

Larwood

LOWDOWN



SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL

I ♥ LARWOOD

What a great start to the year we have had with your sons and daughters. Many of them are really trying hard to improve their work and I am so pleased to see how many of them are listening to their teachers and teaching assistants. Just like our pupils, we are making good progress with many of the whole school targets that we set ourselves at the start of the year. One of our key areas is to improve the quality and quantity of written work and I hope that you have had some feedback from your children about the Big Idea? This is our way of making writing a bit more motivating for our pupils. Therefore, so far this year we have had: an alien invasion, a cooking room trashed by a mystery person, the arrival of a large egg, the removal of all iPads and the need to create a persuasive argument for getting them back, and a car suddenly jacked up and left by the roundabout at the front of the school! It really has generated some interest and although some pupils now seem to guess when the next idea is coming, they are writing about them in better detail and with greater motivation. A huge 'thank you' to the staff, for their hard work preparing and engaging with this process.



As with any school, our work is not solely restricted to the academic side of life. We pride ourselves in the support given to families, and pupils, as well as our range of opportunities for pupils. Here are just some of the things that are currently taking place:

- Weekly after school clubs with the opportunity for pupils to interact in a social way via our staff led activities. This also allows boarders and non-boarders the opportunity to socialise and play together after school.
- Sporting competitions with and against Stevenage mainstream primary schools. Mr V has taken teams to cricket, Mini Olympics and we have been lucky enough to have staff from the 360 play centre come to us and deliver some dance sessions.
- MAPS (Music, art and performance skills) sessions for year 6 have been running every Tuesday with a central theme of the *Lion King*. They have a trip booked to actually go and see the *Lion King* in March which should be amazing. Again thanks to the staff involved in this program and to Miss Trott for leading this.
- Thursday afternoon skills curriculum. Every Thursday, all pupils take part in a more practical curriculum based on a number of themes. There are some compulsory elements such as History and Science, alongside some choice options such as cooking, sports, dance, drama, 'Bikeability' (The old cycle proficiency course), skiing, music, arts and crafts and Lego motion. Next term we are adding some other options such as a 'Life Skills' course for older pupils whereby they will need to look up travel timetables, plan a trip, cost it out and then, with staff support, they will actually complete the journey.
- Coffee mornings for parents
- Behaviour support courses for parents (new one coming up next half term).

If you would like any particular support or information to help you and your family, please do get in touch with Mrs Ford, our Family Support Worker. We will always try and help.

All the best,
S D Trimble: **HEADTEACHER**



FIRST DAY OF TERM
MONDAY, 20TH
FEBRUARY 2017

SPRING TERM 2017

FIRST DAY OF TERM:
MONDAY 20TH
FEBRUARY

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



WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK!

Mrs Osobu

Larwood on Pobble! Read All About It!



Kayla: I really enjoyed it because it's a way more fun way to do our writing! You know you have to do your best and not waste any time because your work will be seen by other people. I felt so proud of myself!

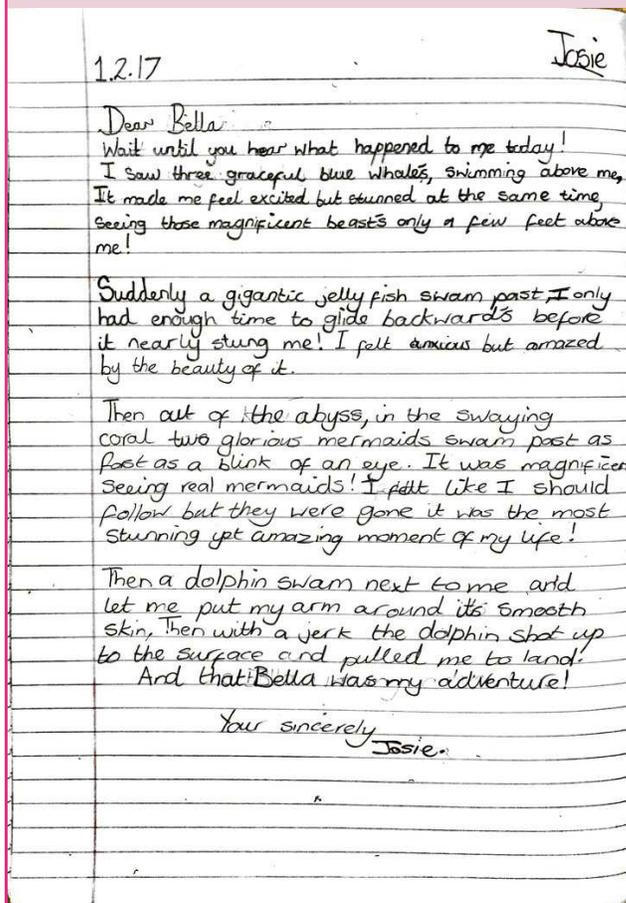
Joel S: I liked the fact that people could show their work to teachers and other kids.

