

VOLUME: FOUR

NEWSLETTER DATE: MAY 2016

ISSUE: FIVE



SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL

## Diary Dates

2016/2017 Term  
dates inside

### Summer Term 2016

**Half term break:**  
**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May**  
**to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
**End of term**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at**  
**1:00pm**

### Autumn Term 2016

**INSET day:**  
**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**August**  
**First day of term:**  
**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**August**  
**Half Term Break:**  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**October to Friday**  
**28<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Last day of term:**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**December at 1:20**

## SAT's V's Ducklings

This term has seen a series of firsts in the history of our nation. You may be forgiven for losing sight of the fact that the Queen reached such an important milestone but we at Larwood didn't. Notice boards, assemblies and a planned party next half term will ensure it is truly celebrated at our school.

I have never known so much press coverage related to SATs! What with headlines about pressure, impossible papers and leaked answers, you maybe wondering what was going on. I admit to be a Headteacher who questions the validity of SATs on an annual basis. Particularly this year, whereby pupils across the nation, have only experienced two years of a new curriculum and assessment schemes. However, our school ethos and approach to this yearly situation

has not changed. Class teachers ensure that suitable preparation takes place, with lots of help and support and then we ask a very simple request from our pupils- 'give the tests your best shot'. I am very proud of your sons and daughters who did exactly that. Unlike the Education Minister, I am very much in support of the fact that we take our pupils out and celebrate their efforts after the tests. They deserve it!

Another first for our school has been the arrival of some duck eggs which have now hatched. To say that they are cute would be a huge understatement! I hope that you have had an opportunity to see them on our live Facebook feed, and all classes have been able to visit them in Miss Trott's class. It has been amazing to see the positive effect this process has had on our pupils. Their knowledge and enthusiasm for Science has rocketed, they have discussed various topics relating for feeding, caring and how to handle them. Older pupils have led younger pupils on what to do with them and I am expecting a number of requests from pupils (both verbally and in writing) asking for us to keep them! Individual care, team work, research, use of persuasion, animation and diary entries are just a few examples of what the duckling project has encouraged. Alongside this, it is also noticeable how a few members of staff (actually-all of the staff!) have needed to check the ducks in the morning and after school just to make sure they are ok! My thanks to Miss Trott for leading on this project.

So, the question is what have the pupils in Year 6 gained more from? Ducks or SAT's? Well, just in case you can't guess the answer, it is definitely not a 40 minute test about spelling, punctuation or grammar! Pokey and his fellow fluffy friends certainly win the argument for me, the rest of the staff and the children!

Finally, my thanks to all parents and carers for your continued support. I have met many of you recently, during annual reviews and it is always a pleasure to reflect on how much progress your children are making due to our partnership.

S.D. Trimble  
Headteacher



1946  
ACHIEVE



ONE HAS DONE  
A GOOD JOB

## MISS KIMPTON'S CLASS



During SATS week year 5's from other classes joined our class.

We spent some time by the pond area. We decided it was not a nice place to be. So we put together a presentation for Mr Trimble and asked if we could clear the area so it could be used. He said yes!

So off we went with a wheel barrow, spade and other equipment. We weeded the pond area, and documented the wildlife we found - tadpoles, newts, grubs, frogs, spiders and many more. We then turned our attention to the bug hotel. We decided to move it into an area which could be cleared and used as a good learning space. So with everyone's help we moved the bug hotel, and re-built it.

## Miss Kimpton's Friday Activity



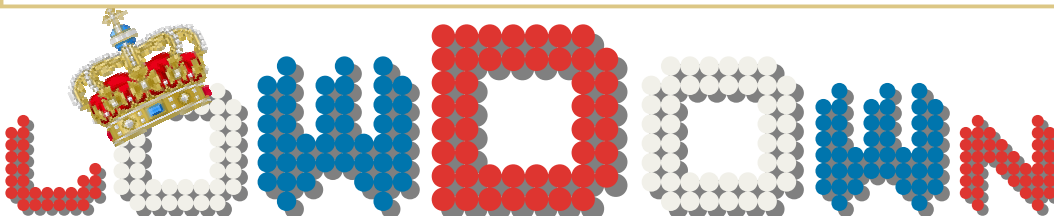
The school garden is close to completion. Lorenzo and Makell have worked hard over the last few weeks during Friday activity. They have dug a space to add pallets we found to use for plant beds. We are looking forward to planting a herb garden, pumpkins and other autumnal fruit and veg.

