



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

20th October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all your support this half term. It has been an enjoyable few weeks at West Lodge and a very positive start to the year. The children have settled into their new classes and have been working very hard - I have seen a lot of progress across the school, reflecting the effort put in by everyone. You will be able to discuss your child's progress at the Parents' Consultation sessions after half term - please make sure you book your appointment.

We say goodbye to Mrs Watson – who will be leaving to work at Pinner Park Junior School. Mrs Watson has had an association with the West Lodge for a number of years – leading FOWLS between 2010-12, working as an SMSA and as a Learning Assistant. Most recently, Mrs Watson was a founding member of the Kaleidoscope team and has been integral to Kaleidoscope having such a positive start. I would like to thank her for her hard work and for all that she has done for West Lodge over a number of years and also to wish her well in her new role.

There have been many exciting curriculum experiences for the children over the last few weeks. Children across different year groups have been on trips to Stonehenge, Southend, the Natural History Museum, Bracknell Discovery Centre and the Ragged School Museum. Year 4 had great fun during their Viking Day and Year 5 experienced the story of Hamlet in their experiential Shakespeare Workshops. We also enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Festival this term - the children's singing was beautiful.

The School continues to go from strength to strength - in the latest Fischer Family Trust report our 2017 outcomes places West Lodge in the top 4% of schools nationally for attainment and the top 15% of schools nationally for progress. We are proud of the achievements and it is testament to the hard work of the children, the teachers and the incredible support we receive from the parents. Continuing this strong culture of collaboration is key to our future success together.

During the second half of the autumn term there are many exciting curriculum activities planned, with Y4 heading into Central London to see Aladdin, Y5 continuing their study of Shakespeare on a trip to watch Hamlet and both choirs, as well as the Year 6 dance troupe performing at the Pinner Pantomime on Thursday 30th November. We also look forward to all the Christmas celebrations and shows – a reminder to check the date grid for the dates for the Christmas Productions.

I would like to thank our Board of Governors once again who provide incredible support – working as volunteers to support the school in many ways. At the recent Full Board of Governors meeting Gideon Adey was once again voted in as Chair of Governors; the Vice Chair role will once again be carried out by Michelle Gilbody and Manisha Redmond – they were also voted into position. I would also like to welcome Jessel Patel to our Board of Governors, Jessel has been appointed as a Local Authority Governor. You will have received information regarding our upcoming parent governor election. We will send out the details of the nominated candidates after half term.

I am also incredibly grateful to the FOWLS team – led by Jen Allsop – who have worked very hard once again this term to provide a range of enjoyable community experiences, whilst also raising money to support the work of the school.

I have noticed an improvement in the parking on West End Lane – thank you to all parents for your co-operation and continued support with this. It is essential that we keep this section of road clear to ensure everyone's safety.

I would like to finish by paying tribute and offering my gratitude to the staff of West Lodge. I have worked with a number of different staff teams throughout my career – but I have to say the team at West Lodge is the most incredible. From the office team, site managers, cleaners, learning assistants, teachers and leaders – there is very strong work ethic, a real commitment and dedication to providing the very best for the children and a great sense of collaboration.

A reminder – Monday 30th October is a staff training day and the children start back at school on Tuesday 31st October. I would like to wish everyone a relaxing and safe half term break.

Kind regards,

Jim Dees
Headteacher



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

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20th October 2017

Sewa Week 2017

For Sewa Week this year (October 2nd to the 6th), West Lodge staff and pupils put their minds and hearts together once again. Children across the school contributed ideas towards class projects that would celebrate and ignite the spark of Sewa (selfless service) within our school and community. The fundamental principle of Sewa is to complete an act of kindness without any expectations, and to also change and impact on the lives of those around you by donating your time. Throughout the school, small and large acts of Sewa culminated to ensure our most successful Sewa Week yet. Not only were all classes working hard towards their Sewa Activities this year, but many children also took the initiative to complete their own, independent acts of Sewa across the school. Proving to us all, how one small act of kindness can create ripples of appreciation and understanding within our school and community.

