



# Larwood

## LOWDOWN



**VOLUME: TWO**  
**DECEMBER 2014**

**NEWSLETTER DATE:**

### DIARY DATES

- ⇒ Mon Jan 6th-start  
of Spring Term-  
normal time
- ⇒ Friday 14th Feb-  
pupils break up for  
half term break
- ⇒ Monday 24th Feb-  
pupils return at  
usual time
- ⇒ Friday 4th April-  
end of Spring Term  
-pupils finish at the  
usual time.
- ⇒ Tuesday 22nd April  
-start of summer  
term

### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

It's that time of the year, when lots of children (and adults) are starting to get very excited. This edition will reach you after we have broken up for the start of the Christmas holidays. As always, this long term has meant lots of activities and exciting events at Larwood school. Here are some of the highlights:

- ⇒ A new batch of ipads were purchased to help us use even more technology with our pupils and staff. This is critical in ensuring that all of our pupils are as well equipped as possible to learn in a variety of ways and start to use such items sensibly and independently in the future
- ⇒ We have continued to extend and improve upon our own assessment scheme with all pupils completing assessments every half term. We will review this data carefully to help staff plan lessons and deliver extra help or challenge where needed
- ⇒ Our 'Year of the Number' has really taken off with a Math's Olympics taking place for the first time and a growing use of 'Mathletics' being used by pupils and staff.
- ⇒ Lots of creative events such as pupils singing at Knebworth House and Jubilee Court, a wonderful production of 'A Christmas Carol', an excellent nativity play for younger pupils, as well as Year 6 pupils taking part in the Arts Award during the term
- ⇒ Sports activities such as some of pupils taking part in a cricket festival, as well as the mini-Olympics, and a visit from some Olympic torches during an assembly.
- ⇒ Our playbarn arrived on Saturday 14th Dec and is currently being completed ready for pupils to use in January.
- ⇒ We now have a facebook page to help celebrate what's going on at Larwood and keep parents informed.

It's been very busy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, parents and governors for their hard work and support during 2013. I am sure that 2014 will be just as exciting!

On behalf of everybody at Larwood School, enjoy the festivities with your families and loved ones and have a wonderful new year. See you in 2014!

Kind regards  
S D Trimble-Headteacher



# Bah Humbug! School production, the best yet!

An amazing show took place on the afternoon of Wednesday 11th December at 1.30 p.m and in the evening at 6.00 pm. Weeks of hard work and practice really did pay off, with some incredible acting, and singing. Pupils had rehearsed numerous times under the watchful eye of Ms Clulow and Mr Pilgrim, with a number of other staff helping behind the scenes. As Headteacher it was a joy to watch, and to see pupils take the risk of doing something a little bit more challenging. My thanks to all the staff and pupils involved who made this so special and a privilege to be part of. A huge thank you to all parents who helped pupils learn lines, practice and watch the show.



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# Look out for Scrooge!



## 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.





Residential News>

## Nativity story sends everybody home with that special Christmas feeling.

The whole school gathered to see another treat on Wednesday 18th December with our younger pupils demonstrating that they really do know the Christmas story. Superbly led by Mrs Hayes, Ms Kimpton, Ms Cox and Ms Otero, pupils read the story, acted out various parts and sang beautifully. Staff and pupils joined in left the hall feeling suitably impressed with behaviour, attitude and the patience shown by all involved.



**LOWDOWN**





**family  
lives**

*Listening, supporting and  
non-judgemental*

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**

**[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)**

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

# Useful Contacts?

**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>

**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/](http://www.kids.org.uk/information/106458/106700/kids_east_and_west_hubs/)

**[www.hertswomenscentre.org.uk](http://www.hertswomenscentre.org.uk)**

**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/>



## The Playbarn has arrived!

Fresh from the production line, the building was put into place on Saturday 14th December. There is still some work to be completed, but we will be asking our pupils for ideas regarding what sort of play equipment should be used in the building? We will also look for a better name for the building rather than just a 'playbarn'.



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