



West Lodge Primary School

NEWSLETTER

24th March 2016



Headteacher's Hello!

As we quickly approach the end of a busy term, can I thank staff, governors and parents for their continued commitment to West Lodge. We are pleased that so many families continue to choose us as their first choice. Over 190 families requested us as their first choice for Reception 2016.

A big well done to the Year 3 and Year 6 dancers who gave two outstanding performances at the Harrow Arts Centre as part of the Harrow Dance Showcase. Their commitment to rehearsing and giving of their own time definitely paid off. Thank you to Miss Trinidad and Mrs Taylor who worked hard with the children to rehearse the dances. This week parents and children have been treated to a night at the theatre in our school hall to watch Year 5's version of Romeo and Juliet. We were so proud of our children who gave an amazing performance - bringing such a wonderful energy to the play. Our Year 3/4 choir gave two wonderful performances earlier this term - one performance at the Harrow Arts Centre and one in school. They sang beautifully and with confidence. A big thank you to Mr Revens and Miss Baker who have shown great commitment working with the children during Lower School practice every Monday. Earlier this week, 10 children from West Lodge performed at the Harrow String Festival where they performed a series of pieces with other cellists and violinists from local schools. This included an Abba medley entitled Abbatastic.

We had two successful events last week at school and thanks must be extended to Mrs Grant and Mr Revens who organised a wonderful Autism Awareness Day on Thursday 17th March and to Mr Bennett who organised an equally successful Sport Relief Day on Friday 18th March.

We say goodbye to Jane Baker who was teaching Topaz Class up until Friday 11th March. Miss Baker has left to gain experience at a wider range of schools before completing her NQT year at a later date. I would like to thank Miss Baker for all her hard work teaching Topaz Class and also working with the Lower School Choir. We welcome Miss Zayla Burns who joined on Monday 14th March and will teach Topaz Class until the end of the year. We also say goodbye to Neelam Agarwal and Anita Paul who have been working as SMSAs at the school. We are very appreciative of their hard work and efforts supporting the children at lunchtimes. Neelam will be taking up a role at Marlborough Primary School as a teaching assistant after the Easter break and we wish her well in this new role. Mrs Vinifer Cooper has been appointed as a new SMSA and Ms Safiya Gudaal has had her hours extended to cover the areas needed at lunchtimes.

On behalf of the staff may I wish all our families a happy Easter break.

Jim Dees - Headteacher



Investors in People

On Monday 7th and 8th March, we were assessed for Investors in People and I am happy to announce that we successfully achieved the award. The assessor met with a range of staff members from across all areas of the school, with the interviews focussing on the change in leadership at the school. He commented on what felt like a 'seamless transition' for the school and was very impressed with the strong sense of camaraderie and teamwork amongst the staff. Colin Rosen, the assessor stated: *'There is clearly no complacency amongst the people of West Lodge Primary School. Judged by Ofsted in 2010 to be outstanding, the school community has worked tirelessly to ensure it continues to provide the children with a safe and supportive place to learn and progress during a period of considerable change.'*

Sport Relief

West Lodge turned a slight shade of red on Friday 18th March to get ready for Sport Relief 2016. All the children, from Reception to Year 6, took part in 30 minutes of exercise throughout the day. A house competition was organised for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 where they collected points over a variety of sporting activities.

The Head Boy and Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Girl and the Sports Captains organised the sporting activities for Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3. This was put together in the children's own time over a period of a month. It was a pleasure to watch the Year 6 children in action and to observe how organised and patient they were with all the children.

This year, West Lodge managed to raise £429.64 which will all go to Sport Relief to help disadvantaged people throughout the world. Thank you to everybody who donated.

Autism Awareness Day

West Lodge turned a shade of blue on Thursday 17th March as we held our first ever 'Autism Awareness Day'. Assemblies and follow-up lessons were used to develop children's understanding of autism at an age-appropriate level. Staff and children were asked to wear blue clothes in recognition of a global initiative to raise awareness of autism by 'lighting up blue' iconic world landmarks, sports arenas, museums, schools and other venues.

In Key Stage 2, lessons were based around a video called 'My Autism and Me' and children embarked on discussions linked to this. Across Reception, Key Stage 1 and Year 3, lessons focused on discussing acceptance and how we are different. As part of this lesson, each child completed a jigsaw piece—these will be put together to form a display at the entrance of Kaleidoscope.

A Reminder— Attendance

Please may we remind all parents and carers that children should be in school by 8:50am (soft start from 8.40am). Children not in the classroom for registration will be marked late. Please try and ensure that all medical/dental appointments are made for the end of the day if at all possible. The school has an absence line on which to report your child's absence. This should be followed up with a note to the class teacher on his/her return to school.