Tony: It's really good for kids who don't feel confident about their writing because the comments from other kids are encouraging!

Josie: I love Pobble! It's another way to communicate with my friends in different classes. You get to be published and show off your work while reading your friends work too. It made me feel so happy to be noticed.

Jack: I felt like I wanted to be kind to others because they were all being kind to me!

Mr Scales: As a teacher, it's been positive to see the reaction from my class when they receive a positive comment or a thumbs up!



These are just some of the positive comments that have been said about Larwood's experience with Pobble.com. All of our pupils have had the opportunity to have TWO workshops related to writing and commenting on Pobble.com. Pobble is a website that publishes children's work so that they become authors! As Oliver Barber exclaimed at the start of the workshop, 'But how!? We're only kids!' The concept is simple, yet brilliant. Children do the writing, teachers take a photo and put it online and they're published.



What's even more amazing is that children get to watch the views on their work increase while other children, teachers and parents make positive comments as well.

If you sent in your email address, you will be notified every time your child is published. You can make a free log in account and view all the work from our Larwood pupils. I strongly urge you to comment and like the children's work as it makes them feel so proud. Don't worry, all comments are moderated so only the nice ones will ever be seen. This is something you can do at home with your child as all children also have a personal account.

If you have any Pobble related questions don't hesitate to contact Mrs Osobu.



BusY



MRS WILLIAMS' CLASS

Alien's Take Away iPads

We need iPads back this instance because...

They are Portable

They help us learn

They have games which give Intelligence.

I am writing to you because I believe iPads shouldn't be taken away from us.

Firstly my arguments to keep iPads is you can take them anywhere like any Country practically anywhere.

Secondly they have learning games that are like games that help your Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division; also they have games which can make you learn different languages like French, German and Spanish and they can help you improve your writing.

Lastly but not least they can help you raise your Intelligence and they help you get more smarter plus they have games which can help you get a smart enough brain power to do EVERYTHING like English/Writing, Maths/Mathematics, Reading, Science and everything else. PLEASE, PLEASE give us back are iPads.



By Andrew

2016 TO 2017 TERM DATES

SPRING TERM 2017:

FIRST DAY OF TERM:

Monday, 20th February

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:

