

Newsletter Date:
October 2012

Dates for your diary:

- Autumn Half Term:
Monday, 29th October to
Friday, 2nd November.
- Monday, 5th November:
Inset Day, no children in
school.
- Tuesday, 6th November:
First Day of Term.
- Monday, 10th Decem-
ber: Occasional Day, no
children in school. Chil-
dren back Tuesday, 11th
December.
- School pantomime: How
the Grinch Stole Christ-
mas, Wednesday, 19th
December @ 2pm and
@ 6pm.
- Friday, 21st December:
Last day of term: Chil-
dren's Christmas Dinner
and depart @ 1.20pm.
- Monday, 7th January
2013, First day back and
Start of Spring Term.

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The Larwood Lowdown

New term, new Headteacher-Mr Trimble!

This is the very first edition of the Larwood Lowdown! This edition is not only the first of many, but also the first piece that I have written as the new Headteacher of Larwood School!

Having been at Larwood for 8 weeks, I have been fortunate to be able to meet with all staff, children, governors, and many parents. Along with many other adults who work with Larwood. One of the things that parents have expressed is the need for increased and better communication, as well as looking at how they can become more involved with the school and ultimately their child's education. I have found such questions reassuring and challenging. Hence one way that we are responding to the issue of communication is via The Larwood Lowdown! This will be sent to you every half term and will include information from staff, governors and students. Please let me know your views?

Although only 8 weeks have passed, I already feel part of the Larwood team in many ways. That can only be attributed to the welcome that staff have given to me, as well as students and many parents. One of the things that really struck me

during my interview process is how the school had the feel of a rather large extended family. I am pleased to report that that will continue and something that we should all be very proud of.

There have been some minor changes within the school already and I would like to draw your attention to some of them. Staff and governors worked together during the first day back to review our approach to Larwood's future and one aspect of this was our school motto. We now have a new one which is included in this edition. We also now have a small group of students in Year 5/6 who are off points. They automatically gain 100 points every week, and a raffle ticket (another new edition to the reward system) because they behave and work

really well, all of the time. We are considering other 'perks' that they can get such as first choice of Friday activities as well. All of the boys concerned know that they are trusted by us and must maintain such high standards.

Other changes will happen over time. This may be relating to rewards, behavior, the curriculum and the school day. However, I will keep you informed and involved as they happen. I really do value your opinion with regards to such matters.

I look forward to working with you and your children and ensuring that together we:

Achieve, Believe, Expect and Enjoy!

S D Trimble



Achieve

Believe

Expect and

Enjoy

Mrs. Kimpton-Deputy Head Teacher

Larwood School Annual Fishing Trip

25th September 2012

All of the children in Mr Van's class and most of the children in Mrs Williams class wanted to go on this year's fishing trip to the Ribb Valley Fishing Lakes. The Royal Masonic Anglers host the day and so Mr Newman, Mrs Kimpton, Miss Clarke and Miss Binns set off on board the school bus at 9:30. We all wore wellies and raincoats as the forecast was for rain all day.

We arrived and children were given goggles, hats and badges then set off to fish with one of the kind people who gave up their time to fish with us.

On the trout fishing lake Daniel quickly caught a trout along with some crayfish which are not allowed to be thrown back. Ellis Hewlett caught a trout and Aidey became very skilled at casting the fly.

On the coarse fishing lake fish were being caught by all. Roach, perch and other varieties of fish were being stored in keep nets and proudly displayed to passing teachers.

We met up with some old friends including; Aiden, Jordan and the teachers from Brandles School. Lunch was an opportunity to chat with them while we tucked into burgers, chicken and hot dogs provided by the masons.

Following a good feed we went back to the serious business of fishing, although the fish seemed to be napping but this didn't dampen the children's enthusiasm. Luckily for us the weather held fine and a fantastic day was had by all.

During the award ceremony at the end,

all of the children received a certificate for attending. Medals were awarded to Ellis for good sportsmanship and to David and Lucas for team spirit. We had a really great day and returned to school in time for home.

Miss Moore - Deputy Head Teacher

As you are all aware Larwood School has been developing a base, named FOX, in order to try and address some of the additional Emotional and Behaviour needs of identified pupils at Larwood School. We have a newly appointed Leading Learning and Support Assistant who's primary role is to identify areas of emotional or behavioural need from the pupils statement and address these individually or in small groups away from the classroom in a calming, welcoming environment. The Deputy Base Leader also has responsibility for Yr 6 PSHE and aims to improve pupil's awareness and understanding around key issues such as Bullying, Keeping Safe, Sex Education and being a positive member of society. Underpinning all of this work is the staffs training in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention which aims to provide pupils with support in times of crisis and the opportunities after crisis to teach better more effective ways for the pupils to manage their feelings and behaviours. I hope this brief overview helps keep you up to date with the continuing development of Behaviour Management at Larwood School and if you have any questions, suggestions or ideas please contact Kerry Moore, Deputy Head Teacher.

Larwood school in the local press-read all about it!

