



West Lodge Primary School Weekly Bulletin

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

5th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well. Another busy, enjoyable week of learning at West Lodge. Joining Zoom lessons across the school this week was one of the highlights of the week – the children have adapted so well and are engaging really positively with their learning. Thank you for all your support with this.

Developing Pupil Independence

As a school staff we have been exploring ways to try and support pupils with their independence, self-regulation and metacognition. A real benefit of this period can be that children learn to become even more self-reliant and further develop their abilities to reflect on their learning. We have noticed that in some cases work submitted by the children does not seem to reflect our assessment of their current attainment – it is a fine balance trying to find the best way to support your child – by all means support with explanations, maybe some pre-teaching of the content before a lesson - but please ensure that any work that is submitted is the children's (warts 'n' all). Support with editing after they have completed a task can also be helpful – but ensure that the edited work is written in a different colour – this can help show the process. One of the key roles of a teacher is to identify misconceptions and misunderstandings and adapt future planning to account for this. In addition, we are trying to foster a growth mindset amongst the children – work doesn't have to be perfect – mistakes and errors lead to learning! Try to step away from the children when they are on a Zoom lesson – this will help them to develop independence, self-regulation and the ability to really think about their learning – tools that will benefit them hugely going forward. You are doing a wonderful job supporting your children during this time – please keep this up and focus on supporting with misconceptions, maybe some pre-teaching and some editing (edited bits in a different colour) – but allow them to fly free when completing a task. Here is a little video for you, as parents, from the inspirational educator Jaz Ampaw-Farr: [Parents - you are doing an amazing job!](#)



The pictures above show some of the children's learning over the last couple of weeks: Janya's creative mood board; Zeevah's underwater scene; Daniel's under the sea creation; Edward and Lewis with their Mindful Monday puzzle; Rian constructing a bird feeder station and receiving a visitor (a blue tit); Anya exploring what feelings would like on the outside as part of Inside Out Day and Jahnavi's science project – does the type of material affect how quickly water evaporates?

Testing, Vaccination and Following the Guidance

All staff are now using the lateral flow tests twice a week – we would encourage all parents currently using the key worker provision to consider using the rapid test centres across Harrow and, if possible, arrange a lateral flow test once a week as well. A reminder that you can book a rapid COVID test at one of Harrow's rapid test centres <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/test>. There has been a lot of discussion in the media regarding vaccinations and also some misinformation has been shared via various forms of media – we talked this through at the parents' update session this week. It is really important that when you are offered the vaccine you take up the offer – the vaccines have all been through three phases of clinical trials to ensure safety and effectiveness and people from all walks of life (including healthcare professionals) have been involved in these trials. Here is the recording from the session on Thursday when we talked this through: [Parents' Update Recording](#) Passcode: ah+Q+Hf3# . Here is the link to the presentation [Parents' Update Presentation - Feb 21](#) .

In addition, it is vital that we continue to follow the public health guidance for this current lockdown – we should not be meeting up in the local park in small groups. A key message to get across is that if we are not following public health guidance it is likely to prolong the lockdown – the more we are strict with following the guidance, the greater the impact on reducing transmission and the sooner schools will be opened for all pupils.



Mount Everest Challenge



Incredibly, we have already hit our first target of 25,000 flights of stairs – what an incredible effort everyone has made! We have added a few more mountains to extend the challenge, the new mountains are: K2 & Kangchenjunga (the 2nd and 3rd highest mountains in the world); Mount Elbrus (Russia); Mount Etna and Mount Vesuvius! Can we reach the new target of 45,000 flights of stairs by Thursday 11th? Please help with our aim to raise money to support Barnardo's by using the following link [Everest Challenge - Just Giving Page - Barnardo's](#).

Well-being Tip of the Week – Share

Share worries and seek out support from friends and family.

“Every moment is a fresh beginning.” T.S. Elliot

We are very grateful for all your continued support – thank you. I hope you have an enjoyable weekend!

Jim Dees