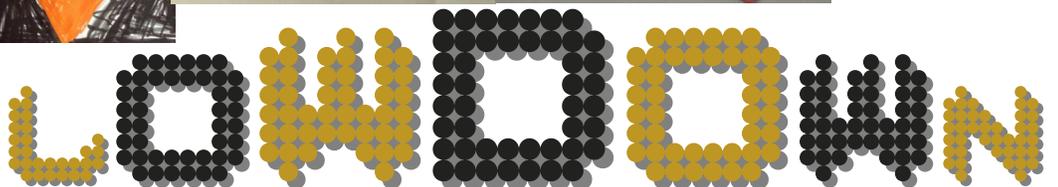
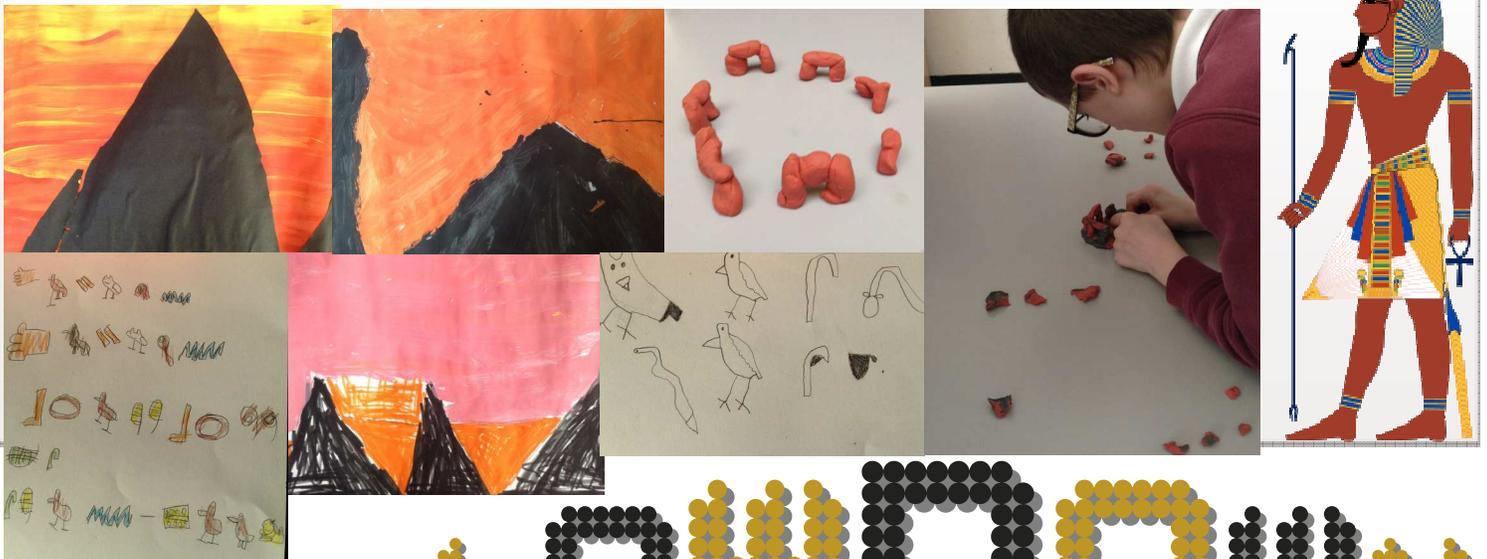
Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

END OF TERM:

Thursday 20th July 1:00pm



Mrs Williams' class are currently learning about the Ancient Egyptians. We have compared them with Britain at the same time and found out that they were much more advanced. We have written our names in hieroglyphics and some of us made messages. We have also painted or coloured pyramids. We are finding the Ancient Egyptians interesting and we are looking forward to finding out about mummification!



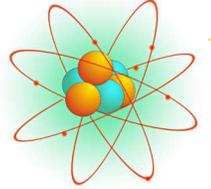


MR SCALES' CLASS

In our Topic lessons, we are currently studying the Ancient Egyptians. It is a topic that has gripped the class and we have already begun work on creating our own Pyramids, which will house a tomb for our Pharaoh. The class have been really engaged with the topic and we have even had moments where the children have taken the lead on the lessons (standing at the front and sharing the wealth of knowledge they have). We are looking forward to finding out more about the Ancient Egyptians as well as combining our Topic work with our: Literacy - to produce a Non-Fiction Fact File, Numeracy - using nets to create 3D shapes for our pyramids, Science - analysing the mummification process and Computing - where we will present a PowerPoint presentation sharing information about the Ancient Egyptians.



Miss Trott' Class



The children in Miss Trott's class have been learning about classification as part of their science. They have been studying the 5 kingdoms: animalia, plantae, monera, Protista and fungi. They put their classification and questioning skills to the test by classifying sweets and creating classification trees! Well done boys!



Top Trip @ Xmas

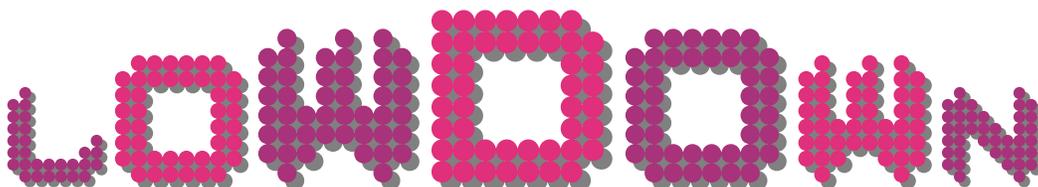


HOUSE POINT QUESTION

The altered logo headline for this Lowdown is both a logo and a song that are the basis of an advertising campaign and have been used since 1977 to promote tourism in which MAJOR city in America?