The garden is finally coming together.



## Mrs William's Class

On Wednesday afternoons some of the Year 5's do art and design which is related to the Topic. We have been studying The Grand Canyon and New York. We have created models of New York and the Grand Canyon landscape.







# Busy



## Miss Gwynne's Class

In Miss Gwynne's class, we have been looking at odes and insult poetry. We created our own:

### Ode to a strawberry

Oh my lovely strawberry,  
I love you so much.  
Oh my strawberry,  
you taste really nice.  
Oh my lovely strawberry,  
you're super sweet.  
Oh my strawberry,  
you're as sweet as anything.  
Oh my lovely strawberry,  
I dream of you all of the time!

By Alfie

### Insult to a rubber

You,  
you're as lazy as a cat stretched  
out in the summer sun!  
You,  
you're more useless than a choco-  
late teapot!  
You,  
you're not my type of stationary!

By Louie

In Mad Science we have conducted a range of experiments from erupting volcanoes, making our own lemonade (yum!), making music with water and testing different parachutes.



## 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.

End of term :

Thursday 20th July 1:00pm

## Music with Mr Simler



This half term, Cameron has shown us that we have another budding MC, dropping beats and rhymes in the music room. Joel, has some mad musical ability! He's our most competent drummer at school and he can easily turn his hand to the guitar or piano!



Henry, is one of our top percussionists and here he is, showing us how it's done! WELL DONE!

## Ducklings

In Miss Trott's class we have started a project raising ducklings from eggs until 10 days old. The children are teaching the ducklings to eat, drink and swim. The whole school had become involved and are enjoying an egg-cellent egg-perience.





is BACK



## Thanks to Mr Quilty

The Larwood School Facebook page is once again, LIVE! Check out our new front page, lots of new stories and events about life at Larwood, lots of new pictures showing the children and staff working hard and lots of lovely comments and likes from our followers and Mr Quilty's Friday Rundown! If you haven't 'LIKED' our page yet . . . GO AND DO IT!

Recent Comments:

**Emma Gartlan Lorenzo** we are so proud of you. You really have earned this t-shirt. Thank you so much to all the staff at Larwood for the amazing support we have always been given. Feeling a tad emotional as we are getting closer to our last year with you all

**Penny Barker** Each week I read these post and would just like to say I'm so excited for my little man to be starting in September!!! Your're all doing such a fab job

**Jacky Baker** Well done Team Larwood!! You make us all very proud.!! ★★★★★(Governor)

**Gillian Barrett** Great job!! Well done boys and staff !!

**Sandra Barr** On behalf of the Governors and myself I should like to say , how good it feels when you make us proud , especially on days out , which can be challenging for some children ! Keep up the excellent work ! X

**Goldie Tripney** I have really appreciated the Larwood news every week, love seeing how my Grandson is doing at school, thank you to all the staff I am so proud of Kane.

**Sue Thompson** Well done to everyone for respecting those who gave us freedom today, what a fab school and great kids.

**Tracy Donaldson Young Sue**, I love it when you comment on things from Larwood & it pops up on my feeds, fond memories from the support I got from the teachers with my lad. They even looked after my girls while I was at hospital with my lad after an accident. Now that's care, never seen it since, sad really.



## Mr Quilty's Lego Motion

In Lego Motion on a Thursday afternoon, children have been beginning to understand the process of producing a stop-motion film, similar to Wallace and Gromit. Children have built sets and vehicles and used Lego Movie Maker on their iPads to create short films where their characters interact with their Lego creations.







## 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.

The quality of teaching has improved since the previous inspection and is now good at both key stages, including in English and mathematics.

Teachers have good relationships with their pupils, classrooms are made attractive with displays and lessons are purposeful.

In many lessons, teachers question pupils well to check their understanding and deepen their thinking.

Pupils have regular reading and spelling tasks for homework, and the teaching of reading is good throughout the school.

Teachers provide pupils with plenty of opportunity to practise their reading in class and in an outstanding English lesson in Years 2 and 3, the teacher supported pupils very skilfully as they drew on their knowledge of sounds and letters to label diagrams of what they see on their way to school.

