

Newsletter Date:
May 2013

Dates for your diary:

- Summer half term-
Monday 27th June-
Friday 31st June 2013
- End of Summer term-
Friday 19th July 2013
- Start of Autumn term for
pupils-Tuesday 3rd Sep-
tember 2013
- Half Term-Monday 28th
October until Friday 1st
November 2013
- Monday 4th November-
INSET day, pupils return
to school on Tuesday 5th
November 2013
- Monday 2nd December-
Occasional Day-No pu-
pils in school. Pupils
return on Tuesday 3rd
December 2013
- Friday 20th December-
End of Autumn term
2013
- Monday 6th January-
Start of Spring Term
2014
- Half Term-Monday 17th
Feb-Friday 21st February
2014
- Friday 4th April-End of
Spring term 2014
- Tuesday 22nd April-Start
of Summer term 2014
- Monday 5th May Bank
Holiday 2014
- Half term week-Monday
26th June-Friday 30th
June 2014
- Friday 18th July-End of
Summer term 2014

The Larwood Lowdown

An inspector calls, but talent show stuns everybody!

Another busy half term has passed and there have been many wonderful activities, events and milestones to remember.

Just before the Easter break, we had the first ever Larwood talent show, which was very kindly organised by Ms Clulow. This was a wonderful event, with different sorts of talent being celebrated by everybody.

During May, our Year 6 pupils knew that they were fast approaching their SATS tests and within their setted groups, they were being given lots of practice and guidance. Mr. Van de Merwe, Mrs. Williams and Ms Clulow all worked very hard with pupils to get them used to the new format of tests for this year. The boys that completed all of their tests did the best that they could and were rewarded for doing so (see inside).

Also, at the start of this week, we had an unannounced visit from an Ofsted inspector to review our standard of residential care. Mrs. Buckley spent two and half days with us and joined in many activities, as well as reviewing policies and practice. The full report will be available after half term and I look forward to sharing this with you.

I hope that the we all see some summery weather during half term and during the last part of the summer term.

S D Trimble

Headteacher

Achieve

Believe

Expect and

Enjoy

House News-residential inspection!

As usual the House team have been very busy with lots of activities and some new pupils have started to enjoy the excellent opportunities that boarding provides. As always, if you are interested in your child boarding, please do contact Mr Reid-Head of Care.

Mr Pilgrim has started to run the 'bike ability' courses during the evenings with residential pupils and many of them will be able to complete Part 1 (School based) and Part 2, which is based on the roads. This develops cycling skills but also the safety aspect of being careful on very busy roads.

Finally, On Monday 20th May, we had a visit from Mrs Buckley, an Ofsted inspector, who stayed with us until Wednesday 22nd May. Her task was to assess the quality of boarding provision against national standards and to then provide us with feedback. We look forward to being able to publish the report in a month or so with some very positive comments.



Standard Attainment Test or SATS

Year 6 pupils have worked hard over the past few weeks in preparation for their SATs. The tests were completed throughout last week. Mrs Williams and Mr Van chose to take the boys who had completed all of the tests to Pizza Hut last Friday. Lots of Pizza, ice-cream and salad was consumed and it was a great end to a stressful month. Well done to all of them.



Annual Primary Bell & Dragon Boat Race



On the 22nd May Year 3 and 4 took part in a bell boat competition down at Fairlands. There were 23 other local primary schools involved in the racing. After training and lots of team talk involving Mrs Bennett Larwood school won their first race, placing them into the semi-finals. After further practice and even more inspiration talks from Mr Newman Larwood's team managed to make

it in to the finals. With Mrs Whitaker shouting loudly from the side line Larwood got ready to race Datchworth School. With every stroke of the paddles and with Josh keeping count and Kyle even using his hands (after losing his paddle—pure dedication!) Larwood School missed out on 1st place by 2 metres ! What a great result beating 22 other schools.





Larwood School in the lead →

The next day year 5 and 6 participated in the dragon boat race. With Mo'unique and Aaron centring our dragon boat we were set for our first race. With pats on the back from Mr Brown the team were ready to race. They won their first race in 1 minute and 18 seconds. The team kept an eye on the other 23 school times, after the last race was finished, Charlie announced to us all and Mr Trimble who had come down to support, that we had the fastest time! This meant we were in the semi finals. With Lucas keeping count as the team's captain, the semi finals were even more successful with a personal best of 1 minute and 8 seconds. We were in a fantastic place for the finals and after encouragement from each other, Larwood team were ready to take part in the final. It was neck to neck all the way in the race, Mr Newman, Mr Brown, Mrs Whitaker and the supporters we had attracted with our race time couldn't have cheered any louder. It was a photo finish!!!! We came second. Yet another brilliant result for Larwood School. This means we were more successful this year than the last—so watch this space for next year!!!! Thank you to the Fairlands Valley Park Team & The Sporting Futures Team that helped support this amazing two day event.

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 for child protection is Ms Moore. Please do contact her if you have any concerns in this area.



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.

Crazy Hair Fundraiser Day at Larwood

The children of Larwood School wanted to reach out and support an important cause. Last year the children adopted a tiger in the wild and sponsored an elephant from the zoo. This year the children chose to sponsor a young puppy through her training to become a guide dog. The children all agree that Fergie is a very cute puppy and will make someone an excellent guide dog one day.

LGT – Larwoods Got Talent!

For the very first time Larwood School held a talent competition and WOW! What a wonderful bunch of talented kids do we have here!

The competition was fierce; from impressions, singing, instrumental talent, comedy and football skills the judges definitely had a tough job deciding

who would be the winner. The pleasing thing about the whole show was the way that pupils supported each other. The judging panel consisted of four Year 6 pupils along with Ms Moore (Deputy Head Teacher) and Mr Trimble (Headteacher). It was so close that Mr Trimble asked for more time to review the comments, but everybody who took part on the day received a small Easter egg.

Ultimately two young djembe players were triumphant and they won the well-deserved trophy. Well done Lucas Gaunt and Daniel Thompson.

Meet the governors



I am Jacky Baker, am married, have three children and work as Accounts/Personnel Manager for a freight forwarder based at Stansted Airport.

My youngest son attended Larwood (Year 2 to Year 6) and it immediately changed our lives - for the family and more importantly for my son. After struggling within the education system for so long his grades improved, he learned how to better communicate his frustrations and above all, he felt safe, secure and listened to. He felt valued as a pupil for the first time in his life.

Having had a genuine interest in Education and knowing the ethos of Larwood, I wanted to give back the enthusiasm, commitment and support I had received and applied to become a Parent Governor in September 2006.

Note from Mrs Barr-Chair of governing body

If any parents are interested in joining the governing body, please do get in contact with Mrs Grigsby: 01438 236333