

# Larwood

## LOWDOWN

merry christmas



SCHOOL

RESIDENTIAL



### BACK TO SCHOOL:

WEDNESDAY,  
3RD JANUARY 2018

### SPRING TERM 2018

#### FIRST DAY OF TERM:

WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY

#### HALF TERM BREAK:

MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY TO  
FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

#### END OF TERM:

THURSDAY 29TH MARCH AT  
2:20PM

### SUMMER TERM 2018

#### FIRST DAY OF TERM:

MONDAY 16TH APRIL

#### MAY BANK HOLIDAY:

MONDAY 7TH MAY

#### HALF TERM BREAK:

MONDAY 28TH MAY TO FRI-  
DAY 1ST JUNE

#### END OF TERM:

FRIDAY 20TH JULY 1:00PM

#### SCHOOL STARTS:

9.00AM

#### SCHOOL FINISHES:

MONDAY — THURSDAY:

3.20PM

FRIDAY: 2.20PM

[www.larwood.herts.sch.uk/termdates](http://www.larwood.herts.sch.uk/termdates)

\*\*GOOGLE SEARCH BRINGS  
UP OLD TERM DATES, USE  
THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Being part of Larwood School is always special, though it tends to be just a little bit more special at this time of year, with many events taking place. Before I highlight some of the events that have taken place this term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas. My biggest wish for this time of year is that families gain some precious time to simply be together. A whirlwind of a term (not just because of the weather) has resulted in many activities taking place. This has included:

- Various Big Idea writing programs. Please note that the ideas for these events are now entirely driven by our pupils. Our latest one, all about some Christmas Elves originated from James in Mrs Williams class.
- We have added to our ICT resources with enough Google Chrome Books for all pupils. This allows us to use the educational section of Google Chrome to advantageous effect, and help prepare our pupils to use this platform that will serve them now, and later in their education or work place.
- Our youngest pupils have been given the opportunity to try Yoga. They have responded superbly to this and we are hoping to roll this out with other classes during 2018. Led by Mrs Osobu, we really are trying to improve well being by engaging our very youngest pupils with this hugely beneficial program for body and mind.
- Several charity and community events. We continue to try and gain maximum funding from our Tesco bid led by Mr Jacobs. We are working with other schools and Jubilee Court on this project. Fingers crossed! There have also been Valentines cake sale, Children in Need and Christmas Jumper day. Did you know that Mr Jacobs takes a group of our pupils out into the local area every Thursday afternoon, to engage with suitable projects?
- We have sent our pupils along to the Stevenage Sporting Futures; Mini Olympics, and Rugby Development Competitions, and all reports indicated they did very well.
- We have made a number of updates to our website. We believe it now highlights some of our amazing events that make us such a special school. Your child maybe part of one of these videos, so please do have a look!

I am sure that Spring Term will be filled with just as many exciting developments. However, the term will start with some staffing changes. Please note both Mrs Poles and Miss Cox move onto other posts at the end of this term. We wish both the very best and thank them for their service to Larwood, particularly the many years that Miss Cox has spent at our school. We have appointed new staff for the new term and details will follow.

Finally, a thank you for your support during 2017.  
My very best wishes for 2018.

S D Trimble  
Headteacher

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

**WEDNESDAY 3rd JANUARY 2018**

**START TIME 9am**



**WORK. WORK. WORK.  
WORK. WORK!**

## Miss Minster

This term in MAD, Mrs Kamene's class have been working on a topic called 'Found Sounds'. Over the past few weeks, we have listened for sounds we can hear around the school, inside and out, and we have compared this to sounds in cities such as New York. We then made and recorded everyday sounds as someone gets up and goes to work using a range of instruments and objects. In our most recent lesson, we worked in groups and thought about sounds we would hear on our way to school in the morning and then re-constructed these soundtracks from the comfort of our classroom!



## MISS KIMPTON'S CLASS

Over the last 2 weeks we have decorated boxes to make them festive. We have used our imagination and have enjoyed working together. We discovered that some things are difficult to stick to a box so we had to pull out the glue gun! We are very proud of our Christmas boxes and are really looking forward to taking them home!



