



Larwood

LOWDOWN



SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY



Academy Status:

It is incredible to note that on the schools 20th anniversary the governing body formally met to have its final meeting as Larwood School. Having concluded that meeting, we now wait to open as Larwood School and as part of Larwood Academy Trust. You may recall that last academic year I wrote to you to make the point that your children will not notice the difference as we end the half term and start the new one with a different status. This remains the same, but during the next year or two ahead, there may be some additional changes that continue to make our school the best it can be for all of our pupils.

As we are open as Larwood Academy Trust, this means that we are a single school within a multi academy trust (commonly referred to as a MAT) but to begin with we will be on our own. Having completed the work to be recognised as a multi academy trust, we are in an excellent position to assess where we go next and with whom. I will keep you updated as and when anything happens.

Staffing:

We start the year fully staffed and with some notable changes. Please note that Mr Reid (Head of Care) is also overseeing the management of the site this year. We also welcome Mr Scales who is classroom based teacher with pupils in years 5/6.

School self evaluation:

During the latter part of the summer holidays, my colleagues and I have assessed our own performance in a variety of ways. This includes pupil progress, behaviour, attendance, standards of teaching, assessment procedures, the curriculum, and leadership and management. This helps us identify success and areas of improvement and these reports are available for you to read in the following section of the schools website:

How effective are we? - What we know about ourselves

Please do contact the school if you have any feedback related to any of these areas. As part of our ongoing school improvement plans we are currently working on the following:

Using a system called Behaviour Watch to record information
Using telephone /email/or diary to communicate with parents
Improving writing using The Big Idea
New additions to the curriculum
Running parent courses to support behaviour improvement
Classroom displays
Extra-curricular clubs allowing residential and day pupils an opportunity to socialise.

This is not the complete list but will give you a flavour as to some of our key themes for the year ahead.

The start of every year is always an exciting time at Larwood! This is definitely the case this year. We have much to look forward to and the best bit is always seeing your sons and daughters make the progress they do as they year moves on.

SEAN TRIMBLE
HEADTEACHER



FIRST DAY OF
TERM:
MONDAY
31ST OCTOBER

Autumn Term
2016

HALF TERM
BREAK:
Monday 17th
October to Friday
28th October

LAST DAY OF
TERM:
Wednesday 21st
December at 1:20

Spring Term
2017

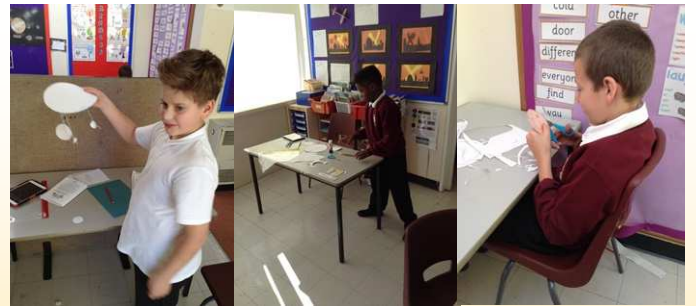
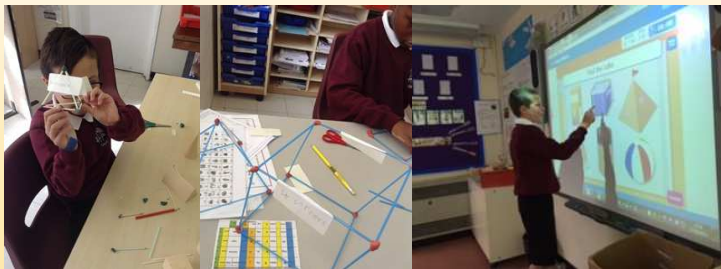
FIRST DAY OF
TERM:
Thursday 5th
January
HALF TERM
BREAK:
Monday 13th Feb-
ruary to Friday
17th February inc.
END OF TERM:
Friday 31st March
at 2:20pm



WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK!

