



VOLUME: FIVE
ISSUE: TWO

NEWSLETTER DATE: DECEMBER 2016

Larwood

LOWDOWN

merry christmas

Ofsted
GRADED
GOOD

Ofsted
Outstanding

SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL



FIRST DAY OF TERM
THURSDAY, 5TH
JANUARY 2017

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

SUMMER TERM
2017

FIRST DAY OF TERM:
TUESDAY 18TH
APRIL
**MAY BANK HOLI-
DAY:**
MONDAY 1ST MAY
HALF TERM BREAK:
MONDAY 29TH MAY
TO FRIDAY 2ND JUNE
INC.
END OF TERM
THURSDAY 20TH
JULY 1:00PM

Wishing all of our pupils, families, friends, colleagues, and governors a very Merry Christmas 2016. I hope that you get the time to enjoy yourselves, and spend some precious time with loved ones. As always at this time of year, it seems appropriate to pause and reflect in many ways.

As usual, we have witnessed some very special events during the last few weeks. We have converted to become an Academy School and we are starting to get to grips with the extra responsibilities that this entails. We also had a 20th anniversary as a school and I do hope that all pupils made it home with their celebratory mug! The Big Idea has really made a positive impact with the quantity and quality of written work that we have seen this term, and a Maths Challenge day proved to be great fun. A visiting poet, survival skills, better links with other schools, a bake sale for Children in Need, a brand new website, an incredible school play, new after school clubs and our residential pupils visiting Jubilee Court to read with some of their elderly residents have all been highlights! Of course there have been many more, and the best moments are always connected to seeing your sons/daughters complete work, lessons or make changes that they are really proud about. It was fantastic to see some of you at parents evening and pass on this information in a face to face manner.

During the month of December, we will be aiming to expand our staffing and I hope to be able to relay information about this to you in the New Year. We do however say goodbye to Mr Simler and wish him all the best for the future. One of the improvement tasks that we set ourselves for 2016 has been connected to improving our communication with you. Having invested in a new system that tracks points and behaviour (Behaviour Watch), this system also allows us to record contact with parents. It excludes parent's evenings, The Larwood Lowdown, any letters sent home and use of the home school diary but it does produce really helpful data to prove/disprove our own ideas and theories. Therefore so far this academic year, contact has been made and recorded in the following proportions:

August: 25 contacts made and recorded
September: 148 contacts made and recorded
October: 71 contacts made and recorded
November: 159 contacts made and recorded
December: 100* contacts made and recorded

*Estimate based on previous data and those recorded at the time of writing.



CHINESE
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
YEAR OF THE ROOSTER
Saturday, January 28th 2017

Of course, no contact or very little contact may be a blessing when compared to your previous experiences before Larwood! It also should be noted that we were only back at school for 1 day in August and that during October we had a 2 week half term break. I believe the numbers show a high proportion of parents receiving regular contact. It does equate to approx. 8 contacts per pupil (This is an average so some will have higher whilst others have lower) in addition to all of the other ways that we use to keep in touch. I will be keeping a close eye on this as we start 2017 and would welcome any feedback on this matter. It is essential that we get this right for you and your child!

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful 2017

S. D. Trimble
HEADTEACHER





WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK!

