





Who is Bob Dylan and Ian Dury?

Or.... Children, you can ask your parents!



"The Times, They Are a Changin!" written by Bob Dylan and seems to sum up where my thinking is at the moment. So much has been thrown our way in the last few months that it almost seemed like there was new daily challenge to deal with alongside the existing ones. Yet, we certainly seem to be heading into a much more positive phase. So to keep the music references going, as Ian Dury once wrote - 'reasons to be cheerful':

- 1. Our pupils (your sons and daughters) have been brilliant! So many of them have adapted and tried their best in very strange and tricky times. Hence the 'Superstar' nominations and letters selected by class teams this week.
- 2. We have rapidly, and unbelievably created a new platform to learn-by using Teams and online. Although this has generated many questions, debates, headaches, and additional work, it is something that we can and will use no matter where the future takes us.
- 3. Many of you have opted to keep as safe as possible with your children at home. A tough but understandable choice and you have coped with this really well.
- 4. It's February and one of the coldest times of the year. It can only get warmer and the daylight hours will extend day by day. This will help learning at school but also increased options for you as families for the evenings/weekends.
- 5. Additional steps are slowly but surely being taken to help staff stay safe at school. The vaccine should be given to staff by the end of the half term. With a period of roughly three weeks for immunity to build up (pending any Scientific news related to mutations), we will be in a much better place to have all children back during the second half of the Spring Term. Please remember we are making some changes from March 1st, as long as the virus infection/death rates continue to reduce, as they have been.

Sometimes it is really difficult to see the glimmers of hope and change on the horizon. They're heading our way. We will still need to be patient and behave in appropriate ways that support the continued efforts to reduce infection. There is no way of promising an Ed Sheeran 'Perfect' future. However, it looks fairly certain to be much better in the coming weeks and months when compared to most of the last twelve months!

PLEASE NOTE

THAT AS PER ALL COMMUNICATIONS UP UNTIL NOW, WE RETURN ON:
MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY AT THE SAME TIME (10.00AM) AND WITH THE SAME PUPILS.
WE WILL NOTIFY YOU OF ANY CHANGES READY FOR THE WEEK STARTING MONDAY 1ST MARCH.



Thank you for your continued support!

Mr Trimble

S D Trimble Executive Headteacher

Larwood Academy Trust



Achieve

Miss Hanam

'Superheroes!'









The lockdown has not stopped Miss Hanam's class from continuing to work extremely hard and have lots of fun during this half term! The boys have adapted, adjusted, and accepted any changes that have come their way - just like real life superheroes!

We are so proud of our pupils' achievements; they have been busy completing fantastic quality work, reading beautifully, acing their spellings and times tables tests, tackling independent projects, and motivating and supporting each other through sticky situations. Most importantly, every child in our class has demonstrated the true meaning of perseverance and resilience throughout! This commendable attitude has helped individuals to earn their black/yellow shirts, medals and the rest are well on their way to earning their silver medals during the next half term.

We are super excited and look forward to all being reunited with each other very soon! Better days are coming, and we are starting to see that light at the end of the tunnel! Have a wonderful half term- you deserve it!

Stevenage Sporting Futures

Over the course of time that schools have been shut; Stevenage Sporting Futures Team have been highlighting different activities and tasks that children can complete from home during quarantine. We will be continuing to do this throughout the rest of the academic year giving children ideas of how they can stay physically active at home as well as activities that can be completed in school. Go check out some of the activities that we have posted online. We hope this is a useful resource for you all throughout the remainder of the academic year. Please find the links to our website and social media pages below:



Facebook: Stevenage Sporting Futures Team https://www.facebook.com/

<u>stevenagesportingfuturesteam</u>

Twitter: @stevenageSFT

Website: http://stevenagesportingfutures.co.uk/covid-19/

Adam Baker - Stevenage Sporting Futures



"Don't 'sir' me, I'm plain Harold, one - time coal miner and one - time professional cricketer." - Harold Larwood



Believe

Mr Rooke

'Thank you!'

I would like to say, thank you to all the parents, students, and staff connected with our class. It has been a strange term under less-than-ideal circumstances but together using our Larwood spirit and great communication we have not only made it through this term, but we have also managed to learn, laugh, and enjoy our learning.

We have covered literacy and gained knowledge in important areas of story and letter writing; in maths we have looked at key function and how we use them in day-to-day life.

This term we have had a big focus on PSHE where we have tried to concentrate on the positive elements of our life and what we are looking forward too.

Thank you again for all the support and I think I can speak for the whole of the class and staff team when I say I am looking forward to having everyone back in class together again, healthy, and happy.





Mrs Osborns

'Travel through time!'

I just want to start by saying how impressed I have been this half term with the way my class have approached their learning. They have worked so hard that it has been hard to select just a few pieces of work to share. What an amazing bunch of children you are!

Our topic this term is Travel Through Time. Here are some of the activities we have been doing.

In literacy, we have been looking at the lives of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr.