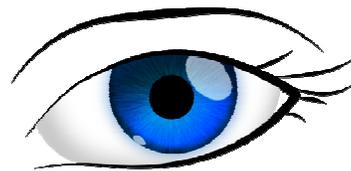


THE FIRST PERSON TO GIVE MR NEWMAN THE CORRECT ANSWER, WILL EARN 10 POINTS FOR THEIR HOUSE!





FY



*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*



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.



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.

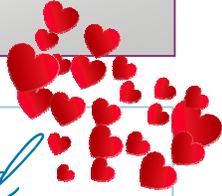
Keeping our Children Safe

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.



VALENTINES



NEWS FROM FOX

Thanks Mrs Ford

On the 2nd Feb we hosted a parents coffee morning and support group here at Larwood school. It was lovely to talk to the parents/carers of our students and to enjoy the cake that Max B and his mum made for us all. We understand it can sometimes be difficult to network with other parents due to the majority of our pupils travelling to and from school via taxis so it is a great opportunity to meet each other in a relaxed and friendly environment. Thank you to Mrs Eccles our Speech and Language Therapist and Miss Rushbrook our Intervention Learning and Support Assistant who spoke to parents about the many interventions we already offer here at Larwood and how parents can implement this at home with their child. We will be hosting more coffee mornings in the future and hope to see our parents and carers continuing to engage and support the school in this way.

Thanks Mrs Rushbrooke

Levi and Miss Rushbrooke have spent the last few weeks baking some lovely cakes on a Wednesday afternoon. This is as reward for Levi's continued improved attendance and we couldn't be prouder of him. Lego therapy is back and the two new groups of children have shown great social skills and ability to listen and communicate effectively with one another during this session.

We now have a group of five boys who have lunch with Mrs Ford, Miss Rushbrooke and Miss Jack in FOX and we enjoy hearing about the day of the pupils and to support them with social skills and with friendship making and keeping during lunchtime. We also have an excellent Pokemon drawing club which Dylan and Mrs Ford are very competitive over and a daily UNO game between Miss Rushbrooke, Sonny, Carlos and Jordon.

We as a school are very lucky to have our FOX space and we hope all the pupils who come and use it enjoy it as much as we all do.



NEWS FROM FOX CUB

Thanks Mrs Jack

Welcome to Cub

Children from Mrs Kamene's class have 4 sessions a week in Cub, our new nurture room. During their time in Cub the children have access to wonderful new resources. Each session is planned to follow their topic theme in class and have a nurture structure behind them.





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 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.



Community



Miss Gwynne

In Miss Gwynne's class we have been learning about Ancient Egypt. We placed ourselves in that time period and created our own death masks. We also enjoyed our first Pobble workshops where we imagined a day in the sea.



Dear Miss Gwynne and Callum,

You will never believe what happened. It was awesome. The first thing whales started swimming towards me so I swam. I was scared. Out of nowhere a jellyfish came wobbling like crazy. His tentacles were razor sharp. I was petrified. Finally I met mere people. They gave me a gold treasure chest so I left them peacefully. I got back to the boat by riding a tuna fish and I felt happy and accomplished.

From Xander

WHAT A GREAT SPORTING START TO 2017!

Mr V, Mr Newman and a mix of Larwood pupils have attended several events so far this year, organised by the Stevenage Sporting Team. Larwood, along with many other primary schools in Stevenage have recently attended the Rapid Fire Cricket and the Mini Olympics competition, both events were great fun and the children had a great time! We have many more events to attend this year, including our annual Dragon and Bell Boat competition, exciting times ahead.