Mrs JACOBS' CLASS

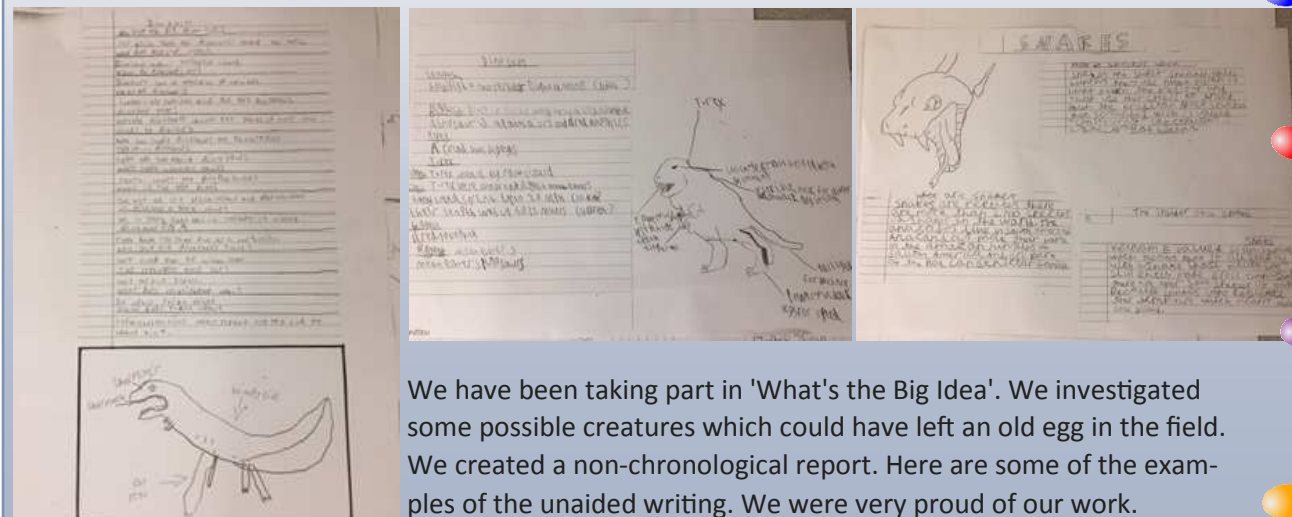


My class are thoroughly enjoying the build up to Christmas with great excitement for those performing in the school play and those creating Christmas master pieces with festive Arts and Craft creations during play practise. The children have continued their learning about World War II and look forward to cooking wartime shortbread using the strict rationing guidelines and rules.

They have enjoyed this terms Big Idea, learning how to research dinosaurs, an Anteater and a pug, as possible links to the mysterious egg! Now that's using your imagination!! They have performed well during our latest assessments and shown a stronger dedication to complete their learning to the highest level they possibly can. I'm very proud of their efforts this term and wish them, and everybody a very happy Christmas!

MRS WILLIAMS' CLASS

Mrs Williams' class have been learning about time. We did a variety of different activities to reinforce our learning.



We have been taking part in 'What's the Big Idea'. We investigated some possible creatures which could have left an old egg in the field. We created a non-chronological report. Here are some of the examples of the unaided writing. We were very proud of our work.



Busy



Mrs Poles' Class

After a busy half-term, the pupils in class 5 have been getting ready for Christmas by investigating how to make electrical circuits so they can make a festive light decoration. They have become experts at working out how to fix broken circuits and showed some excellent teamwork skills in working with circuits and preparing their Christmas tree ornament.

In Topic, we have looked at the way Britain was affected by World War II, including the Battle of Britain, the Blitz and evacuees. They have produced super artworks and some wonderful models for their homework projects.



We have enjoyed role-playing in our English lessons to understand and try to predict the twists and turns of the sinister story, Clockwork, by Philip Pullman.



2016 TO 2017 TERM DATES

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



BONUS HOUSE POINTS!

THE QUESTION FROM ISSUE ONE:

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 film title? Clue is in the text!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

MIKA

3 house points for TRENT

ISSUE 2 QUESTION:

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

Q: SANTA CLAUS, USED TO WEAR A GREEN SUIT. WHEN AND WHY DID IT CHANGE TO A RED SUIT?





MISS TROTT'S CLASS

In Miss Trott's class we have been looking at performance poetry and writing poems of our own. We wrote independent raps based around different fairy tales and then had fun writing a rap about our favourite food. Sam was very inspired by pizza.

MASTER-PIECE

I'm going to make a masterpiece pizza
A work of art like the Mona Lisa
It is my favourite food
If I don't get it, I get in a mood.