*An opportunity to win £200 of Supermarket Vouchers*

*September 2015 to July 2016*

*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*



## *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.



*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](http://www.familylives.org.uk)**

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



## HOUSE NEWS



The children that stay in House have a great time! On occasions, Makell turns himself into a human Kerplunk, the gamers get their competition heads on with the Wii, XBOX and Playstation, Tia practices new hairstyles on Miss Mac and Kaiayle gives a thumbs up to it all!

These are just some of the activities we do in boarding when the weather is poor. When we have good weather we do a number of other activities on site and out in the wider community.

Some examples of the activities we do are:

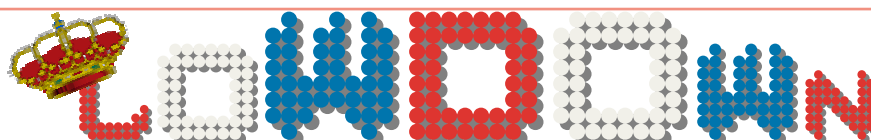
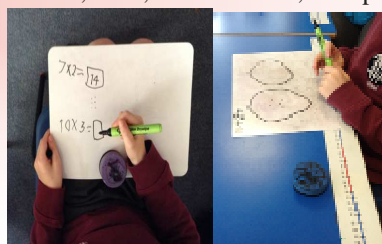
- Adventure play . During this activity we will go to the local adventure playground and the boarders get the opportunity to play with children from the local community.
- Outside games . For outside games the children make use of our Astro turf for football, runouts and tag rugby.
- Pamper time. This is an activity that the girls prefer but occasionally the boys will join in and it consists of hair styling and face packs and just general pampering.
- Cooking . Cooking is done in conjunction with the schools extended day programme, where children learn how to cook themselves a healthy meal.
- Town. In this activity the children get the chance to go to the town centre and spend their pocket money. It can also consist of going to town with a member of staff to buy goods for use in boarding.

## Mrs Osborne's Class

This half term, children in Mrs Osborne's class have been learning about Sports Tournaments. They discovered that the founder of the International Olympic Committee was Baron Pierre de Coubertin, of France and he designed the world famous Olympic ring symbol: 5 rings represent the participating continents of Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and Australia. The children also discovered that Baron Pierre de Coubertin had a great moustache!

In maths children have been working hard to understand multiplication and division.

The children have also created algorithms in ICT, for their friends to follow.





# 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:

A parent said: 'My son has a fantastic opportunity here. He enjoys doing his homework and he is making really good progress. He is calmer. He is not confused, he likes the boarding routine. He likes boarding a lot and he is learning about how to look after himself. He is doing things he would not have done before.'

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.'

Using consistent routines and responses, staff support children to identify their feelings and develop self-regulation skills. Where the head identifies gaps in services for children he appoints staff and fills service voids. This provides expedited access to specialist advice and support for home, school and the care team.

Children identify the risk of cyber bullying and meeting strangers during games, they play at home. They attribute this to staff helping them understand about internet dangers.

The business manager meticulously maintains records of recruitment within the school, and records in respect of people living on the school site. Robust agreements require non-school employees to adhere to a number of requirements, which focus on the protection of the children in the school.

The experienced governing body appropriately scrutinise and challenge decision making in the residential provision. They meet with children and understand the challenges children and leaders experience in a school with a residential provision.

One governor said: 'The heads are constantly looking to improve, constantly asking what can we do next? They strive to make things better for children. Children come first and without a shadow of a doubt everybody here cares.'

The leadership team consult with staff, parents, carers, and children to inform improvement planning. The head teacher visits similar provisions outside of the school's local authority to share experiences and learn from other's positive practice models and successes. The recent recruitment of specialist staff and successful engagement of parents and carers continues to maximise the benefits to children in school and at home. A specialist member of staff said: 'The school are being creative in engaging me, and there is healthy partnership working. They are looking at the best they can do for their pupils. They are completely focussed on the individual children.'

### 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.



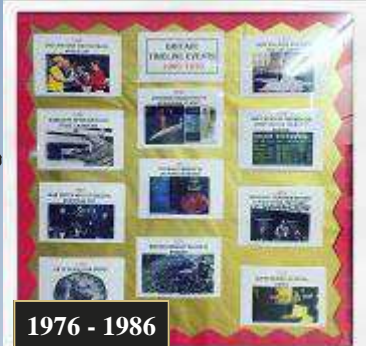


# CELEBRATING THE QUEEN AT 90



*Happy Birthday*

## HRH Queen Elizabeth II



These are our display boards in the hall, celebrating the Queen over the decades. Our celebration of the Queen covers from 1926 - 2016. The boards look amazing! Well done to the children for their art work and excellent research, and well done to the staff who put the boards together.