Children in Year One worked hard to bake cookies and create cards, to welcome our new Reception children to the school. Year Two classes worked together to make cards and decorate biscuits to say thank you to members of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Pupils in Year Three showed their appreciation for our environment by collecting rubbish and tidying up the school grounds. They also made cards to thank members of staff who they often do not get to see (cleaners, office staff, lunchtime staff and caretakers). Year Four and Five classes completed a range of different activities bringing joy to others. Children in Ruby Class cleaned staff cars and Emerald Class children shared their love and passion for reading with pupils in Lower School. Once again, the children in Year Six hosted residents from our local retirement homes for a lovely afternoon tea party, with lots of delicious treats baked by children at school and at home. We would like to thank all the parents who donated generously to our Harvest collection for Harrow Care. The team at Harrow Care were amazed at the amount collected and expressed their gratitude.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

West Lodge is a Rights Respecting School and at the beginning of each new school year, every class works together to create a class charter promoting the UNICEF Convention on the Rights of a Child. This Class Charter is created as a wall display that remains up throughout the year to remind us of the Rights of a Child and celebrate that we are a Rights Respecting School. This year there were so many creative, eye catching and powerful class charters, created across the school. The Steering Group members were given the difficult task of deciding on the winning Charters for this year. This was no easy task or decision and there was a lot to be considered. However, in the end Blue Class and Sapphire Class children were awarded with the best Class Charters for 2017. Both Charters are incredibly visual and clearly promote our values and key principles to always be 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'. We would like to welcome the following children to the Rights Respecting Steering Group: Jemima, Sulaiman, Dylan, Kritvi, Julia, Arin, Aarav, Niamh, Vanshika, Oliver, Dylan, Saanjh, Jasmine, Shray, Janyana, Ethan, Janet, Jasmine, Rian, Hana, William, Riya, Ridhi, Joseph, Aymen, Parry, Josh and Nisha. They will be carrying out research projects and helping the school achieve Level 2 of the Rights Respecting School Award.

School Travel Plan

In July 2017, West Lodge Primary School achieved the STARS Silver Accreditation for their travel plan. The TfL's STARS accreditation scheme inspires young Londoners to think differently about travel and its impact on their health, wellbeing and the environment.

West Lodge Primary School seeks to promote the benefits walking to school. A recent survey of both staff and children indicated that almost all would like to walk, scoot, cycle or use public transport to get to school each day. The school, in addition, tries to use sustainable means of transport for its educational visits.

We are pleased to announce that Vanshika, Aksheaay, Daren, Saanjh and Tariq, all Year 6 children, have been appointed JTAs for the coming year. We are keen to recruit JTAs from Year 5 as well, so watch out for adverts around school. A rota for the JTAs will be put in place shortly, and we look forward to seeing them patrolling in front of the front of school on Friday mornings. Very many thanks for your continued support.



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

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20th October 2017

Year 6 Roles and Responsibilities

During the month of September, many Year 6 pupils put themselves forward for various roles of responsibility. On Monday 11th September, staff and pupils heard very carefully prepared speeches from boys and girls across the year group, which were delivered with great confidence and showcased excellent public speaking skills.

Head & Deputy Head Boy and Head & Deputy Head Girl

Pupils and staff voted Charlie Cadman and Dylan Kinsella to be their Head and Deputy Head Boys, and Sophie Sheldon and Saanj Lomash to be their Head and Deputy Head Girls.

Sports Captains

Later in the month, on the 21st of September, Years 4, 5 and 6 listened to pupils in Year 6 explain to their houses why they would like to represent them as Sports Captains and the following children were voted into these roles by their peers: Freddie Taylor, Amelia Humphris, Kaelen Mahendran, Evie Allsop, Keigan Elliott, Madeleine Quinnell, Matthew Wizbeck and Maryam Khan.

House Captains

Also that day, Year 6 pupils delivered speeches for the role of House Captain and the following children were voted into these roles of responsibility: Henry Angold, Grace Wilson, Aayush Patel, Anisia Bakshi, Dennis Ciocurlan, Saffron Adey, Max Dadomo and Layla Wolff.

It should be noted that all candidates prepared excellent speeches and it was evident to staff and pupils as to how much effort was put into these tasks, which we believe was a valuable experience for all pupils who stepped up to the challenge and took part in this process.

We thank them for their efforts.