One of the topics we have been learning about in maths is money. We looked at the value of coins, sequenced them, made pictures with the coins and totalled the coins to see how much our pictures were worth.

In history, we have been talking about the Great Fire of London. We have watched video clips, made pop up houses and created concertina book timelines.

In geography, we have been looking at Scotland. We have learned about the features of the landscape and talked about Burns Night.

In science we have been looking at famous scientists. We talked about Marie Curie and x-ray machines. We wrote about bones and made some skeletons and x-rays of our own.















Expect



Mrs Powell

'WoWeD'

This half term I have been so proud of our class for all of their patience, perseverance and enthusiasm in relation to online learning. I know it's been very strange but I am so proud of all the contributions and effort that you've been putting in. I have especially enjoyed teaching you about The Victorians in our History lessons and South America in our Geography lessons. I have been wowed with the work that you've been completing at home with your families. I wanted to share a couple of examples that really stood out about the layers of a rainforest and the negative effect that hu-



man activity can have on the environment. Well done class, keep up the hard work. I hope you all have a well deserved half term break and make sure you keep safe!

Miss Troff

'Victorian Life'

Online learning has been a massive change for everyone this half term. In Miss Trott's class we have been learning about the Victorians and tried our hand at some Victorian cooking in school and at home. In school we made a delicious lemon curd, a surprisingly nice lemon and barley water and a very gross gruel. Rocco created a lovely spotted dick at home which got rave reviews.

We also learned about Victorian inventions and then tried to design our own inventions that would make life easier for Victorian people (which was tricky without using technology).

Carlos created a steam powered wood-chopper, Bradley and Sam created a steam-powered water system to water farmers crops, Isaac developed a catapult mail system, Rocco invented a bouncing bicycle and Kai created horse shoe clippers. I think the Victorians would have been ecstatic to have any of these creations.













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SEPTEMBER 2020

TO JULY 2021

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

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

All qualifying names will be put into a hat and picked by Mr Van.

#AttendancelSimportant

Be an Attendance Hero!



Enjoy



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.

STAY CONNECTED







#LARWOODLIFE #STAYUPTODATE #CONNECTED



http://www.School Website: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk

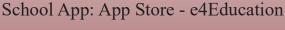
Telephone Number: 01438 236 333





Email: admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk







Facebook: Larwood School Academy

YouTube: Channel - Larwood School





The Larwood Lowdown



Larwood

SPAGE MUB

'Online & Engaged!'

In Hub we have been studying forces, Oceans, Tudors and non-chronological reports, computer/internet safety, plus many other areas of the curriculum. We have completed a variety of activities in many ways. We have used Minecraft, Lego and Computing to help us engage. The children have really enjoyed and thrived with their daily 1:1 reading sessions and the progress we have seen in them has been great. We have produced amazing PowerPoints, models, and experiments.

Hub staff are very proud of the way the children have adapted and how many have joined in their sessions. We also thank all our parents for the hard work they have put in as well by getting the young people online and engaged.











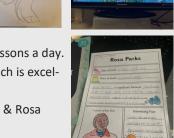
Mrs Wood

'Points and Shirts a Plenty!'

As we started the new year 2021, unfortunately the government closed school and we had to adapt to remote learning. My class quickly got the hang of Teams and were able to log into two live lessons a day. Our points for this half term have been amazing with everyone earning over 80 points each week, which is excellent during these challenging times.

Our new topic this term is 'Travel through time'. We have looked at Biographies of Martin Luther King & Rosa Parks and the class will be writing their own autobiographies.

In Geography we are looking at Scotland and again the boys have enjoyed designing their own castles on Minecraft, drawing, Lego or using cardboard at home. We have seen some fantastic work completed across all subjects. For Friday rewards we have learnt how to draw different animals, had some scavenger hunts, and have had a PJ's day.



All the boys in the class have now received their Bronze Medals and some of the class are very close to earning their 'Gold Shirt' which is an incredible achievement during these times. Above are a few pictures of some of the work the class have done on a Wednesday during their independent task.

Mrs Longcroft and I would like to say a massive well done to each of the boys in the class for all the effort and engagement in all of our live lesson this half term. You have made us very proud of you. Keep up the good work next term.



School

Miss Kimpton

'Be Kind!'

Since returning from Christmas my class have adapted to remote learning very well. We have been learning about Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks in literacy. This was interesting and sparked lots of discussion. My class are very good at sharing their view points and showing each other respect. We have been discussing Scotland in Geography. This has been interesting and generated lots of discussion. We have looked at Loch





Ness and the legend of the Loch Ness monster, Ben Nevis on Google Earth, and we have looked at the natural features of the Highlands. It's been a great experience to look at the Highlands. We have learned about Edinburgh Castle. We have learned about some of its history and when it was built. We have been creative in building our own version of the castle. We have used Lego, Cardboard and even Minecraft to build our own. There has been some very creative ideas.