1926 - 2016







# Larwood School

# Larwood Residential Care




## FRIDAY ACTIVITIES WITH MR NEWMAN!

The children who have earned their points, behaved well and shown they are safe to go offsite for an activity, get to go with Mr Newman to a number of exciting activities from, 360 Play, Laser Planet, Hollywood Bowl, Stevenage Fairland's Valley Park where the children can take part sailing, climbing wall, high ropes, crate stacking, buggies and boards . . . . the list goes on. Here are some pictures of the children taking part in some of these activities over the last three weeks!

### Crate Stacking

Working in pairs participants try to build a tower of crates, whilst standing on them!

Benefits of this activity:

Crate stacking can encourage the development of goal setting, comfort zones can be pushed with size of the tower, by pairing participants of different abilities empathy can be encouraged and the activity can lead to better communication and team interaction.



### High Ropes

Individually, the children try and work out the best possible course of action to complete the obstacles in their way. The obstacles consist of, a tight rope wire, 10 swinging ladders, the gappy platform, the log, the rope ladder and the scramble net.

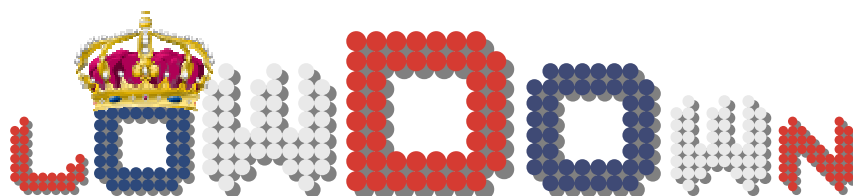
Benefits of this activity:

High ropes encourages the children to problem solve, boosts self confidence, build upper and lower body strength, accept advice from others and celebrate success.

Both activities link into Key stage 2-4: Building trust and taking part in physical adventurous activities.







## HIRE OUR FACILITIES

Are you looking for a professional conference venue for staff training / business meetings / conducting interviews ?  
Our high quality conference / meeting room facilities are available at competitive rates. Catering service is available also.

*Check out our hall!*



I hired this space for my sons 4th birthday party. Cheapest hall hire I could find, the space was fantastic and clean toilet facilities. My son and his friends had a great time! I will definitely hire this hall again!  
Sarah Scott—Stevenage

**REASONABLE  
RATES**

Looking for a family friendly party space?  
Do you run a local club?

**HIRE OUR MAIN HALL!**

**EASY  
ACCESS**

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





# Standalone Farm



## Thank you,



to the Staff at Standalone Farm for helping us in our hour of need! On Thursday 28th April, the children who take part in the Outdoor Education, Skills Curriculum afternoon, couldn't attend their usual activity due to unforeseen circumstances at the very last minute.

After much discussion on where to take the children, we decided a trip to the farm was in order! We called Standalone Farm and told them what had happened and that the children had been let down at the last minute and the staff felt sorry that the children had been messed around and invited us to the farm that afternoon and let us all in for free! Thank you, once again Standalone Farm for accommodating us at the very last minute, great community support! We really appreciate your kindness.

The children were extremely well behaved, thanked the staff and we all had a really pleasant, relaxed afternoon.

Well done children, you were an absolute credit to the school!



**Get yourself to Standalone Farm! Wilbury Road, Letchworth Garden City SG6 4JN**

## Day Tickets

Adult .....	£6.00
Child / Senior .....	£5.00
Registered Disabled .....	<b>FREE</b>
Under Two's .....	<b>FREE</b>
Family * .....	£21.00

\* two adults, three children

## Annual Passes

Family .....	£70.00
(Two adults and three children – named)	
Single .....	£25.00



**A fun day out for all the family and it's educational!**



Achieve, Believe, Expect and Enjoy



The End!



H O U S E R U N S

TRENT	LORDS	TRAFFORD	HEADINGLY
3271	2215	3038	2574
1ST	4TH	2ND	3RD

WELLDONE TO HOUSE:  
TRENT

Back to School:

Monday, 6th June 2016