On Thursday 27th September pupils from Larwood School were joined by the Mayor of Stevenage to take part in a time capsule burial ceremony at our new care home in Stevenage, Jubilee Court.



Pupils from the school have been working on the project to create a time capsule which reflects life in 2012. They included items such as drawings, photographs and letters from the children, as well as a cricket ball to commemorate English cricketer Harold Larwood MBE, who the school is named after.

After the ceremony the children went into the home to meet some of the residents. They brought homemade cookies and cakes as part of their 'Let's Get Cooking' project and entertained the residents with their singing. Kerry Stevenson, Home Manager of Jubilee Court said "We are delighted to have the children here today. They have done a fantastic job with the time capsule and we look forward to inviting them back for many events here in the future."



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.

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 - <http://familylives.org.uk/>

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

Residential News- Mr. Reid-Head of Care

I would like to let you all know that this half term has been the best start to a year for residential pupils, for at least ten years! Not only have all the children gained at least 65 (or more) points every week, but they have averaged between them 88 points. Well done boys and keep up the good work!

One of our boarders -Ellis has kindly provided a quote that he would like to share about staying at Larwood -"I enjoy the activities, the food is yummy and the staff are very nice and helpful"

We have some spaces left, so if you or your child have an interest in either boarding or extended days which includes tea and then you picking them up at 18:00 then please call to make an appointment to see me.

Ian Reid
Head of care

Kane Davis-BMX Champion!

Kane Davis

Eastern Regional Champion!

At the start of this week, Kane arrived at school and holding possibly the biggest trophy I have ever seen!

He is now the Eastern Region BMX champion having fought off tough competition and won three races and a final!

We are all very proud of you Kane!

Parent voice in action!

Many parents have requested a school photograph of their child whilst at Larwood School. As we have recently taken photo's of students to update our systems at school, I would like to offer all parents the chance to have their child's photograph, sent to them free of charge! They have all been taken in a professional manner by Mr Howard, and if you would like a copy we will send this to you via e-mail.

Please contact Nic Newman via e-mail if you would like a copy. The address is:

nic.newman@larwood.herts.sch.uk

Parent Support

Hertfordshire County Council provides extensive information about services in your local area. This includes links to the Family Services Directory, HertsHelp and local events.

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-community/>

Hello, my name is **Jane Tyrrell** and I am the new **Family and Community Liaison Officer** at Larwood. My role is to try to engage and encourage parents and families to work in partnership with school to improve outcomes for their children.

In relation to you as parents and carers, I can liaise between school and home, and between parents/carers and professionals. I am here to offer my support, help, and advice in any way I can. This doesn't mean I am only here to deal with family problems, or problems relating to your children. I am free to help everyone on whatever level that may be. In my previous role as a School Family Worker covering several Stevenage schools, I have facilitated parenting courses and signposted families to services to meet their needs. I hope to develop this at Larwood and look forward to receiving your suggestions as to how I can support you. Please feel free to call me or come in to see me if there is anything I can do to help.

I am looking forward to meeting you!

The KIDS East and West HUB services offer information and support to the parents and carers of disabled children and young people across Hertfordshire.

http://www.kids.org.uk/information/106458/106700/kids_east_and_west_hubs/

Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database is for parents or carers of children with an additional need or disability. Register for free and receive a termly newsletter, concessions on leisure facilities, information on benefits, activities and support groups.

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/handinfo11.pdf>

The Citizens Advice Bureau offers free, confidential, impartial and independent advice to help people resolve their problems with debt, benefits, employment, housing, discrimination, and many more issues.

<http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/england.htm>

DIARY DATE

Stevenage Educational Trust presents a FREE Parent's meeting

'Living with ADHD'

An evening of information, practical tips and suggestions plus a chance to ask questions and seek advice.

DATE 13th Nov 2012

TIME 7pm-9pm

VENUE North Herts College, Monkswood Way, Stevenage SG1 1LA

Call 01438 310044 to book a place.

For up to date details on parenting courses running in your area, please contact me.



Life at Larwood as a Governor - Mrs. Barr

I am the Chair of Governors of Larwood School, a role that I am exceedingly proud to hold as I am democratically voted into the position by my fellow governors on the Governing Body.

Being a School Governor is a most fulfilling and rewarding role and one which I thoroughly enjoy!

Governors are responsible for overseeing that all policies and procedures are carried out in schools. We work alongside the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team to secure the smooth running and the 'target meeting' of the school.

We, as Governors, have a "Critical Friend" role for all of the school community, without grace or favour; we represent pupils, carers and staff.

The reason I have been a Governor on this site for 33 years is because I believe the children here deserve and need the best possible chance to fulfil their potential and I want to make a difference for them! It is not about my needs! It is about their needs!

Children at Larwood School have often had previous poor experiences in education and it is our duty to enable them to move forward academically and socially.

As parents and carers you also have an opportunity to become a 'Parent Governor' and we are always looking to welcome parents and carers to join our team.

You can nominate yourself for this role, so why not give it a try?
Please contact Jackie Grigsby, Deputy Clerk to Governors on 01438 236333.