Childnet



Online Safety

It can be hard to know how to talk to your child about online safety. From setting up parental controls to advice on sexting, online games and video apps, we can help you to understand the risks and keep your child safe.

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

Whether you're puzzled by parental controls or would like to get knowledgeable about gaming, Childnet can help. We all know that it can sometimes be challenging to keep up to speed with what children and young people are doing online. On this page you'll find a whole host of useful ways to help keep your child safe.

www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

Miss Gwynne, did an assembly about keeping safe online. The power point presentation that was used, is on the Larwood School website: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk



Larwood School children are NOT OLD ENOUGH to use this social media platform!

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TIKTOK

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emoji's and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.

MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are light hearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities – social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorious have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.



Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emoji's to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.

WE KNOW THAT SOME LARWOOD CHILDREN ARE ON TIKTOK!

TERNA

Get them off it!

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.

ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.

MATURE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.

EXPLORE & LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.





Larwood

Mrs Kamene























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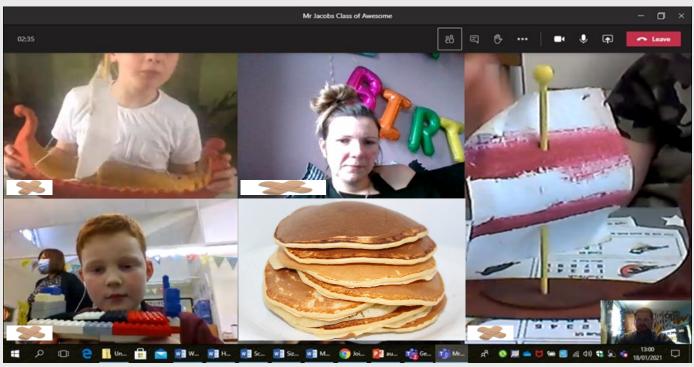


School

Mr Jacobs

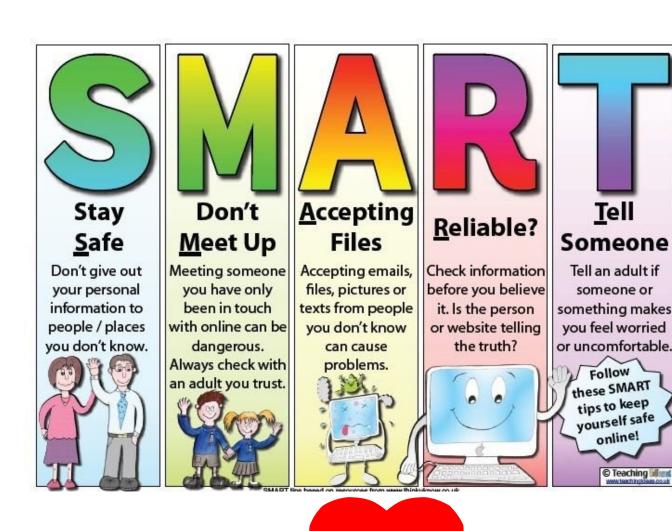
'Class of Awesomeness!'

Miss Jarvis and I have been so impressed with the boy's attitude and commitment to their learning this half term and despite being in lockdown, the boys have given it 100% effort 100% of the time. We have still managed to make Lava Lamps, complete garden bird observations for winter watch, learn about space, complete several imaginative stories and learn how to ensure we are never short changed when shopping. The boys have been fully engaged and with Mr Jacobs in school every Friday, and they have remained dedicated to complete learning tasks set for them this included these super Viking boats they made using scrap materials, Lego and an actual building kit.



As I write this the boys are preparing for their 2nd house challenge of making and flipping pancakes. When we discussed this after numeracy you could hear their excitement to be flipping pancakes together albeit virtually and earning points for their houses.





#Attendance Simportant



PLEASE GO TO: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk

- Click on the menu (top right of the screen)
 - Click Parent Zone
- ► Read our updated eSafety section called: KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE!



In this section you will find instructions for 'Parental Controls' for most devices and gadgets: SKY, VIRGIN, Google Home, Alexa, Mobile phone operators; O2, EE. We have tried to cover all platforms, but if there are controls you would like and cannot find, please contact the school and we will try and get the information you need.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE!

Vap anformation

As part of the #WakeUpWednesday campaign, National Online Safety has teamed up with Music Alternative to launch a Fortnite online safety song for us to share with our whole school community! Check out the YouTube video @

YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j150BqInjnY



Larwood British Values

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.



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

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

Individual liberty and mutual respect

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

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

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

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

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

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



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ALL QUALIFYING NAMES WILL BE PUT INTO A HAT AND PICKED BY MR VAN.

Keeping our Children Safe Keeping our Children Safe 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 Designated Senior Person (DSP) for child protection is Mrs Bianca Osobu: Assistant Headteacher

Supported by our other DSP's:

Mr Sean Trimble: Executive Headteacher
Mrs Sian Ford: Family Support Worker
Marcus McKechnie: LASA - Lead Behaviour Support

Our Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Sandra Barr - Chair of Governors.











