

Newsletter Date:
December 2012

Dates for your diary:

- Monday, 7th January 2013, First day back and Start of Spring Term.
- Half term starts- Monday 18th Feb until Friday 22 Feb
- Annual reviews-starting Monday 4th March
- Gym/Dance display- Wednesday 13th March
- End of Spring Term- Thursday 28th March
- Start of Summer term- Monday 15th April
- Summer half term- Monday 27th June-Friday 31st June
- End of Summer term- Friday 19th July

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The Larwood Lowdown

Is it really Christmas already? Where has the term gone? It seems like yesterday that we started the term, and activities with students. We were all looking forwards to the many events that we had planned. At the time of writing, most of those events have come and gone and we have had many pupils (Your son or daughter) who have done us and you proud!

Schools are all about making progress and we are no different. It has been pleasing to see many pupils make progress with their English and Mathematics during this term as they are so crucial for future success. However, it has also been a joy to see pupils make great progress with the Arts Award, in Physical Education, Personal and Social Education (PSHE) and with their social skills. I make no apology for the fact that we will be pushing hard next term for greater progress, particularly from our Year 5/6 pupils so that they make the very best use of the limited time left that they have at Larwood school.

A really pleasing part of this term has been the way that our pupils have played their part in local community events. They are highlighted as part of this edition but this includes; Singing for the elderly at Knebworth House, competing in mini-Olympics in Stevenage, playing fixtures against other schools (Boarders and day pupils), putting on a fantastic Panto at Larwood, going to see a Panto at Letchworth, and going out for meals with staff as a reward.

During assembly in the final week of term, I will be reminding all of our children that Christmas is a wonderful time of year. However, I do hope that they will remember that giving is just as important as receiving and I will be encouraging them to give a little bit of time back to mums/dads/grandparents and anybody else who may appreciate it!

I wish you and your families a lovely Christmas and an exciting and productive 2013.

S D Trimble
Headteacher



Achieve
Believe
Expect and
Enjoy

The Larwood School Choir-making an impression in the local community! (Knebworth House-Dec 11th 2012)



On Tuesday 11th December , the Larwood School Choir , Miss Clulow, Miss Cox and Mrs Kimpton went to Knebworth House to sing Christmas songs for elderly folk from all over Hertfordshire. When we arrived the children found out that they were going to sing to an audience of 300 people (not just the people from Jubilee Court who they sang for earlier this year). And sing they did, they sang Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, The 12 Days of Christmas and many other old favourites. Our audience clapped heartily after each song. The children really did the school proud. Everyone said how much the elderly folk enjoyed listening to the children sing. We had a hasty packed lunch before returning to school in time for afternoon lessons.



All of our pupils were treated to a snack and a drink after their fantastic performance.

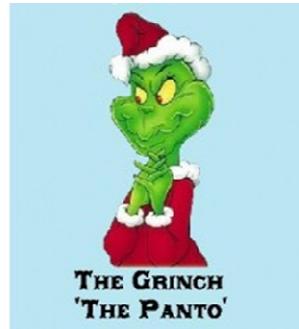
Knebworth House looked great, with lots of Christmas lights and all of the elderly people really enjoyed the company, as well as the singing.

Well done to Tia, Aidey, Charlie, Nathan, Levi, Aaron, Ben, Kyle, Joshua and Jack. Thanks also to Mrs. Kimpton, Miss Clulow and Miss Cox.



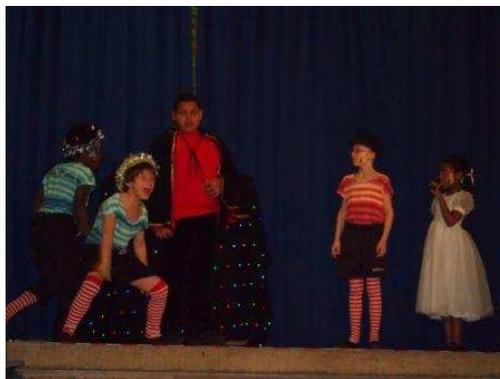
'It's the Grinch in the school panto-oh no it's not!'

This year the children are putting on a production of 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'. 'The Grinch' tells the story of the 'Whos' down in 'Whoville' eagerly preparing for Christmas, their favourite day of the year. The Whos live in fear that the Grinch, who they treated unkindly, will return and spoil the day for them. Meanwhile, the lovely little Cindy Lou is trying to work out the true meaning of Christmas. Will the Grinch steal Christmas? Or can the spirit of Christmas help the Grinch learn that Christmas lives in our hearts?



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/](http://familylives.org.uk/)

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

Stevenage Mini - Olympics

The Mini Olympics took place at the Stevenage Sports Centre on Wednesday 28th November 2012. Larwood school started the day by following one of the Olympic torches around the hall, representing the UK by holding up the Union Jack. They were joined by five other local primary schools that on the day were there enjoying taking part in events such as trampolining, football, netball, speed stacking, basketball, rugby and badminton.