MISS WILLIAMS' CLASS

Mrs Williams' class have been studying Space this half-term, this has involved investigating some of the planets and facts about space. We have also made an Orrery, where the planets are put in order.



We have been investigating shapes. We have been investigating shapes and their properties, making shapes using straws and plasticine and we have also been sorting shapes. We recognised shapes in everyday life.

MR JACOBS' CLASS

Class 6 have been learning about World War II and how the German army, led by Adolf Hitler, invaded and took over power of several Countries prior to War with France and the United Kingdom. The children have focussed their attention on the uses of Anderson shelters, learning how they were built, why they were built and how people survived living with them. They have also learned about the "BLITZ" producing effective images of London during a night of attack. The children also explored the Art technique of collage to produce a display of attacking soldiers.



Mrs Poles' Class

After starting the new year gently with The BFG by Roald Dahl, Class 5 have moved on to the more challenging subjects of the two World Wars. They have read and watched the moving story of War Horse which is set in WWI and imagined what life must have been like for Anne Frank and her family during World War II.

In Science, they found out about the colours in light and made colour wheels to prove that white light is actually full of the colours of the rainbow.



Quotes from the children
about 'After School
Clubs'

"It's fun" - Archie

BuSy



2016 to 2017 Term Dates

Term dates from the front page continued:

Spring Term 2017:

First day of term: Thursday 5th January
Half term break: Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February inc.
End of term: Friday 31st March at 2:20pm

Summer Term 2017:

First day of term: Tuesday 18th April
May Bank holiday: Monday 1st May
Half term break: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June inc.

BONUS HOUSE POINTS!

I (Mr Newman) will give 3 house points to the first child (not adult!) that gives me the answer to the following question:

Q: The Lowdown front page headline is a quote from Hamlet, but what film used this quote as their title.
Clue is in the text!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

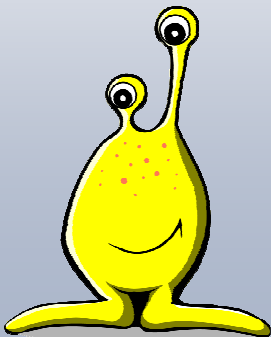
This half term we have had great interest in after school clubs. Day and boarding pupils have enjoyed spending time together in a social setting.

Pupils have enjoyed playing outdoor games, cooking, gardening and ICT.

Next half term the after school clubs will continue - I will be adding Christmas art to the list of activities. All day pupils are welcome to attend the club on a Monday evening. All we ask is for a contribution of £5 per half term to help cover costs.

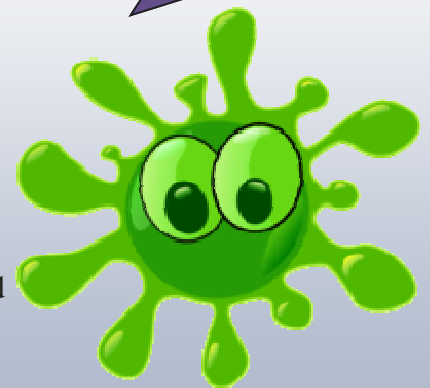
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

You might have heard something from your children about aliens or slime last month! They weren't fibbing! We have had some amazing times at Larwood School and now even writing is exciting! Every three weeks, (approximately) a new BIG IDEA will be launched to engage the children in some creative writing. We're doing this because it is far more effective for the pupils to interact with a scene than it is to be handed a topic and told to write about it. The pupils are still busy finalising their good copies and proof editing but keep a look out next term for a special edition of the Lowdown to see some examples of the excellent writing that the pupils have produced.



