

Newsletter Date:
February 2013

Dates for your diary:

- Half term starts-
Monday 18th Feb until
Friday 22 Feb
- Year 5 transition meet-
ing-Thursday Feb 28th
5.00-6.00 pm
- 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

It's snow joke!

Apologies for the poor attempt at a joke but the amount of snow that we have been experienced during the last few weeks (seems like months) has caused many issues. We have followed our 'Severe Weather' plan and have only had to close the school on one day. We only take this action in extreme circumstances and having spoken to many parents via telephone, I think that you agreed with the actions that we took in the circumstances. Please do let me know if you have any other further thoughts on the matter.

At this time of year, we do look forwards to a change of weather and there are some further changes that your children will be experiencing during the rest of the term. They include;

- Assemblies moving to the beginning of the day rather than being at 9.30 am
- Pupils in Years 5/6 being grouped differently for Mathematics and English
- An exciting new project with details inside this issue.

The changes have been sent to you previously and they are aimed at freeing up more teaching time and improving the rate of progress for pupils.

ERGOTRON has landed at Larwood!



Ergotron has landed at Larwood!

Achieve

Believe

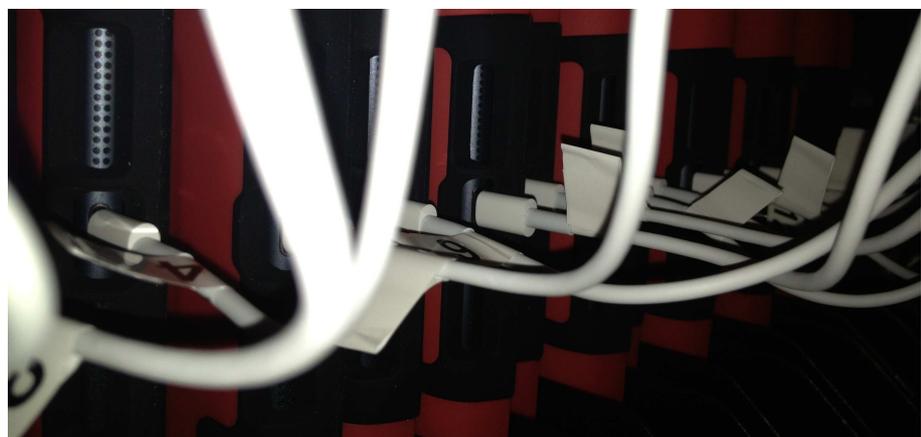
Expect and

Enjoy

The Ergotron project has been posted on our website, as having landed and will make a huge impact upon our pupils lives. This has been mentioned to the pupils and will be announced to them all during the first assembly back after half term. I thought that some clues in this edition might help?



ERGOTRON Hint 1: It's not really about ERGOTRON, but more about what is inside ERGOTRON. They are quite new, and can do many things?



What is ERGOTRON?

Hint 2 - ERGOTRON is a shape, is coloured black and has electricity flowing through it?



Hint 3-Ergotron looks after some very helpful and exciting objects that all pupils would love to use?



Hint 4-Ergotron looks after a number of things that sound like 'flymad' or 'piebad'

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

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.

Life at Larwood as a Governor Mrs Kathie French

I have been a community governor at Larwood School since retiring from my post as Medical Secretary at the Lister Hospital in November 2011. I was employed by the health service for 26 years.

Although I spent sixteen years working for consultant Pathologists, my last post, held for ten years, was as a secretary to a Consultant Community Paediatrician who, at one time, was also the school doctor for Larwood School. I have had contact with many parents/guardians of the children with special needs (Also ADHD and Autism) and various professionals, who work both in the health service as well as in education. Therefore I have worked with Educational Psychologists, School Health Advisors, Advisory Teachers and also Social Services.

Since becoming a governor at Larwood school, I have greatly enjoyed my role and sincerely hope that I can make a difference to the academic and social achievements of the children that come to the school.

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

I have emailed out pictures to several parents/carers. If I have missed you, please email me again and I will put you on my 'to do' list.

Parent Survey-Please fill in and return with your child

My child is in year..... Please tick in the relevant box and return this with your child after half term

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My child feels safe at this school?				
I feel that my child is making progress at this School?				
My child is happy at this school?				
My child is well looked after at this school?				
My child is well taught at this school?				
This school ensure that pupils are well behaved?				
This school deals with bullying effectively?				
This school responds well to any concerns that I have?				
My child receives enough homework?				
This school is well led and managed?				
I receive enough information about my child's progress?				



Have you heard about the 'Men in Black?'

Did you say no! Never heard of them! Isn't that a film?

The '*Men in Black*' is the name that has been chosen by our pupils in Years 5/6 that are now 'off points'.

Here at Larwood, part of our reward system enables your children to earn points every day, lesson by lesson and during play and lunchtime. During a normal week, every pupil has the chance to get 100 points (20 points per day). Every Friday, during assembly, we celebrate how pupils have responded to this challenge and we award certificates. If a pupil gains 100 points, they are awarded a certificate and given a 'golden ticket'. The ticket gets them an entry into the half termly prize draw. There are three prizes and the lucky winners get to choose between items such as a scooter, a skateboard or a robot. Clearly, the more tickets you have in the draw the better chance you have of winning!

When a pupil manages to get 90 plus points every week for 5 weeks, during the sixth week, members of the leadership team and their class teacher have a conversation about whether the pupil concerned is ready to come off points. This means that they take total responsibility for their own behaviour. To show that they are part of the select group, they are given a black polo shirt to wear rather than the normal white one. They also have added options at playtimes and are automatically given 100 points and a golden ticket every week. Along with all of this they now have their very own table at lunchtime without adult supervision and can invite a guest to lunch with them every day. Following a number of weeks the pupils came up with the name, the 'men in black'. I must add that



we can easily have 'women in black' joining the group as well!

We are now considering ways in which we can expand this and start up another reward scheme for those pupils in Years 3 and 4.