You flatten the dough
Normally, done by Chef Joe
Then you put on the sauce
And you spread it gently across
You finish it off with the cheese
Then you put it in the oven at 40 degrees

Is this better than takeaway...
NO! but be happy anyway
But the benefit is you get to slice it up
Though if under 16 you need a grown up

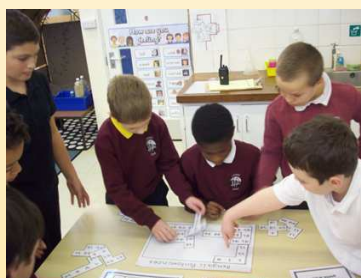
So when you eat the master-piece
When you eat it, watch out for grease!

-By: Sam

Mrs Kimpton



On Tuesday 29th November our school was magically converted into a Mathematical Crystal Maze. Throughout the morning in house teams the children visited many zones in which three different mathematical problems were posed. Each zone had a logic puzzle, a shape puzzle and a number puzzle. From magic squares to the tower of Hanoi the children spent an enjoyable morning travelling around the school solving problems with their team-mates. Our zones were Africa, Europe, China, Egypt, India, Industrial, At Home and Games. Children had three minutes to complete each task, earning vital house points for their team. When the task was completed, extra points were awarded for teamwork and effort. The final result of The Larwood Crystal Maze challenge was – in first place **Trent with 148 points**, in second place **Trafford with 145 points**, in third place **Headingly with 140 points** and in fourth place **Lords with 139 points**.



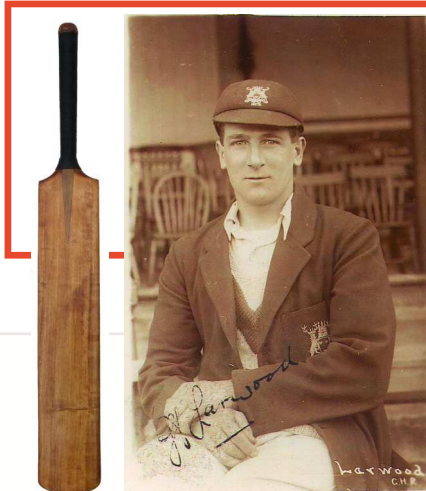
Oliver, Trae, Henry, Cameron and Dylan
Working together to solve the Bengali Pentominoes problem.



Mason solving the Tower of Brahma problem with the help of his team – Chenai, Oliver Levi and Max S.

THE PUPIL LOWDOWN

Check out the Larwood Lowdown, pupil version at www.larwood.herts.sch.uk, the PDF is on the front page under the latest news section!
Some of the children have put some lovely work together.



THE HISTORY BEHIND THE NAME

PLAYER PROFILE

FULL NAME: Harold Larwood

BORN: November 14, 1904, Nuncargate, Nottinghamshire

DIED: July 22, 1995, Randwick, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (aged 90 years 250 days)

MAJOR TEAMS: England, Europeans (India), Nottinghamshire

BATTING STYLE: Right-hand bat

BOWLING STYLE: Right-arm fast



Harold Larwood (November 14, 1904 - July 22, 1995) was an English cricket player, an extremely quick and accurate fast bowler best known for his key role as the implementer of fast leg theory in the infamous "Bodyline" Ashes Test series of 1932-33.

Larwood was born in Nuncargate, Nottinghamshire on 14th November 1904. After a health scare when he was a little over 2 years old, his father made him his first cricket bat, purely to keep the youngster out of trouble! Little did his father know what he had started. Even during his time as a pit boy, Harold would play cricket as often as he could, 'cricket was my outlet' he would say.

Leaving school at fourteen to become a labourer in the local mine, he also began to play for the village cricket team. By eighteen he was invited to trial for Nottinghamshire, where he was offered a professional contract and starred with bat and ball.