Quotes from the children about 'After School Clubs'

"You get to play on Xbox"
- Mika





MR SCALES' CLASS

In our maths lessons we have started to look at two-dimensional shapes and their properties, discussing how we can sort and classify shapes based on a variety of different factors such as: number of sides, whether or not they have parallel sides and whether they are regular or irregular to name but a few. After understanding how to categorise and identify shapes we took our maths learning outside the classroom and had our very own 'shape hunt' around the school where we were looking for shapes here at Larwood and capturing those shapes on iPads. This was followed up with further discussion about what we had found and where – thinking about 'What was the same? What was different? And what we noticed?' It was interesting to see the variety of shapes we could find ranging from the simple circle of a clock-face and rectangle of a table top, to the more intricate irregular nonagon found on the arrow of the fire exit sign and even a dodecagon first aid symbol.



MISS KIMPTON'S CLASS



During topic we have been looking at World War 2 and the home front. We have learned about the "dig for victory" campaign, and how to build a victory garden. We learned about rationing and how women had to wait in line for hours to get basic foods. We had a look at war time

recipes and tried the carrot fudge recipe. It was fun and quite simple to make - sadly it didn't taste too good!



In RE we have been looking at the Jewish religion. We have learned about "Rosh Hashanah" - Jewish New Year, and how the Jewish people reflect on the past year and their behaviour. We linked this into our school rules.

We also discussed the special foods which are eaten during this time. We decided to make a dish - so we made chopped liver. We tried it with rye bread. It was yummy!

Quotes from the children about 'After School Clubs'

"It's exciting and great to spend time with my friends"
- Aiden





**An opportunity to
win £200 of Super
market Vouchers**

**September 2016
to
July 2017**



**100% pupil attendance could
win you £200 of supermarket
vouchers**

**98% + pupil attendance could
win you £150 of supermarket
vouchers**

**95%+ pupil attendance could
win you £100 of supermarket
vouchers**



ATTENDANCE DRAW 2015 - 2016

The winners are:

**100% Attendance
Sonny F**

**98% Attendance
Nicholas B**

**95% Attendance
Christopher O**

CONGRATULATIONS to these pupils.
Tesco vouchers will be awarded after the
half term break

**Remember, you have to attend
school to get your name put in
the hat and be in with a chance
of winning this great prize!**

What Ofsted said about Larwood School January 2014

Pupils have good opportunities to develop a range of skills, including through attending vocational taster sessions at North Herts College and working with visiting artists and musicians as part of the Trinity Guildhall Bronze Arts Award. These stimulating activities contribute to pupils' positive attitudes to learning and to their overall achievement.

Pupils make good progress in developing their physical and sporting skills. Outdoor education contributes considerably to this and those pupils who successfully complete this course have the opportunity to climb Snowdon at the end of the school year.



*Listening, supporting and
non-judgemental*

Family Lives operates a free 24/7 telephone helpline offering advice, information and support on any aspect of parenting and family life as well as extended support for complex and difficult issues. There is also an option to chat online with a parent support worker.

**Helpline
0808 800 2222**

**Website
www.familylives.org.uk**

The website provides advice and a range of resources that aim to ensure that families get the support they need.

Keeping our Children Safe

Larwood School recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount. The school takes its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the young people in its care seriously, and is proactive in ensuring this. Governors, staff and volunteers at Larwood understand the importance of working in partnership with children, their parents/carers and other agencies in order to promote children's welfare. We constantly review the way that we work and look to improve upon this whenever we can. Our DSP; Designated Senior Person for child protection is Mrs Kimpton. Please do contact her if you have any concerns in this area.



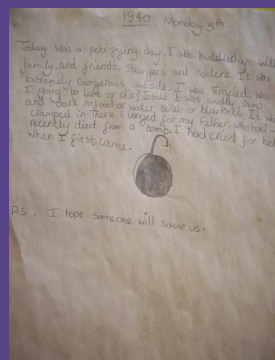
WORK



NEWS FROM HOUSE *Thanks Mr Dennis*

The boarding side of the school is going very well with new pictures to brighten up the children's bedrooms to make them feel more homely and plans to paint a feature wall in the bedrooms so they don't look so plain. The extended day's are going well with day pupils and boarding pupils enjoying a variety of activities on a Monday evening these include cooking, sports outside, gardening, ICT and science club. We have a new representative for the school council who I'm sure will do his best for boarding.

