportunity to participate in a range of activities that developed their fundamental PE skills.

Purple: Naishal, Jemima and Sulaiman Red: Jayden, Riya, Shruti and Tyler Green: Nikhil and Bhuv.

9th November Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby League Tournament

On the 9th November, 20 children from Year 5 and 6 took part in the annual Harrow Tag Rugby League Tournament. The children had been training hard for five weeks leading up to the tournament. Two teams entered and both teams throughout the group stages demonstrated all the skills they had been learning in training, such as an organised defence and catching the ball at speed when attacking. Team A made it through to the quarter finals beating their opponents 2-0 and then through to the semi-finals beating their opponents again, 2-0. Then came the final, an epic game against St Teresa's. The game was extremely close with West Lodge scoring the first try. Unfortunately, St Teresa's came back and scored two unanswered tries, winning the game 2-1. Although disappointed not to win the tournament, the children should hold their heads up high as the rugby they played throughout the tournament was phenomenal and an absolute pleasure to watch. Well done to all the children involved!

Team 1: Lois, Max, Amelia H, Julian, Brian, Lola, Sophie, Freddie, Matthew, Jamie.

Team 2: Evie, Chloe, Charlie, Aarav, Isabelle, Keigan, Rian, Josh, Grace, Amelie.

14th November Year 6 Boys Football League Match vs Roxbourne 8-0

Continuing where they left off in their last league match, West Lodge made another impressive start with Freddie scoring the first goal and at the heart of the team's attacks throughout the game. He went on to score 5 in another impressive display, scoring one goal after taking the ball from the edge of his own box and scoring at the other end with a rabona. This was a total team display as we limited Roxbourne to one attack in the first half in which we created a lot of chances and just a handful of chances after half-time. The defence was expertly marshalled by Keigan who scored a header and the midfield energy was provided by Brian and Max -who scored a goal each -as well as Dylan and Matthew.

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



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14th November Year 5/6 Girls Football vs Grimsdyke

Playing their second league game of the year, West Lodge Girls continued their strong start in the league with another high scoring win. We played Grimsdyke at The Croft on a big 7 a side pitch and this really helped the girls understand their positions and roles. We had total control of the game and used this dominance to practise our spreading out and passing, as well as taking a lot of the chances we created.

22 goals scored in two games and 0 let in is very impressive, however, we know tougher tests will come, but our performances so far give us great belief going forward.

Scorers: Madeleine, Isabelle, Charlotte, Sophie 2, Amelie 2, Lola 3, Chloe 2.

Squad: Layla, Lola, Amelia, Fearne, Isabelle, Charlotte, Madeleine, Chloe, Sophie and Amelie Coyle.

13th November West Lodge B 91 - 89 Vaughan, Indoor Cricket, Whitmore

This was a match that tested the courage and nerve of West Lodge B...and Mr Beckwith! A fantastic batting performance by Yash, with a high scoring 25, and 15 from both Dehan and Shray set Vaughan a target of 92 to win. There was consistent bowling and fielding from all players, as the game went into the final over. With Raafey bowling a dot ball on the last ball of the over the match was won. A brilliant result with great team spirit shown!

Squad: Dehan, Raafey, Shray, Niall, Amelie C, Josh, Rian, Yash.

16th November Year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby Festival, Harrow Rugby Club

On the 16th November, West Lodge took three Year 3/ 4 teams to Harrow Rugby Club for a Tag Rugby Festival run by The Saracens Foundation. Twelve schools participated, and children were split into 18 teams across three groups and pitches. All our teams were involved in five different 7 aside matches which the children really enjoyed. Throughout the afternoon it was great to see the children's skills progress and their understanding of relevant tactics deepen. The support from parents and careers was really appreciated by all!

Whippets: Sean, Deji, Boyko, Nisha, Audrey, Henry, Zac, Iustin, Sri, Inaya

Wonders: Aaran, Aravan, Angel, Rose, Sarah W, Dylan, Max, Rayyan, Leighton, Clem, Abbey.

Warriors: Lakindu, Arjun, Shyam, Aarav, Aryan, Lilli, Elarno, Haris, Joseph, Ridhi and Anika.

Mr Nevins, Mrs Dunn, Mr Beckwith, Mr Went, Mr O'Rourke, Mr Bennett, Mr Dees