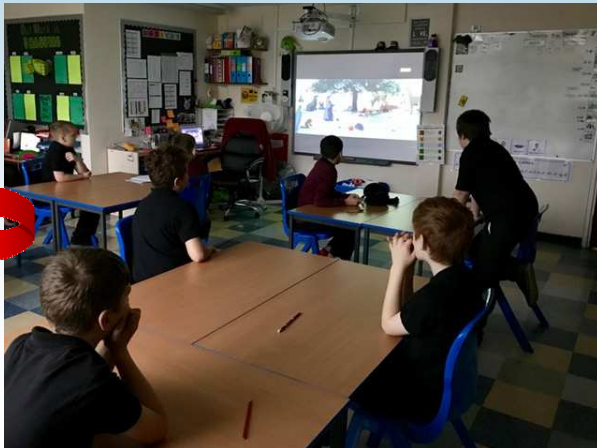




## Miss Trott's class

In Miss Trott's class we have been learning about Advent and

the build up to Christmas time. We have been looking at the origins of Christmas and the biblical story and comparing it to the commercialized side of the Christmas holidays. The children have been looking at the persuasion and consumerism used in Christmas adverts as well as discussing the magical side of Christmas and the values that people look forward to like helping others and spending time with family, as well as family traditions.



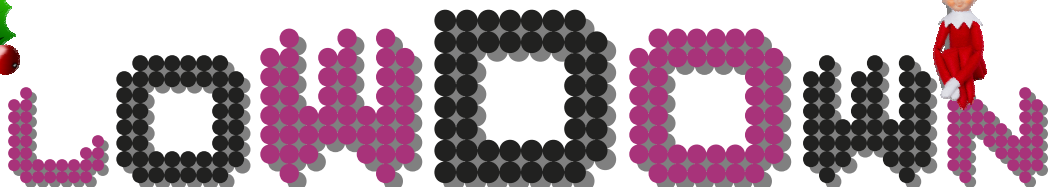
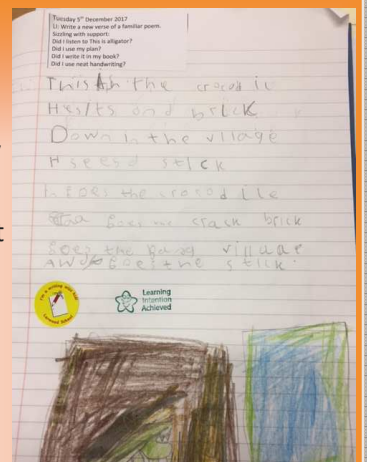
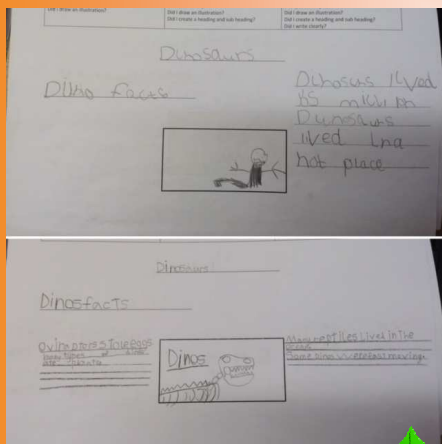
## MISS KIMPTON'S CLASS EXTRA

Over the last half term our class has been working really hard on our dinosaur topic. In literacy

we have used the Dino idea to produce Dino fact sheets. We looked into the characteristics of an information text and made made sure we used them in our writing. We looked at headings, sub-headings, illustrations and the facts themselves which we found in books and online. Everyone completed an amazing piece of work - the whole class were very proud of their finished pieces.

Following information text, we have looked at poetry -

the children have all produced their own verse to the poem "This Is The Alligator". We had great fun finding rhyming words and thinking of a different animal. Some of this work has been published on to [www.pobble.co.uk](http://www.pobble.co.uk).





# SPRING IS COMING!



## FOX CUB

This term Mrs Osborne's class have been focussing on Kindness during their Cub sessions. Each child completed a kindness hand which had 5 personalised acts of kindness for them to take home and complete that week at home. The hand was then returned back to school the following week for us to see how many ticks they had achieved. There were lots of house points awarded.