Upper School Council

New members of the Upper School Council have been elected from Years 4, 5 and 6. We are delighted to welcome Sienna, Max, Mohan, Shayl, Aneesh, Vishakha, Eva, Ayaan, Aarav, Maya, Martha, Issa, Zack, Aleisha, Jessica, Alma, Shyam and Rose to the team.

Upper School Council met with Miss Rolnick and Mrs. Eastwood to discuss 'Recipe for Change' at their meeting on Tuesday, 10th September 2017. They were able to ask questions and bring their own and their classmates' ideas for consideration. The new initiative will improve the children's lunchtime experience and create a 'restaurant feel' in the dining room. The Upper School Council are playing a key role in ensuring that the new procedures take account of the children's views which will lead to happy lunchtimes for everyone.

Lower School Council

New members of the Council have been elected from Years 2 and 3. We are delighted to welcome Zac, Reya, Clem, Trisha, Amy, Leo, Nishita, Ibrahim, Arjun, Emily, Adhiti and Fransisco to the team.

The role of the School Council members is to make West Lodge Primary School an even better place to be. As one of the election manifestos said: 'If you vote for me, we will work together to make the best school ever.'

Currently, the children are involved in the introduction of the new lunch time initiative, Recipe for Change, giving WWWs and EBIs for how it has been progressing so far.



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

20th October 2017

Developing Outdoor Play & Learning

This time last year, we were very excited to be embarking on the OPAL programme. Since then, we are confident that we have addressed all of the areas schools must plan for if they want to sustainably improve the quality of play. We have created happier playtimes, better play spaces and enabled staff to support outdoor learning. We have even achieved the OPAL platinum award! The children have continued to have such fun this term and are really developing their problem solving and risk-taking skills. We are still really short of fabric – please send in your old sheets, curtains, saris and any other fabric that you no longer need.

Thank you.

West Lodge PALs

Many children in Year 5 and 6 have applied and were successful in becoming West Lodge PALs for the Year 2017/2018. These children have received part one of their training and will help children in the playground at lunchtime. They will be available to teach others new games, to be a listening ear and to help resolve any conflicts. They will be responsible for making sure that all children have their rights met in the playground. The number of children interested in becoming PALs is incredible – we have appointed 55 children to take on the role. Congratulations to all the newly appointed PALs.

Recipe for Change

We are really excited to be launching our new dining room on Tuesday 31st October. We continue to work with Paul Aagaard from Recipe for Change (www.recipeforchange.co.uk) to change the lunchtime routines. We aim to make eating a more sociable, calm and enjoyable experience for all children. We have introduced a new seating plan and have named all the tables after fruit and vegetables. We have also totally eliminated queuing from the dining hall, and have assigned each child to a specific table (these tables will change half termly). We hope that this will help to make lunchtime run really smoothly, and will encourage children to converse with children on their table. We are particularly excited, as this will mean that children who have packed lunch will be able to sit with the children who are having school dinners. This means that all children will have access to the dining hall and will be able to eat lunch in the same space, with their year group. We will keep you posted once the launch day has taken place.

West Lodge Learning Research Group

Last week, children in Year 4, 5 and 6 were given the opportunity to write an application form if they wished to be part of the West Lodge Learning Research Group. Thirty five applications were received for only twelve positions. Mr Bennett is currently working his way through these application forms and will announce who will be part of this group during the first week back after half term.

The first job for the group will be to conduct surveys to assess how children feel about their learning, and what difference the OPAL project has made to children's lunchtimes.

Parents' Forum

Our recent parents' forum focused on reviewing our School Improvement Plan from 2016-17 and going through our key priorities for 2017-18. The overview of our new School Improvement Plan can be found on the school website. One of the key points that the parents brought up was linked to the impact that OPAL has had on the children challenging themselves more in the classroom – the Learning Research group will research this later this term. The other key point raised was on the school teaching research skills – which we cover in some aspects and topics – but we will look into teaching these skills more explicitly with the children.

Our next Parents' Forum is on Friday 10th November at 2:00pm – we will be focusing on understanding our new Positive behaviour Policy.



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

20th October 2017

Educational Visits and Workshops

Southend on Sea

Year 2 had a wonderful time at Southend on Sea. The weather was great and we were able to enjoy an ice-cream and make sand castles on the beach. The children enjoyed exploring the Sea Life Centre and learning about starfish. The RNLI were very grateful for their donations and their cards.