Larwood was by this stage a fearsome bowler, claimed by many observers to bowl at speeds well in excess of "90 miles per hour" (145 km/h). Such speeds compare quite favourably to the fastest of modern fast bowlers, Shoaib Akhtar and Brett Lee. Larwood, moreover, was also very accurate. Such a combination made Larwood the most dangerous fast bowler of his time

In 1926, he played his first Test match against Australia in the second Test of the series, at Lord's. Taking 2/99 and 1/37, he did not secure a permanent place in the team until the 1928 series, where he took seventeen wickets, including 6/32 in the first innings of the first Test.

The arrival of Donald Bradman in the Australian team saw the English cricketing hierarchy scratching their heads to devise a plan to defeat the Australian phenomenon and thus retain the Ashes trophy.

Douglas Jardine, the English captain (and, like all England captains of the pre-war era, a "gentleman amateur" leading a team partly made up of working-class professionals), determined that Bradman was vulnerable to short-pitched bowling, and adopted "fast leg theory". Larwood was tasked with implementing the plan, and thus the stage was set for the Bodyline Test series.

At the end of the series, Larwood was asked by the English cricketing hierarchy to apologise for his bowling. He refused, on the basis that he, as a professional cricketer, was obliged to follow the directions of his captain, whose responsibility the tactics were. Larwood never played cricket for England again, returning to Nottinghamshire where he played until 1938.

In 1953, Larwood emigrated to Australia, where he largely lived a quiet life. He was awarded an MBE in 1993.

Harold Larwood married Lois Bird, and had five children.

Larwood's ashes, along with his wife's, are interred at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Kingsford, New South Wales, Australia.



**family
lives**

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: 01438 236333



NEWS FROM HOUSE *Thanks Mr Dennis*

We try to give the children as much choice as possible in house. This proves difficult at this time of year as it gets dark early and it can be too cold, so the extended day has been great for the boarders as well as the day children.

During the evenings we do try to give as much variety as we can with lots of different board games and games like cards and dominoes. We have also been taking children to the town so they can spend their pocket money, and some of them have been going to Jubilee Court to meet some of the residents and talk, play games and do some craft activities with them.



Miss Gwynne's Class

In Miss Gwynne's class we have been working extremely hard in Literacy. We have particularly enjoyed performance poetry. We have had to create our own poetry books because we created so many of our own.

HAPPINESS IS...

Excitement is going to a friend's party,
Excitement is doing the hoopa hoop.
Excitement is meeting my baby brother Marty,
Excitement is going on a parachute.

Gladness is when I pass a test,
Gladness is when I see a rainbow.
Gladness is saving a bird nest,
Gladness is when I behave so.

Amazement is having a surprise party,
Amazement is going to the zoo.
Amazement is going to karate,
Amazement is milking the cow's whilst they go moo.

By Josie

Horse Riding



Our last riding lesson of the year was an exciting event, we had a short riding lesson followed by some races where we decorated Christmas trees and posted Christmas cards. We were joined by some of our parents and carers, so that we could show them how well we have done this year. The big surprise was Santa! He was there when we arrived and he gave us all a gift before our lesson. Everyone in the group passed their Grade 2 Riding or Grade 2 Horse Care this term including Trae who has only been riding for a couple of weeks. Well done guys.



Mr Scales Class



In our English lessons, following a visit from performance poet Professor Pango Mango, we took the opportunity to look at some poetry of our own. During the Professor's visit the class got to participate in a piece of performance poetry where they acted the roles of various characters that were introduced in to the story. The children thoroughly enjoyed the role play on offer and seeing how poetry could be brought to life. This led to us looking at the features of poetry and creating our own poems for a topic that interested us. The boys' chosen topics ranged from YouTube and gaming to a visit to Paris. Despite the variation in topic, they all managed to encompass the features effectively demonstrating rhythm, rhyme and alliteration.



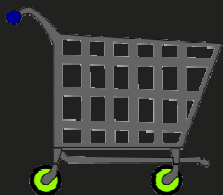
MRS KAMENE'S CLASS

Children in Mrs Kamene's class (class 8) got their aprons on and became bakers this half term. The children got to work and baked some gingerbread and biscuit on their own. The basic mixture allowed them to experiment with different ratios of flour/ butter/sugar. They had loads of fun and most children said that it was the first time for them to bake anything..