At the end of kindness week, we went around the school offering staff our help. The children helped to move empty boxes and recycling into the correct bins in the staff room. All the staff were very impressed by your efforts boys. A BIG well done to you all!



## School Council

I'm happy helping others and coming up with ideas to help us all be good. I feel good being part of the School Council and I feel proud to make a difference. I like helping everyone and in particular those in my class.

AJ - Miss Gwynne's Class.

I feel really proud to have been chosen by my class mates and I enjoy sharing their views with the council. I really enjoy the meetings as it makes me feel like I'm really important and I'm proud to represent the class and help make changes to the school.

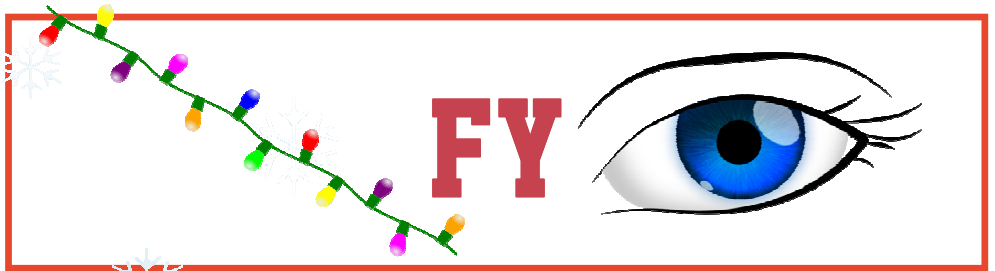
Charlie - Mr Jacobs Class.



# WOW

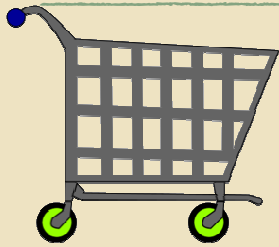






*An opportunity to win  
£100 of Supermarket  
Vouchers*

**SEPTEMBER 2017  
TO  
JULY 2018**



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

*98% + pupil attendance could  
win you £50 of supermarket  
vouchers*

*95%+ pupil attendance could  
win you £25 of supermarket  
vouchers*



**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 extend-

ed 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.

**STAY CONNECTED**

**Larwood**



**Home**

**#LARWOODLIFE #STAYUPTODATE #CONNECTED**



School Website: [www.larwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.larwood.herts.sch.uk)

Telephone Number: 01438 236 333



Email: [admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk)

School App: App Store - e4Education



Facebook: Larwood School Academy

YouTube: Channel - Larwood School



The Larwood Lowdown

**effective**  
communication



WORK



## The Dreamer

Where has the dreamer gone?  
To go fighting in the war. He might be hurt.  
I hope he gets home.

And his dreams?  
He had to set them to the side.

Will he ever dream his dreams again?  
No, only after the war.

When will the war end?  
Never.

Then how can he ever return home?  
Only when he stops fighting.

Who will survive the war?  
No one knows.

Who is the enemy?  
They are!

By Lucian



## The Dreamer Can't Return

Where has the dreamer gone?  
Up into the clouds.

And his dreams?  
They have all gone and he will never  
return.

When will the war end?  
Never.

But why?  
No one will ever know. You should  
recognise war. His soul and other  
souls are gone, never to return.  
Thanks to the war.

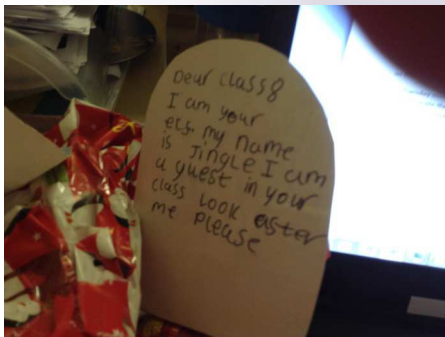
By George



## Miss Gwynne's Class

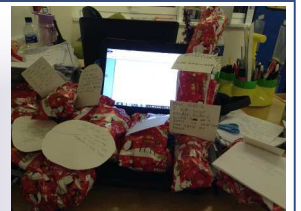
In Miss Gwynne's class we have been looking at poetry. During the beginning of November we read a poem called War by Charles Wagner. We used the structure of the poem to create our own war poems.

