



West Lodge Primary School Weekly Bulletin

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

29th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

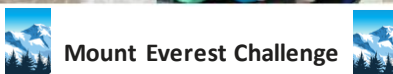
I hope you are all well. The children across the school have been working very hard this week on their various challenges and we are very proud of the efforts they are making. The staff team are incredibly committed to finding the best solutions to supporting the children with their academic and pastoral progress – the team meet regularly to find creative ways to support the children and are finding new ways to deliver aspects of the curriculum and provide additional support.

Your feedback is important to us and has helped us continue to refine and improve our offer – please ensure that you use the appropriate channels for this, so that any queries you may have can be answered directly. If you have any queries regarding the remote learning offer, your child's class teacher should always be your first port of call as they are best placed to discuss the curriculum and provision for your child – the year group emails are the best vehicle for this.

May I remind you that class WhatsApp groups are set up to support communication between families and for sharing information. I would hope that these are not being used to critique school staff – who are working incredibly hard and very skilfully to deliver the curriculum and provide appropriate support for the children. We have a highly skilled staff team at West Lodge – bringing a range of talents. This enables us to provide a wide variety of opportunities and experiences for the children – giving the very best chance to ignite the spark. We are very fortunate to have such a wide range of skills on the staff team – it is a team I feel proud to be a member of.

At West Lodge our greatest strength is our sense of community, our team spirit – we are very grateful for the wonderful support we receive from the parents and we value the partnership immensely. It has been a challenging four weeks for us all and with the news of the extension to the lockdown a difficult few weeks lie ahead – we can traverse these challenges successfully by continuing to work together. **I will host a Zoom session for parents and carers next Thursday at 6:30pm** to share an update on the situation within Harrow; our plans for the weeks ahead and to provide an opportunity for parents/carers to ask any questions.

Here is some of the work created by the children this week: Clementine's creative work linked to the RSPB big garden birdwatch; Ellina's bird box description; Sofia's colourful creation; Cameron busy baking; Noah creating a bird feeder; Aarav and Avir's tasty home baked cookies and Ravi's incredible Maths machine!



So far we have climbed 6,224 flights of stairs as a community. A great effort to begin the challenge – that means we have already climbed: Gros Piton, Slieve Donard, Scafell Pike, Snowdon, Ben Nevis, Mt Cook and Mt Fuji – what an effort! We still have a long way to go – our goal is 25,282 flights of stairs. Here is the link to the presentation which outlines the key stage challenges [Mt Everest Challenge](#). Please help with our aim to raise money to support Barnardo's by using the following link [Everest Challenge - Just Giving Page - Barnardo's](#).

Compost Bins

As a school we are always looking to reduce our impact on the environment and to reduce waste. Last year we started to use compost bins so children can compost their leftover school fruit. We want to compost more but our bins are filling up quickly. Can you help? We would appreciate any donations of compost bins you no longer use.

Rapid Testing

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. Lateral flow tests can play a vital role in breaking chains of transmission and slowing the spread of COVID-19 – keeping our community safe. A reminder that you can book a rapid COVID test at one of Harrow's rapid test centres <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/test>.

Well-being Tip of the Week – do a regular 'mind check'

Notice what's on your mind, how have you felt today or this week? How are your children feeling? Sometimes a hectic lifestyle, particularly with the juggling act brought about by the pandemic, doesn't leave us any room for noticing how we are feeling. Stress and anxiety might be building up, and you are just so busy that you haven't had time to notice. Carry out regular 'Check Ins' with your emotions and your children's, and let them know that sometimes it's ok not to be ok.

"In the middle of every difficulty, lies opportunity." Albert Einstein

We appreciate all your support – thank you. I hope you have an enjoyable weekend!

Jim Dees