Miss Gwynne's Class



In Miss Gwynne's class we are studying World War II. We have created our own Anderson shelter and recorded our first experience of the sirens going off. We have also created mini Anderson shelters and war planes.



HIRE OUR FACILITIES



Are you looking for a professional conference venue for staff training / business meetings / conducting interviews ?

Take a look at our high quality conference / meeting room facilities available at competitive rates. Catering service available also.

A great opportunity for local businesses in Stevenage to contribute directly to our community - All revenue goes to funding school activities and resources!

*For further information: please call Sandra Fitzpatrick,
School Business
Manager, on: 01438 236333*



Larwood Residential Care

OUTSTANDING

OFSTED OUTSTANDING! YES, THAT'S WHAT WE ARE!

Mr Trimble (Head Teacher) and Mr Reid (Head of Care) were not only very pleased but also proud to receive the recent Ofsted report for residential care. The report had confirmed our own self evaluation that we were now outstanding in all areas of residential care. Mr Trimble has thanked all staff for their work in this area but particularly praised the Care Team for their hard work and commitment, to provide the very best possible experience for all of our residential pupils. It was also noted that pupil voice and parent comments featured strongly in the inspection process and report itself.

A few quotes from the inspection:

Creative approaches to behaviour management complement more traditional responses

Staff effectively safeguard children and carefully balance safety in a non-oppressive way to ensure that children enjoy a variety of life experiences when they begin boarding. This includes purposeful and fun activities in the community. Through these activities, children make a valid contribution to other's lives, their social skills develop along with positive feelings of self-worth. An example of this is visits to a neighbouring home for older people where children read books to the residents.

Peer relationships are strong and staff support children to understand each other's differences. Where children have trouble in their friendships, staff allow each child time to explore their feelings and the impact of their behaviours on each other

Trusting relationships develop between all children and the stable care staff team. These are characterised by consistency, understanding, and warmth. These dependable relationships provide a stable base from which all children achieve

The Head teacher invests in the residential provision. He uses continuous monitoring to inform future planning and expand on positive experiences for children. Children are encouraged to access the independent visitors and all children know how to do this.

The head teacher, head of care and staff form a very strong and stable staff team. They strive to deliver the highest quality care and focus development of the provision on promoting purposeful achievement for all children. The joined up school and residential management and staff teams provide effective and attuned leadership and care across the provision.

Staff respect individual identities, behaviours and characters; they use positive reinforcement and celebration of difference to allow children's individual personalities to shine.

All children are proud of their accommodation, they are keen to share it with visitors and unanimously talk positively about their experiences. One child said: 'I want to stay here forever and ever. It is fun being here, I do not think they could do anything better.'

Children make exceptional progress in all areas of academic and emotional development from their starting point in this school.

A parent said: 'They have really helped me understand what is happening for my son; they involve me and don't shut me out. I feel I am valued as a parent and my views count.'

OFSTED JUDGEMENT

GOOD

A school providing effective services which exceed minimum requirements. Children and young people are protected and cared for and have their welfare safeguarded and promoted.



OUTSTANDING

A school where the experiences and progress of children and young people consistently exceeds the standard of good and results in sustained progress and achievement. The outcomes achieved by children and young people are outstanding and the impact the boarding/residential provision has had in supporting this progress and achieving these outcomes is clearly evidenced.



hyh

Herts Young Homeless

Thank you to everyone who made generous contributions to our Harvest Festival this year. The items that we received have been taken to the Herts Young Homeless Shelter in Hatfield. The items were taken to HYH by Mr Jacobs, Mrs McKeever, Jim, Alfie and Kayla, the charity helpers were very grateful for the items they received and the children enjoyed providing for others.

HYH is an independent charity that has been supporting vulnerable people in Hertfordshire for over 17 years.

hyh mission:

- To prevent homelessness by empowering individuals to make positive informed choices.
- To support young people, those in crisis and individuals at risk of becoming homeless.