An opportunity to win £200 of Supermarket 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





THTL BATTLE

Miss Kimpton's Class

Over this last term in art we have been looking at African art. We have designed and produced a wall hanging using a flour and water resin. We practiced on paper first - this was not very successful- however the final piece on muslin looks good!! We also made shadow paintings and masks based upon tribal masks. We have worked together and are very proud of the work we produced. We have learned a little about Batik an African artist who uses the resin technique to produce art work.



Miss Kimpton's After School Club



During after school clubs this half term we have been discovering about dinosaurs. We have made our own fossils, dug for fossils, and made volcanos. We have learned loads and enjoyed our time in Dino club!

The pupils have also enjoyed football training with Mr Scales and playing electronics with the house team.

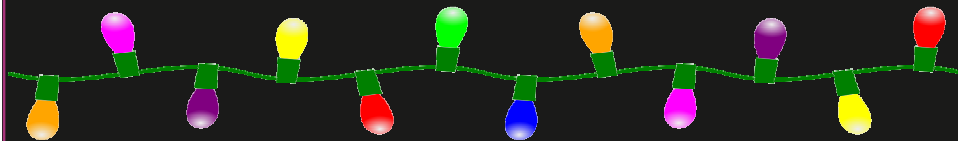
Towards the end of the half term the pupils have had the chance to do Christmas art. These activities will be on offer next half term.





Hire our Facilities & Rent Advertising Space!

Santa Claus, has been very busy this year sorting out gifts for all the children on his list, especially those children from Larwood School! Santa has been so busy he had to call Sandra Fitzpatrick, our business manager (01438 236 333) to advertise in the Larwood Lowdown for some more Elf help! He got a very competitive price and whilst Santa was on the phone, Sandra told him about the amazing facilities we have here at school that he could hire, also at a competitive rate. Santa, hired our main conference room to organise his delivery route with Rudolf, Dash-er, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen, whilst Rudolf thought it would be a good idea to hire our hall on Boxing Day to hold a party for all the Elves to thank them for all their hard work and reward them all working well with each other. Santa has also hired the hall as a mini workshop on Christmas Eve for all those last minute gifts!



I hired the hall for my sons 5th 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

Help Wanted:



One jolly man needs seasonal elf help at the North Pole. Elves should be cheerful, hard working, and like to work with reindeer. Interested applicants should send a letter to Santa Claus at the North Pole.

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE OR TO HIRE ONE OF OUR SPACES:

- CONFERENCE ROOMS/FACILITIES
- 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!



eSafety@ Christmas and The New Year 2017

Being online is a huge part of children and young people's lives. But with technology changing all the time and new apps, games and networks becoming popular every day it can be difficult to keep up. Whether you're worried your child knows more than you, or you're comfortable with new technology it can be hard to know what to do to help keep your child safe online.

Digital parenting isn't different to offline parenting in lots of ways. What can be tricky is that the online world is often hidden from view. Sadly, children don't enjoy the same protection online as they do offline

Treat the online world in much the same way as you'd treat the offline world. You wouldn't let your child leave the house unless you knew where they were going, for example. You should apply the same thinking online. So ask your child:

- where they go online
- who they chat to
- who gets in touch with them
- what they do online.



**MEET KARA
AND THE
SMART CREW!**



**READ
DIGIDUCKS
STORY**



**FOLLOW
SMARTIE
THE PENGUIN
ON HIS ADVENTURES**

Don't make it a 'special' conversation. Just ask as often as you would if you were talking about the offline world.

On the Larwood School website: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk, click the MENU button on the top right of the screen, click on PARENT ZONE and on the left panel there is a section called eSafety: Keeping Your Child Safe Online. This section has vast amounts of information, including all the PARENT CONTROL SETTINGS you will need for Playstaion, DS, XBOX etc. Safety posters that you can print off and put up in your home, information about social network sites like Instagram, Twitter and Facebook, lots of useful links, go and have a look!