Tobi Clarke enjoyed the badminton with balloons so much he stayed there for a long time! Whilst Tyrone and Jake were keeping the other pupils entertained with their cheer leading as they used the 'pom poms' as wings!

Having practiced on the speed stacking the instructor commented on how well Larwood School did on this event and even got them to show some of the other pupils from other primary schools what to do. This really did help our pupils recognise many of the messages that assemblies had mentioned so far this term; determination; trying your best; teamwork and helping others.

It was nice to hear feedback from the instructors on how well all of our pupils had done whilst at this event. A special mention must be given to Ronnie who would have took part on all of the events until the very end of the day, unless we stopped him!

Mrs Whitaker



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

Updated website now live!

Our new look website is now up and running and can be accessed by typing www.larwood.herts.sch.uk. It's full of useful information and has sections on:

Policies including behaviour, child protection. Equalities and e-safety, to name but a few!

A link to Ofsted and current reports

A letters home section



Throughout the year, we have days where we encourage both staff and pupils to have a little bit of fun and enjoy themselves. We also manage to raise a little bit of money for charity or school events via such days as well.

Our most recent day was on Monday 17th December, where everybody was encouraged to come to school wearing red or green. Many staff and pupils joined in, with a variety of hats and tops, but special mention goes to Mr Newman for his amazing Christmas tree outfit. We were tempted to get a set of lights around this tree and put it in reception all week, but no doubt we would be in trouble with health and safety!



These pictures were taken whilst our Year 5 pupils were completing their final horse riding session. All of the pupils demonstrated some great skills by completing turns, stopping and starting, as well as some moves which proved they had gained lots of confidence in this activity. All of them passed their grade two proficiency test. Well done!



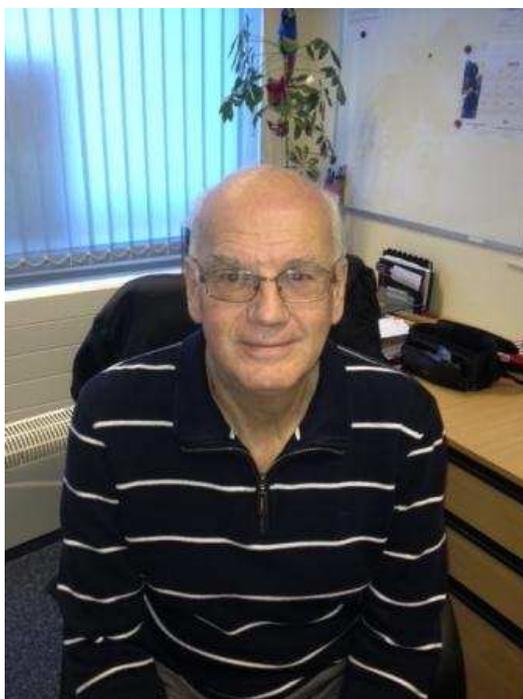
Hello, my name is Jane Tyrrell and I am the new **Family and Community Liaison Officer** at Larwood. My role is to try to engage and encourage parents and families to work in partnership with school to improve outcomes for their children.

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!



Life at Larwood as a Governor - Mr Thurgood



I am Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of the Finance and Personnel sub-committee, which provides "Critical Friend" support to the Senior Management Team on these issues. One of the key issues is signing off on the school budget in April of each year and then monitoring the performance over the financial year to ensure that we achieve best value for the money the school spends.

I retired early after working for the railways for 37 years in mainly finance roles, finishing my career as a Senior Business Analyst –helping to manage financial data flows between BR/

Government. Once I retired, I was immediately recruited to serve on the Governing Body, where I am now in my 15th year.

All Governors are linked to a class group and are invited to visit by the teacher during the year. This is one of the few times that Governors get to see the pupils in their working environment.

I enjoy working with the children and you will usually find me working in the kitchen garden on Friday afternoons, during the spring, and summer helping staff to provide support and guidance to those children who choose gardening as their Friday reward.

It is a very rewarding use of my leisure time.

As part of our School Rewards system we are introducing an end of term trip. Each term there will be three possible trips pupils can access. 'Off points' pupils will have a choice as to which trip they would like to go on, the other pupils are given a trip based on the following criteria:

Level 1 Trip - Pupils will access the level one trip if they have had less than fifteen restraints and recorded incidents of violent behaviour, have not left supervision more than 20 times and who's attendance at school is suitable

Level 2 Trip - To access this trip pupils cannot have had more than one physical restraint or exclusion, they must have less than 15 recorded incidents against their name, must not have left supervision more than 10 times and their attendance must be at least 92%

Level 3 Trip - This trip is the most prestigious. Pupils must not have been involved in any physical restraints or exclusions, they must have less than 5 recorded incidents against their name, must not have left supervision and must have attendance of 95% or above.