We also had a lovely Harvest festival Assembly where we spoke to the children about the celebration of food



Quotes from the children about 'After School Clubs'

"I like to play table football with my friends and teacher" - James

THE MASONIC FISHING TRIP

Our annual fishing trip to Westmill Lakes was again hosted by the Masonic Fishing Charity. On the day the sun shone and so did our pupils. 10 boys and girls from year 6 were selected for the day and accompanied by Mr Newman and Mrs Kimp-ton. Some children fished on the coarse fishing lake where the fish were certainly biting on the day with a selection of roach, perch and other small fish being caught. All the fish on the coarse lake are thrown back into the water. The children learnt which colour maggots the fish preferred and how to bait the fish using worms and sweetcorn. What a way to spend a relaxing day in the sunshine.

On the trout lake, children got to keep their catch. The hardest part was selecting the right place to cast and selecting the right fly for the line. Some children caught more than one fish while Kyle B was so patient all day but so unlucky as he and his fisherman didn't get a bite all day. Things were a little more energetic with the fly casting, then drawing the line back to attract the rainbow trout to the fly. No relaxing time sitting in the sun for them.

It was a great day, lunch was excellent too with burgers, sausages or chicken to choose from. After lunch there was time to return to the fishing for a short while before medals and certificates were awarded. We then settled onto the bus and returned to school with 10 weary fisher-boys and fisher-girls.





THTL BATTLE



MRS KAMENE'S CLASS

The children have been learning about The Great Fire of London.

In 1666, a huge fire that started in a tiny bakery burned down most of London – because it was so big, it was called the Great Fire of London.

The fire lasted four days, and burned down over 13,000 homes. There are a lot of reasons why the fire was so large, mostly to do with the way houses were built – a lot of them were made from wood, and were very close together.

TOP 10 FACTS:

1. The Great Fire of London happened between 2-5 September in 1666.
2. The fire began in a bakery in Pudding Lane.
3. Before the fire began, there had been a drought in London that lasted for 10 months, so the city was very dry.
4. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood and straw which burned easily. Houses were also built very close together.
5. We know what happened during the fire because people back then wrote about it in letters and newspapers – for instance, Samuel Pepys wrote about it in his diary.
6. Artists who were alive in 1666 painted pictures of the fire afterwards, so we know what it would have looked like if we'd been there too.
7. To fight fires during this time, people would have used leather buckets, metal hooks and water squirts.
8. People whose homes had burned down lived in tents in the fields around London while buildings were rebuilt.
9. When houses were rebuilt, a lot of them were made in bricks instead of wood, and they weren't built so close together.
10. Sir Christopher Wren designed a monument to remember the Great Fire of London, which still stands today.

Miss Trott's Class

In Miss Trott's class we have been learning about WW2

for our topic work. We reenacted what it would be like to be living in London during the Blitz, hearing the air raid sirens and staying safe in an Anderson Shelter that we built. We also studied maps of Europe, identifying which



countries were invaded by Germany and the Axis power, as well as moving through the timeline as these invasions happened. The children have taken an interest into the topic of rationing and understanding how both food and clothes were rationed during war times.

Government legislation introduced in 2014 led to an increased emphasis on promoting British values to all pupils, as part of our spiritual, moral, social and cultural development program. Having placed a strong emphasis on moral values and being a responsible member of the Larwood school community, we had already established a strong base in this area. During the 2014-15, we have reviewed where we believe our strength and weaknesses are within this program and this has helped to clarify what we need to do next, alongside what we need to continue to maintain. Such provision may be via the formal curriculum or via more informal opportunities such as play, lunchtimes, additional events including charity based days and trips and visits.

How we do this, what are our strengths and what needs more development?

Influencing decisions making through democratic processes.