Bracknell Discovery Centre

This term Year One had an exciting trip to Bracknell Look Out Discovery Centre. It was filled with exciting light and sensory hands on activities and a colourful light workshop. We loved seeing the different coloured flames and learning how to stay safe around fire. The adventure playground was a lot of fun to play on and we compared it with the other playgrounds we have seen. We are now looking forward to designing our own playground equipment!

Viking Day

On Friday 13th October Year 4 experienced an exciting Viking Day. They took part in a number of activities including: storytelling in the roundhouse, making runes, cracking Viking codes, drama related games linked to the Vikings and taking part in a year group rendition of Viking Rock!

Stonehenge – Year 3

On Tuesday 26th September, as part of our History topic on 'Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age' Year 3 visited Stonehenge. The visit brought to life all that the children had been learning in the History lessons about Stone Age and what an incredible feat of teamwork and engineering it was in constructing this site. Moving the huge stones and placing them was no simple task. It was difficult to imagine that the only materials they had were stone, wood, bone and rope made from strips of bark and plants. Whilst walking around the monument the children got a real sense of the importance and significance of Stonehenge and the area surrounding it. The children were able to see the tools and methods used in the construction, displayed in the exhibition centre. Models and video footage allowed the children to see how Stonehenge has changed over time. The children also had an opportunity to explore the homes of the Neolithic people.

Natural History Museum

Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum in September as part of their topic on evolution. They looked at a variety of fossils as well as experiencing a workshop on adaptations and evolution.

Photo Gallery



Ragged School Museum

On September 28th and 29th the children of Emerald, Amber and Aquamarine classes dressed as Victorian school children and made their way to the Ragged School Museum in East London. During their visit, the children experienced first-hand what it was like to live in a Victorian household. They looked at some of the tools the Victorians used to make their lives easier but also discussed their cramped living conditions and the effect this had on life in London in the 1800s.

Later in the day, the children got into role as Victorian school children and had the opportunity to experience first-hand what it was like to attend school in the Victorian times. Led by a strict Victorian school teacher, the children learned about expectations and punishments. Unanimously the children agreed that they are lucky to have been born in the 21st Century.



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

20th October 2017

West Lodge – A Learning Hub for Harrow Schools

Following successful applications in June 2017 – West Lodge has been selected as a learning hub for other primary schools in Harrow. We will be running a learning hub in two areas – Autism and Computing. This means we will be providing training for teachers across Harrow – details of each learning hub are explained below.

Autism Learning Hub

This year, West Lodge is a learning hub for autism and we are looking forward to providing specialist training in developing autism-specific environments and teaching strategies. Our first session, taking place on Thursday 9th November, will focus on developing appropriate and effective visual timetables to encourage independent learning for autistic children in the mainstream primary classroom. Additional sessions will be held throughout the year covering aspects of creating autistic friendly classrooms and developing social skills.

Computing Learning Hub

West Lodge Primary School is delighted to once again be a learning hub for computing. We will be sharing with other schools in Harrow our professional understanding of teaching through the medium of digital technologies. In the past, we led the implementation of the new computing curriculum. This year, we will build on this to develop stronger and strategic leaders in schools.

Across the year, we will be running a Computing Leadership programme for schools' coordinators. We will look at everything from staff training to planning future spending on equipment. We want to develop computing leaders so that Harrow schools are equipped to deliver an exciting computer curriculum. In addition, we will run courses to upskill teachers in specific areas of computing such as Python and Scratch, which are programming languages that are used in schools. We will also be running courses for colleagues in Harrow and offering support which will enrich other subjects, for example, the use of ipads and multimedia green screen.

Being a hub is also extremely useful for West Lodge Primary School. It ensures we are at the cutting edge of current thinking and innovative in our practice. The school has a strong team of computing specialists and a group of enthusiastic Y6 digital leaders who are keen to see new ideas brought into their school and for all pupils to use computers to enhance their learning to its fullest.

Digital Leaders

We are delighted to have appointed ten digital leaders from Year 6 for this academic year. They are - Aniya, Ayaan, Vanshika, Liam, Gurkaran, Aidan, Vrishin, Vijay, Ronnie and Fraser.

