



West Lodge Primary School Weekly Bulletin

Respecting each other, learning creatively, challenging all.

12th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

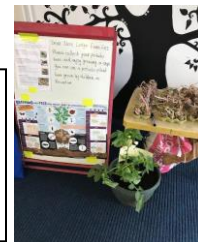
I hope you are all well. We are nearly there! 10,321 miles covered and we have arrived in Canberra, Australia, well done everyone – an incredible collaborative effort! Just under 2,000 miles to our destination of Dunedin, New Zealand. Let's keep going this week and make the final push – of course when we reach Dunedin, we then need to find our way back home!

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/westlodge> <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/west-lodge-school-26-challenge>.

We've
reached
Australia!



Look out for the table
opposite which will be
outside school from
Monday and collect your
seed potato.



The composer of the week for next week is Florence Price. Florence was an African American composer who was the first to gain national status in America and the first female composer of African descent to have a symphonic work performed by a major national symphony orchestra. The collaborative project for next week is linked to Science. The aim is to nurture the wildlife around us by making a bird cafe and to think about cultivating new life by planting and growing something, such as a potato in a bag; families will be able to collect a seed potato from outside West Lodge next week. The home learning plans for next week are now on the school website.

<https://www.westlodge.harrow.sch.uk/home-learning-week-10/>

Over the last two weeks we have been exploring our inclusive culture at school, emphasising the importance of celebrating the wonderful diversity of West Lodge and talking to the children about the protests around the world that have taken place in response to the murder of George Floyd in America. This has also prompted further exploration, learning and self-reflection as a staff team.

Mr Long shared the following clip with me - it is very powerful. English psychologist and former NBA star John Amaechi explains the black lives matter cause really eloquently. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG1zVHJKtgs&feature=youtu.be> As John Amaechi says in the video clip it is important that we should 'hold ourselves and those around us to a high standard of anti-racism.'

We have a wonderful sense of community, acceptance and teamwork at West Lodge and an important part of our culture is that we are always looking outward - what can we learn? As well as reflecting inward - what can we improve? As a staff team we are exploring the themes discussed above, engaging in self-reflection and trying to deepen our understanding.

The following links provide some resources to help parents engage in conversations with children. Mrs McClean shared the following link with me – it has links to a range of books that you can use to help you talk to your child about racism [Black Lives Matter - Instructional Library](#). When you click on each book in the library it will take you to a YouTube video where you can listen to the book. In the following clip – Elmo learns about racism [Sesame Street Tackles Racism](#). It is a useful vehicle for having a discussion with children about this topic. In this clip the Blue Peter presenters discuss racism [Message on Racism from Blue Peter](#).

Here are some key dates for next week:

Reception Parents' Q & A: Tuesday 16th June 4pm

Assemblies: Monday 10:30am (Whole School); Wednesday 10:30am (Rec, Y1, Y2 & Y3); Thursday 10:30am (Y4, Y5 & Y6); Friday 10:30am (Whole School)

Storytime: Monday 15th June 2:30pm (Boy Giant – Son of Gulliver); Tuesday 16th June 2:30pm (George's Marvellous Medicine); Wednesday 17th June 2:30pm (Boy Giant – Son of Gulliver); Thursday 18th June 2:30pm (George's Marvellous Medicine); Friday 19th June 2:30pm (Boy Giant – Son of Gulliver)

Mrs Richardson had the idea to work on this painting (see opposite) with the children in school this week, it is based on the Maya Angelou quote: 'We should all know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value, no matter what their colour.' We will be putting this up near to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend,

Jim Dees