**family
lives** *We listen, support and never judge*
0808 800 2222

CHILDNET RESOURCES AND WEBSITES



Childnet International is a non-profit organisation working in partnership with others around the world to help make the internet a great and safe place for children. The Childnet website hosts all the online resources detailed below, as well as a number of recommended resources for young people, parents, carers and teachers. www.childnet.com

On our website you can access resources on a range of topics, including our previously branded Know IT All for Parents interactive guide. The Parents and Carers area also contains key advice, information on reporting and detailed information on a range of e-safety topics in the Hot Topics section. www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers



Childnet is part of the European Commission appointed UK Safer Internet Centre. Together with partners the Internet Watch Foundation and the South West Grid for Learning, we raise awareness about internet safety, develop information materials and resources and organise high profile events such as Safer Internet Day. You can access a range of resources from across the UK, Europe and wider afield at www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents.



A website providing information and advice to encourage responsible digital citizenship. It shares advice and guidance on preventing and responding to cyberbullying, including the film 'Let's Fight It Together' and specific information on social networking. www.digizen.org



This Childnet website is for children, teachers, parents and carers and offers fun activities for children alongside practical internet safety advice. Don't forget to check out our Early Surfers' Zone for 3-7 year olds where you can read the online stories 'The Adventures of Smartie the Penguin' and 'Digiduck's Big Decision', which is also available as a free app for iPads and Android tablets. www.kidsmart.org.uk





INFORMATION AND TOOLS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE ONLINE

A free guide created by Childnet providing information and advice for parents and carers on supporting young people online. The advice is also available in 12 additional languages including Arabic, Hindi, Polish, Spanish, Urdu and Welsh. www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online



A PARENTS' GUIDE TO TECHNOLOGY

The UK Safer Internet Centre has created this guide to answer commonly asked questions and introduce some of the most popular devices used by children, highlighting the safety tools available and empowering parents with the knowledge they need to support their children to use these technologies safely and responsibly. www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech

INTERNET PARENTAL CONTROLS

The four big internet providers - BT, Sky, Talk Talk and Virgin Media - provide their customers with free parental controls that can be activated at any time. Video tutorials on how to download and use these controls are available on the UK Safer Internet Centre website. www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls

SAFETY TOOL ON SOCIAL NETWORKS AND OTHER ONLINE SERVICES

Information and advice on the safety tools, age requirements and terms and conditions for a variety of online services popular with young people. www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools

SOCIAL NETWORKING AND ONLINE GAMING

YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Aims to help parents understand the positive and creative ways young people are using social networking spaces (e.g. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). It also points out the potential risks of using these sites and ways to minimise these risks. www.childnet.com/sns

SOCIAL NETWORK CHECKLISTS

Free guides produced by the UK Safer Internet Centre that contain detailed instructions and information on privacy and account settings on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram. www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists

ONLINE GAMING

Childnet's guide contains helpful advice and information on supporting children and young people playing games online. www.childnet.com/online-gaming

STOP
cyberbullying



WHERE TO REPORT



A police agency tackling child abuse on the internet. This website includes a unique facility that enables parents and young people to make reports of actual or attempted abuse online. www.ceop.police.uk

CEOP's website contains information for children and parents, as well as a link for children to report abuse online. www.thinkuknow.co.uk



Part of the UK Safer Internet Centre, the IWF is the UK's hotline for reporting illegal content found on the internet. It deals specifically with child abuse and criminally obscene images hosted in the UK and internationally



A website run by the UK's media regulators, allowing you to report content unsuitable for children found in a programme, advert, film, video game, newspaper/magazine or other forms of media. www.parentport.org.uk

Achieve, Believe, Expect and Enjoy



The End!



HOUSE RUNS

TRAFFORD

353

TRAFFORD

359

HEADINGLEY

339

LORDS

341

2ND

1ST

4TH

3RD

WELL DONE TO HOUSE:
TRAFFORD

Back to School:

Thursday, 5th January 2017