The Digital leaders have already taken part in green screen training and are looking forward to supporting staff in teaching children about e-safety and different forms of coding throughout the year. They also have admin roles on DB Primary and are responsible for updating year group community pages.

Kaleidoscope

The children have enjoyed exploring their senses over the past few weeks! Whilst making play dough, we enjoyed smelling lots of different spices and fragrances and adding them to our mixtures to make lots of interesting scents.

The children have also enjoyed exploring habitats, trees and flowers across the school during Science and Forest School activities. We even saw a mouse but it escaped too quickly to take a photograph!



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

20th October 2017

Performing Arts Update

The Lower School Choir and the Upper School Choir performed at the Harvest Festival held at Pinner Parish Church on Thursday 12th October – it was a lovely event! The Upper School Choir have begun rehearsing for the Young Voices Concert at the O2 on January 30th 2018.

The children have enjoyed looking at and responding to a range of art from a variety of times, places and cultures. The artwork they have produced is displayed throughout the school using a range of media.

We look forward to both choirs and Year 6 Dance Troupe performing at the Pinner Panto on Thursday 30th November

MUSIC AWARDS

Monica Clemens	Grade 1 - Violin
Aniya Agarwal	Grade 1 - Violin
Ali Abouel Hassan	Grade 1 - Violin
Chloe Black	Grade 1 - Violin
Charles Cadman	Grade 1 - Violin
Zackeria Atek	Grade 3 - Clarinet

FOWLS

The FOWLS team have been incredibly active again this term – working hard to organise lots of events to raise money to support the school. Once again the Navratri events were very well attended and lots of fun – a total of £2056 was raised. The Cinema Experience, a new initiative this year, was also successful – raising £500.

Also, thank you to Nilaxi for organising the Christmas Card Competition – which was hugely popular. The children have produced some lovely designs. Please make a note of the FOWLS dates listed in the date grid at the end of the newsletter – including the donation days; a parents' disco and of course the Christmas Fair.

Thank you to Jen, Parvadhya and Nilaxi and the wider team for all your hard work.

Upcoming FOWLS Events

Friday 3rd November – Odd Shoe Day (Donations for Christmas Fair)

Thursday 9th November – Health & Beauty Fair

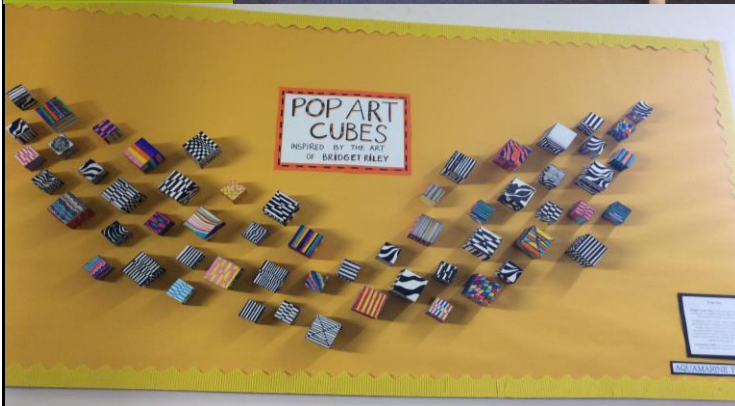
Friday 24th November – Jeans Day (Donations for Christmas Fair)

Friday 1st December – Parents' Disco

Friday 8th December – Christmas Jumper Day (Donations for Christmas Fair)

Friday 9th December – Christmas Fair

Some of the amazing art work from the children at West Lodge this term!





West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

20th October 2017

Sports News

25th September Year 5 and 6 Indoor Cricket, Whitmore High School

West Lodge 1 got off to a great start this term scoring 127 runs against Pinner Park; four of our batsman had to retire on 15 runs (Adhrit, Jamie, Raafey and Julian). After some accurate bowling and many dot balls, we restricted Pinner Park to only 47 runs in their ten overs.

Squad: Keigan, Jamie, Charlie, Rian, Eshan, Adhrit, Raafey, Julian.