Knit Aid

**KNIT
AID**

On Friday 22nd April we will be holding a Knit Aid event. Knit Aid is a social enterprise encouraging knitters to help those in need. If you would like to find out more information, please visit their web-site:

www.knitaid.org



Our campaigning and volunteering club will be helping to organise the event with the charity Knit Aid. The event will run during the afternoon from 1:30pm until 5:00pm. We are hoping that children, parents and staff will all get involved. The aim will be for each attendee to knit a 10cm by 10cm square. All the squares will then be sewn together to form blankets which will be sent to support refugees. We are particularly keen to hear from parents who are experienced knitters who can help on the afternoon and also provide some knitting lunchtime coaching sessions for children before and after the event.

Attendees will be able to purchase a knitting kit, which will include needles and yarn, these will be brought along on the day by the Knit Aid team.

More information on how you can sign up will be sent out when we return to school on Tuesday 12th April. If you have any queries, or can offer help, please speak to Mrs Leigh or Mr Dees.

A Reminder

Bags for School

Children seem to be bringing bigger and bigger bags into school, particularly in Years 4, 5 and 6. We would urge you to ensure that your child brings in a smaller bag. The bag only needs to be large enough for a reading book, reading record book, homework diary, an A4 homework book and a water bottle. Large rucksacks are too big and, while children are at an age where their bones are still forming, carrying large bags every day can have a detrimental effect on their physical development.

FOWLS

Upcoming FOWLS events are:

17th May — FOWLS' AGM—coffee morning

21st May — FOWLS' Barn Dance

18th June — FOWLS' Football Tournament

Lost Property

We have numerous items of lost property in our boxes, including coats, hats and scarves, which need to be claimed by the end of term. Mrs Thomson will put all items out for collection on Thursday. Please have a look through and claim anything that belongs to you or your child. Thank you.

A Reminder

Health & Safety

With reference to the above item, please may we remind all parents and carers that scooters should not be used on the school premises. It has been highlighted that it is particularly dangerous in the playground at the end of the day when there have been several 'near misses' due to children playing on their scooters.

Healthy Schools

At West Lodge, we encourage children to lead healthy and active lifestyles. It's just as important to make sure the lunchbox your child takes to school provides as healthy and balanced a lunch as what they would eat at home. This means plenty of foods that contain the nutrients that children need, and fewer foods high in sugar and saturated fat. A healthy and balanced lunch supports your child as they challenge themselves throughout the school day. We have noticed an increase in the number of sugary drinks, crisps, chocolate and sweets in children's lunchboxes. We encourage you to replace these sugary items with fresh fruit or vegetables. Vary the fruit/vegetables each day and get them to try new things, such as kiwi or melon. More information and ideas surrounding healthy eating will follow in the Summer Term.

Twitter

Did you know that you can follow West Lodge School on Twitter?

@WestLodgeSchool



Parking

Yet again it has been brought to our attention that some parents and carers are dropping their children off in the morning beside the zebra crossing outside the school gates and on the zig zags at the front and back gates. These practices are extremely dangerous as they hinder visibility for children crossing the road. In addition, we have received several calls from residents in Hillcrest Avenue regarding parking issues. In particular, obstruction of driveways and parking on the junction of Hillcrest Avenue and Northfield Avenue. May I also remind you that parents and carers should not be using the 'visitors' car park at the front entrance to the school. Thank you for your vigilance and support in this very important matter.

March 2016—West Lodge Sports Newsletter

Year 5 and 6 London Youth Games Qualifiers (boys and girls) at The Hive

The best footballers in the borough gathered at The Hive for the chance to represent Harrow at the London School Games. The boys team almost got off to the perfect start dominating possession against Weald Rise. Midway through the match, Stevie arrowed a shot across goal past the keeper but an unfortunate mix-up allowed Weald Rise back in moments later with the game finishing 1-1. Our next opponents, Glebe, defended deeply and initially made it difficult for us. However, as the game wore on we managed to create a number of close chances on goal with Alex finding the finishing touch to help us to a 1-0 win. Our next opponents, Roxbourne, produced a dominant performance, hitting the post, bar and seeing a few chances go wide so West Lodge did well to keep the score at a 1-0 loss. Our final match was another physical battle which saw us emerge victorious securing a 1-0 win thanks to a neat finish from Stevie.

Squad: Ardi, Christian, Sam, Jesse, Jonathan, Kye, Wilfred, Alex B, Freddie T and Stevie.

In the girls' tournament, an even first match against St. Joseph's resulted in a narrow 1-0 loss. We improved to secure a goalless draw against Roxbourne. Skye scored our first goal of the tournament from a quick counter attack to ensure we beat a good St. Joseph's side 1-0. Playing St. George's, for the second time in a week, we were at the receiving end of an excellent performance as we lost 2-0. We reacted well in our last group match, beating St. Teresa's 1-0 as a shot from Keighley went in off the keeper. Our improvement as the tournament continued was not enough to secure a place in the semi-finals as we finished equal 3rd. Well done to both squads!

Squad: Keighley, Sophie L, Libby, Connie, Skye, Erin, Jessica, Mia and Karishma.