## MRS WILLIAMS' CLASS



Mrs Williams' class have been busy preparing the final 'What's the Big Idea?' for 2017. The Elves invaded Larwood!

The task was completely planned and organised by the children, with just a little bit of direction. They practiced their wrapping skills to wrap up an Elf for each class and then they created and wrote a note which was sent with them. What would the Elves do when they were left on their own?

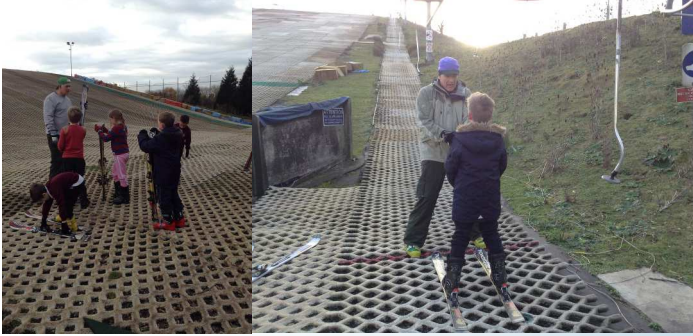




# Larwood Residential Care

## OUTSTANDING

### MR V & MRS WILLIAMS - Skills Curriculum



During this half term, Mrs Williams and Mr V have been taking a group skiing for Thursday skills. All of the children made good progress. They learnt on the small slope first, then progressed on to the middle slope and finally, some made it to the main slope. Harrison even made it to the top of the main slope. They were all really impressive and displayed an interest in skiing. They were a credit to our school.

## 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 Bianca Osobu: Assistant Headteacher, supported by our other DSP's Mr Sean Trimble: Headteacher & Mrs Sian Ford: Family Support Worker**  
**Our Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Sandra Barr - Chair of Governors.**

### Mrs Osborne's Class

This half term in class we have continued working on our topic 'Carnival of the Animals'. We have learned about Oceans and Continents of the world and the differences and similarities between different animals. In art, we have explored Aboriginal art and painted ghekkos in this style.



In PE This half term, we participated in the Mini Olympics, competing with other children from schools in Stevenage.



We are currently working with Mr Jacob's class on our nativity presentation, which we will be sharing with the other classes before the end of term. The Big Idea has provided us with opportunities to write in different genre. We have enjoyed this but we especially enjoyed the visit from the owl.







## MR JACOBS CLASS



have been busy learning about Poetry, measuring, the rainforest, light and counting money to name just a few elements of their learning. We recently studied the poem 'Macavity's Cat by T.S. Eliot. The boys have performed the poem in class to their team mates and staff, and produced some excellent descriptive writing to describe both the poem and its main character Macavity. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and trust those sharing Christmas with the boys in class 6 will enjoy and appreciate the Christmas dinner centre piece the boys have made out of clay.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL - MR JACOBS

The student council met recently to discuss the ideas put forward by every class member in relation to our recent Tesco funding application (PLEASE KEEP VOTING UNTIL JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>) the After School club programme, the Larwood Lowdown and a host of any other business which included Quad bikes, fishing, Dragon boat competitions and helping the elderly. Whilst we can't promise everything requested, we are already putting plans in place to ensure the children's voice is being acted upon. One impressive suggestion was the pairing up of every child in school with a resident at Jubilee Court. Children will send their paired resident pieces of learning, home-made seasonal cards, and at times, visit them when groups of children visit Jubilee court to play games, sing or complete Arts and Craft activities. We have a very committed School Council who continue to represent their classes superbly and in a very mature, thoughtful and proud manner. Please take time to discuss with your child, life at Larwood, and help them come up with new ideas.

## Mrs Osobu - Choir



For the 8th year in a row,

Quantum Care, invited Larwood School Choir to Knebworth House to perform Christmas Carols for the annual Christmas dinner for the elderly people in care over Hertfordshire. Pupils and staff practiced and practiced to put on a wonderful performance of a variety of songs including (the now infamous) 'Twelve Days of Christmas'. Mrs Osobu has led the choir all these years and was proud as punch of the Larwood Choir who sang like angels! Well done to Henry, Joshua, AJ, Jake S, Sonny, James W, James S, Alfie A, Harrison, Mason, Dominic, Kayson, Josie, Carys, Tyler R-H and Harvey! The children were well mannered and smiling from ear to ear as they sang and danced, entertaining hundreds of elderly people and their carers. We've already been invited back next year so that tells you how amazing they were.