28th September Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby tournament, The Hive

Thirty children from Years 5 and 6 took part in a tag rugby festival at Harrow Rugby Club on 28th September. As always, the children of West Lodge participated with great spirit and enthusiasm and it was lovely to see them work so well as part of a team. The children encouraged each other and when mistakes were made, there was always a positive comment to each other that ensured everybody remained optimistic. The skills they have been developing in their PE lessons were clear to see, making excellent tags and blocking the spaces with some exceptional tries scored by all three teams. Well done to all the children involved.

Squad: Dennis, Amy, Eashan, Rowan B, Umair, Charlotte, Madeleine, Alfie, Hana, Mia, Ellie, Shray, Noah, Zak, Gurkaran, Dehan, Milun, Aayush, Saffron, Dylan, Grace, Yash, Ella, Eshan, Lois, Ibrahim, Finn, Jamie.

3rd October Year 5 and 6 Football friendly vs Byron Court, Northwick Park

The year 6 boys' football team had a practice match against Byron Court Primary School on Tuesday 3rd October to help them prepare for the Harrow Cup on Saturday. West Lodge raced into a two- goal lead thanks to two clinical strikes from Freddie. Byron Court then composed themselves and worked their way back into the game. Charlie, Jamie, Julian, Mayowa and Keigan kept it solid at the back and prevented Byron Court getting a goal. Max, Matthew, Aarav and Captain Brian showed great energy in the midfield to go up and down the pitch helping the team defend and attack. Dylan linked up well with the midfielders and nearly managed to get himself the goal his work rate deserved. Freddie added two more fine goals and the result was a well-deserved 4-0 victory....not bad for the team's first game of the season.

Squad: Charlie, Mayowa, Keigan, Jamie, Max, Brian, Matthew, Freddie, Aarav, Julian, Dylan.

7th October Year 5 and 6 Football Barnet FC Cup, 7-a-side Tournament, The Hive

West Lodge took part in the annual Harrow 7-a-side Tournament on Saturday 7th October. In the first round of group matches, we played Grimsdyke winning 3-1 (Freddie 2, Brian) and winning 3-0 against St Teresa's (Mayowa, Matthew, Brian). As a result, West Lodge won the group and reached the semi-final where we faced St Bernadettes with another excellent win by two goals to nil (Brian, Freddie). Pinner Park were our opponents in the final – it was a tough game but West Lodge eventually got two crucial goals winning the game 2-0 (Freddie 2). We now go forward to the Middlesex Finals as Harrow representatives for the fourth year in a row!

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

9th October Year 5 and 6 Indoor Cricket, Whitmore High School

A fantastic all-round performance from West Lodge 2! The match started with Roxeth batting and their runs were restricted to only 40, with some great fielding and bowling from all children. The teamwork was clear with all children working together to run out opposition players. West Lodge 2 entered their turn in the crease full of confidence, with exceptional run scoring all round, with 15 from Dehan and Josh, while Amelie C, Raafey, Shray and Niall all chipped in with 8 runs. They finished with a huge total of 82!

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



West Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

20th October 2017

Sports News

Year 5 and 6 Cross country championships, Bannister sports centre

Our cross-country squad once again did the school proud as they produced some excellent individual and team performances. The year 5 girls' race saw an outstanding finish with Jenani being pipped before the line to take 2nd place. She was well supported as Amelie Coyle and Lowena both placed inside the top 20. Isabel, Aisha and Lucy also ran well finishing in the top 40. In a tight team contest, the team were 4th. The end of the year 5 boys' race was exciting as Julian produced a superb finish coming from behind for the third time as he managed to squeeze in front of his opponent to take 1st place Josh produced an impressive 8th place especially considering he ran with one shoe for half of the race! Niall and Rian showed excellent back up with top 30 finishes as did Abu in 50th place meaning the team were second. In the year 6 girls', Amelia ran strongly with a 7th place finish. There were strong runs from Isobel, Lola and Charlotte all inside the top 20 which meant we secured 2nd place in the team standings.

Matthew and Freddie both ran superbly to grab 2nd and 3rd in the year 6 boys' race with Charlie in 6th and Aayush in 16th. Jack, Reece and Zak all finished in the top 60. This helped secure gold in the team placings.

A tremendous effort from all!

Sports to look forward to after half-term:

Year 5 and 6 - chess, rugby union, football, indoor athletics, table tennis, netball

Year 4 - tag rugby, chess

Inter-house competition: hockey

Have a great half-term!

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