This is promoted via the school structure that enables pupils to have a voice and make choices as part of the day to running of the school, as well as long term change and decisions that may affect them. We do this by:

- Promoting class debate around subjects and choices
- Electing school council members and having pupils speak to members of the Leadership Team/Chair of the Governing Body about ideas and choices
- Pupil opinion is sought regularly and in a variety of ways. This includes how they are taught, what food is available, play equipment, where trips may go to and how they are helped to improve their work and behavior
- The school curriculum looks at how some people and countries replicate our beliefs and how some don't

We know that we need to continue to develop the idea that although many aspects of change can be managed via opinion, sometimes, a decision has to be made on the evidence available and that lots of people may have differing opinions. This can cause anxiety and confusion during periods of change.

The law and how this protects people, with clear reference to well being and safety

We make it clear that there are laws (rules) that work at school, in the community and across the country. Alongside these there are also consequences and rewards. Again this is embedded via our day to day interactions, as well as assemblies, PSHE, and curriculum. We promote this by:

- Having clear behaviour management policies for staff/parents etc. and ensuring that pupils are clear about our rules and sanctions. The behavior ladders and reward ladders are displayed throughout the school and referred to regularly.

- Assemblies promote and remind pupils about such values and our points system and consequences are applied fairly and consistently.
- We have an excellent relationship with our local Police and Fire service colleagues. They visit to speak to pupils both during the day and in boarding about general and specific issues.
- The curriculum enhances reference to laws where relevant and helps pupils to understand the rules that they have to follow whilst not at school.

The curriculum enhances reference to laws where relevant and helps pupils to understand the rules that they have to follow whilst not at school.

Individual liberty and mutual respect

This is closely related to law and our ethos and values are driven by the idea of mutual respect that allows us to have the freedom of choice when following rules and laws. We do this by:

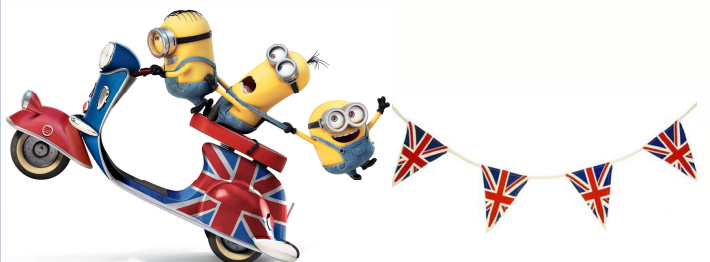
- Promotion of rules and laws alongside consequences, that allow schools, communities, families and countries to work, play and enjoy various environments.
- Actions have consequences. Assemblies, lessons, play. Trios and everything that we do is underpinned by a points system that is supported by a culture of working together to get things right.
- Making the right choice can be difficult but rewarding in many ways.

We will maintain our day to day interaction with pupils to reinforce the idea that all people should be respected, that laws are there to serve us all and we all have the right to be safe.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

As our intake varies greatly, both during the year, and from year to year, we ensure that curriculum provision, assemblies, PSHE and a range of activities support and extend knowledge and understanding this area. Views are discussed from a historical (For example, World War 2) and topical context. Where views are expressed that need deeper discussion, they take place with support and guidance and visits are arranged to different faiths that help to break down perceived barriers and perceptions.

We continue to be very aware of perceptions that exist with regards to different cultures that may not be particularly prevalent within the Stevenage and North Herts area, as well as maintaining a close eye of the political climate and some view that may be generated via such debates.





ATTENTION!



LOOK AT ALL THIS SPACE!

To advertise in this space or to hire
one of our spaces:

- Conference Rooms
- School Hall
- Astro Turf

Contact our school business
manager, Sandra Fitzpatrick on
01438 236 333 and find out about our
competitive rates!

We have some evenings available for
hall hire if you run a club.

Slimming World, Line Dancing &
Zumba already hire our hall!

**Book now whilst the space is
still available!**





The End!



HOUSE RUNS

TRENT	TRAFFORD	HEADINGLEY	LORDS
92	112	98	100
4TH	1ST	3RD	2ND

**WELL DONE TO HOUSE:
TRAFFORD**

Back to School:

Monday, 31st October 2016

