



Larwood Academy Trust

Executive Headteacher: Mr Sean Trimble | B.Ed (Hons) MA NPQH |

Chair of Trustees: Cllr Sandra Barr | B.Sc (Hons) Dip.soc.pol |

WEBB RISE, STEVENAGE, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG1 5QU

Email: admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk **Telephone:** 01438 236333

Website: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk **Facsimile:** 01438 236363



Larwood School

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Pierre Van Der Merwe | BA, NPQH |

Brandles School

Headteacher: Mr David Pearce | BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH |

Tuesday, 2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to be able to offer your child the opportunity to take part in an Easter Reading Challenge! This will be the third Reading Challenge since summer in 2020.

We believe, that reading is an essential life skill and once children are fluent readers, the rest of the curriculum becomes much less challenging. One of the ways that we can help children become successful readers is to be consistent with hearing them read and supporting their phonics and comprehension skills

Children will be encouraged to read 3 times a week (minimum) at home – 2 times to an adult, sibling, family, or even a pet! One meeting, via Microsoft Teams with a Larwood Tutor, will also take place. The tutor will provide a weekly phonics lesson and listen to your child read. You need to commit to being in the room with your child during the meeting to ensure the safeguarding of all. Your child can read books from home, bring home a reading bundle from the school library or access Oxford Reading Tree online, where there is an abundant supply of children's books. Each week your child will have a sticker chart that they can fill in themselves during their meeting with the tutor. When they return to school in April, any child who has successfully completed the challenge will be awarded an additional 2 hours of Friday reward time!

Why is reading for pleasure important?

- Currently, 1 in 5 children in England cannot read well by the age of 11. We know that reading for fun improves literacy.
- Reading for pleasure is more important to children's academic success than their parents' level of education or socio-economic status.
- Embedding a love of reading in children can help their wellbeing later in life. 19% of adult readers say that reading stops them feeling lonely.
- Studies have found that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of empathy, greater self-esteem and are better able to cope with difficult situations.
- We know and appreciate that reading 'unlocks so many doors in life,' in relation to having fun but also for work and socialisation purposes. We are also aware that many of our pupils have experienced disruption in this area connected to the situation with Covid but also before this as well.

We would love to have as many pupils as possible taking on this challenge at Easter!

Registered office:

Larwood School, Webb Rise, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. SG1 5QU, UK. Company Number: 10359418



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If you would like to participate in the summer reading challenge, please contact school by telephone 01438236333 or email dawn.osborne@larwood.herts.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Bianca Osobu

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