THTL BATTLE



Mr Jacob's Class

The children have been enjoying our recent learning on fairytales focussing on the "Princess and the Pea". At first it would be fair to say the children were not immediately motivated by the title of the story but were soon quite animated. They showed a lot of understanding and then put in Oscar winning performances when we invited them to act out the story. With three pupil judges on the side lines offering positive and negative feedback, each child understood their role and weren't too disappointed to play the roles of Queen and Princess! I was very impressed by their efforts and the use of role play really helped bring the story alive, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



Mrs Poles' Class

To welcome and get to know our new pupil, Class 5 had a team-building activity called the Spaghetti Challenge. They had great fun working out how to build a tall tower, which would be strong enough to hold a highlighter pen, but using only dried Spaghetti and marshmallows! There was lots of learning about cooperation, communication, strong shapes and how to improve designs through trial and error! Well done, Class 5!



We have also been enjoying learning to classify plants and animals in Science, what makes a good short story in English, and finding out about the Ancient Egyptians in Topic. We compared the civilisation of the Ancient Egyptians to the lives of people in Britain at the time: the Great Pyramids of Egypt were built in the same as Stonehenge, around 2700 BC!

Community - Residential children



5TH JANUARY 2017

Two children from Larwood School came along one afternoon to spend time with our residents making pictures using bundles of cotton buds dipped in paint to make the leaves. The children brought a breath of fresh air into the unit brightening up our lady's and gentleman's day!

22ND JANUARY 2017

Joan and Betty were delighted to play bagatelle with the children of Larwood School during their weekly visit to Jubilee Court! Betty was actually a teacher during her working life so she especially enjoys the children's visits and the chance to enjoy a game with them. The children themselves are wonderful with the residents and are always happy to try out an old fashioned game!



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 behaviour
- 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 behaviour 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.

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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. Trips 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.





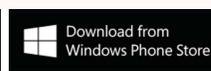
School News

INTRODUCING OUR **NEW** SCHOOL APP



Stay up-to-date with our events and the latest school news by downloading our School News app from your app store today.

Want to be the first to know important information, or if our school is closed on a snow day? Download our app, for free, from the App Store, Windows Store or Google Play today.



**SEARCH "SCHOOL NEWS" IN THE APP STORE TO
DOWNLOAD TODAY**

We frequently update our school website throughout the school year to bring you the latest school news, events, and important information affecting you. To make it even easier to access this information, we are pleased to announce the launch of a mobile and tablet app, which you can now download for free from the iOS and Google Play App Stores. To download the app, simply go to the respective app store and search for 'School News'. Once the app has been downloaded, simply enter our school postcode (SG1 5QU) to subscribe to updates and opt into push notifications, allowing you to receive instant updates on important news, such as school closures, term dates and sporting events etc.

Why you need our School News App:

1. Get push notifications to your phone as news happens. In the event of a snow day, or unexpected school closure, you'll receive a notification straight to your mobile device explaining what's happening and when we think the school will reopen.
2. Quickly check timings for events. Keep up to date with the latest school dates, term times and key events directly from within the app.
3. Feel better connected. With galleries, blog posts and news items, our new School News App will help bring you even closer to what's happening at our school.
4. Import events in to your device calendar. The new School News App allows you to import events straight into your device calendar so you can check for clashes and set reminders for upcoming important events.
5. Contact the school directly through the App. Need to get in touch? You'll find all the details you'll need in the App.

www.larwood.herts.sch.uk

Telephone Reception: Jade 01438 23633

If you require any more information, please get in touch, or visit our school website for more information.



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INTEGRATE CALENDAR EVENTS INTO YOUR DEVICE

Our new app allows you to quickly add important events to your phone or tablet.

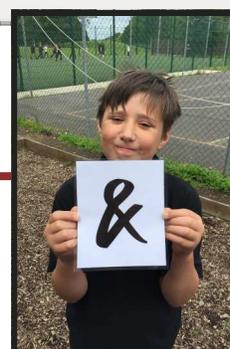


GET NOTIFIED ON IM- PORTANT EVENTS

Push notifications keep you up to date with important news.



The End!



H O U S E R U N S

TRENT	TRAFFORD	HEADINGLY	LORDS
496	485	412	496
1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	1 ST

**WELL DONE TO HOUSES:
TRENT AND LORDS! JOINT FIRST PLACE!**

Back to School:

Monday 20th February 2017