# THTL BATTLE



## Mr Seales' Class

### THE BIG IDEA: WHO STOLE THE Wii?



This half term saw our class under intense scrutiny. The Nintendo Wii had been stolen and all clues led to the children in our class. The children faced numerous questions from the entire school and some of the interviews felt more like interrogations (and that was just Mr Jacobs!). This may sound like a negative half term but in reality it was merely our class' turn to create a 'Big Idea'. They created a crime scene in the 'Play Barn' and left clues that could have incriminated themselves.

Individually they had their fingerprints taken and were asked to produce statements, some of the writing they produced was fantastic and is visible for all to see on Pobble ([www.pobble.com](http://www.pobble.com)). In addition to this, the majority of pupils remained strong and consistent under questioning! The excitement across the school was great to see, as was the pride in our children's faces with the work they had done to create this 'Big Idea'. The rest of the children in the school were required to pose questions to try and discover the culprit and file a police report based on their findings. A thoroughly enjoyable Thursday morning for all!



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. 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.







# 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, Dasher, 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!



**Merry Christmas to all our hiring clients**

**Slimming World, Thurley Dance, Mary Kirsten - School of Dance & Quantum Care!**

With your support in 2017, we have been able to purchase new desks and chairs for our pupils.

From all the pupils and staff at Larwood School, we wish to thank you for continuing to choose our school as the venue for your business activity. Your support makes a significant contribution to our school resources.



## 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!**

## Mrs Kamene's Class

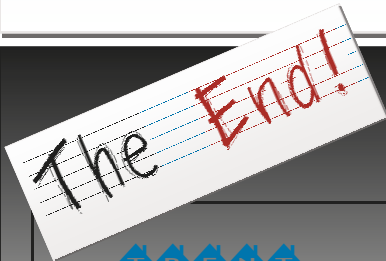
Last half term, with Mrs Kamene, the KS1 children got their inspiration from listening to WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE by Maurice Sendak. It is the story of a little boy and main character of the story, named Max. After his mother sends him to bed without dinner, Max falls asleep and his room immediately transforms into a moonlit forest surrounded by wild things.



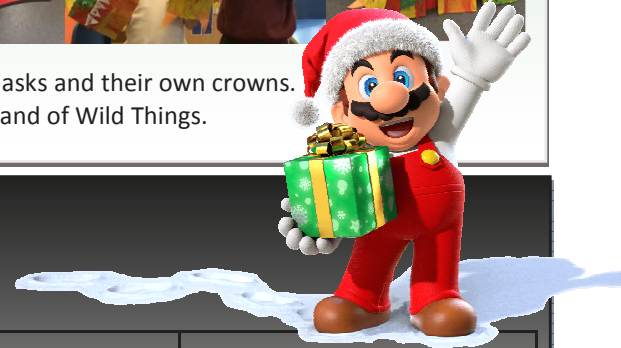
The children used their Art and DT skills to produce their props for the drama session. They decorated cardboard parts; put the parts together to make the 'boat'.



They designed some 'wild things' that live in different habitats, made their monster masks and their own crowns. Each child was happy to take turns getting in the 'boat' imagining sailing away to the land of Wild Things.

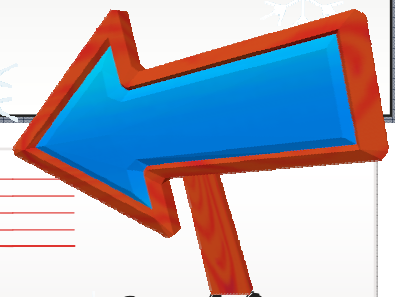


## HOUSE RUNS



TRENT	TRAFFORD	HEADINGLEY	LORDS
4TH	1ST	3RD	2ND

**WELL DONE TO HOUSE:**  
**TRAFFORD**



**Back to School:**

**Wednesday, 3rd January 2018**