Year 5 and 6 Girls' Football League Match vs St. George's

Dominating the first half with Keighley, Erin and Skye at the fore, West Lodge restricted St. George's to one shot on goal. The opposition put a lot of bodies in the middle of the pitch making it hard for West Lodge to deliver the ball into danger areas. West Lodge's best chance of grabbing a goal was getting the ball forward early and so it proved just after the break. A fine exchange of passes between Ella, Erin and Keighley fed Skye through to tuck the ball into the bottom corner. St. George's rallied and eventually made a breakthrough scoring midway through the second half. West Lodge responded well with Skye going close again and they were awarded a penalty for handball. Erin stepped up but hit her effort just wide. The final score was 1-1.

Squad : Keighley, Sophie L, Libby, Connie, Skye, Erin, Jessica, Mia and Karishma.

Year 5 and 6 Cross-Country, Bannister Sports Centre

Heavy rain overnight had turned parts of the course into a swimming pool but this did not stop the 5 girls getting off to a flyer finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the girls' race easing to 1st place in the team standings. Keighley lead from the start to dominate the field. Amelia provided excellent support in 2nd with Ella bravely holding on for 3rd spot, having been challenged for the last 300 metres. Niya and Nina both ran well to secure top 10 spots with Anna, Zola and Emily all placing inside the top 30. With a hard act to follow, the Year 5 boys produced an excellent team performance to clinch 1st in the team standings thanks to fine runs from Joshua in 3rd, Imad in 8th, Otto in 12th and Luke in 21st. Dylan and Pratham finished inside the top 50. The Year 6 girls' squad claimed 3rd in the team standings thanks to Molly (9th), Sophie (17th), Connie (18th), Libby (22nd) and Isabella (29th). The Year 6 boys put on a brave performance but were just outside the medals as a team with the 'A' team placing 4th thanks to Alex in 10th and William, Ned and Christian finishing inside the top 20. The 'B' team was 5th with Jesse, Max, Stevie, Tom, Massi and Sam securing top 50 finishes. Well done to all!

Year 3, 4, 5, and 6 'B' and 'C' Gymnastics Competition, Norbury School

West Lodge had some good results at this competition with the 3 and 4 'B' squad claiming joint 3rd in the team standings with the 'C' team placing 4th. The Year 5 and 6 'B' squad placed 4th but the 'C' team went one better in taking 3rd place. Well done to the whole squad and also Sudarshan for being awarded the rosette for effort and determination.

Squads - Year 3 and 4 'B': Chloe, Dylan, Mayowa, Madeleine, Mihail, Year 3 and 4 'C': Ellie, Mia, Porter and Amelie Coyle

Year 5 and 6 'B': Cecily, Eva, Sofia Ball Albarran, Rosie and Poppy Year 5 and 6 'C': Sudarshan, Tianna, George, Emily, Anna Casey and Sophie Atkinson

UK Chess Challenge 2016

It has been a great Year for our keen chess players at West Lodge Primary. We entered thirty players in the largest scholastic chess tournament in the world, the UK Chess Challenge and had some great successes. Our competition began with 30 Chess players from Years 4, 5 and 6 playing seven rounds during an early morning session in the double mobile. I am proud to announce that Miles Johnson (Amber class) scored a perfect 21 points, winning all his games, to become the West Lodge Primary Chess Champion. Philip Truscott and Urva Panchal won the Year 6 prizes; Aniya Agarwal and Sujaanan Pathmasothy became the Year 4 champions; Miles is the Year 5 boys champion and the Year 5 girls champion is Hannah Crease.

Many thanks for the commitment and dedication that all the competitors displayed during this year's tournament and good luck to those who have qualified for the Megafinal.

Dance Showcase

Children from both Years 3 and 6 performed in the Dance Showcase at Harrow Arts Centre last week, alongside other schools from the borough. Year 3 performed a contemporary dance to Christina Perri's 'A Thousand Years', whilst Year 6 showcased their street dancing and gymnastic talents to Fleur East's 'Sax'. We would like to thank all the children for their hard work and commitment and look forward to seeing them perform again in the summer term.

KS1 Sports Festival

Well done to all of the children that took part in the KS1 Sports Festival at Harrow Leisure Centre. The afternoon allowed the children to experience different activities from different sports including; a penalty shoot out, brain gym games, basketball and tennis.

North London half-marathon schools challenge

On a cold Sunday morning, 65 children from Year 3 to Year 6 joined 1,500 others from across North London to participate in the School's Vitality Challenge and after a brief warm up the children went pitch side at Wembley Stadium to take their places on the starting line. The children then ran down Wembley Way before doubling back into the stadium to complete their mile long run and receive their medals and goodie bags. Special congratulations to the staff members and parents who completed all 13 miles of the half marathon.

Have a great Easter holidays!

PE Team

Mr. Nevins, Mr. Went, Mr. Dees, Miss Kerl and Mr. Bennett.