



# Larwood

## LOWDOWN

VOLUME: TWO  
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### Diary Dates

#### Half Term

Monday 17th Feb -

Friday 21st Feb

#### First Day Back

Monday 24th Feb pupils

return at the usual time.

#### Friday 4th April

End of spring term. Pupils

finish at usual time.

#### Easter Holidays

Monday 7th April -

Monday 21st April 2014

#### First Day Back

Tuesday 22nd April. Start  
of the Summer Term.

Pupils return at the usual  
time.

**It may be wet, wet, wet but Ofsted have seen  
good, good, good!**



### Apologies for the pun!

I do hope that you have received your own copy of our recent Ofsted report, completed when Margaret Goodchild visited us on the 16th and 17th January. As part of this process, Mrs. Goodchild visited a number of lessons (14 in total), spoke to many staff and pupils and arranged meetings with myself, both Deputy Headteachers and the Chair/Vice Chair of the Governing Body. She was able to see the clear progress that had been made since the last inspection in July 2012 and was able to make comment on this via her report. This report is now also on the Ofsted website and you can access it by using the following:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/131503>

As already expressed, my thanks to everybody who has had a part to play in this process. As a team we succeed more often and to a better level. Long may this continue as I firmly believe that such an approach pays dividends with all of our pupils.

There are lots of activities continuing as we move into the second half of the term. In this edition, you will see reference to 'assertive mentoring', the 'playbarn' and our increased capacity for the use of iPads. The mentoring programme is aimed at enhancing pupil awareness of what they need to do to improve their progress, behaviour and attitude. The 'playbarn' will be used for play and resources are currently being purchased to be used by pupils. Please note that many of the items have been suggested by pupils at our recent school council meeting. Finally, our enhanced use of ICT is trying to ensure that our pupils are as well prepared for the digital world that we now live in, as they can be.

Enjoy the half term break.

S D Trimble  
Headteacher





# iPads for all!

We now have enough iPads for all pupils and staff to use on a lesson by lesson basis. These devices are amazing! Word processing, surfing the web, creating magazines and communication are just some of the ways that they are being used. One of the best things that our pupils enjoy is the ability to play games on them during reward activities! The world of work is changing so quickly that



now a days, being good with ICT is not an option; it is compulsory. Our aim is to ensure that all of our pupils have the opportunity to do this as well as, if not better than our mainstream partners.

## RESIDENTIAL NEWS

We currently have 18 pupils boarding with us and 5 pupils having extended days. The boys and girls have settled down really well during this first term. The House team of staff play games with boarders, encourage the development of skills such as team work, independence, and self esteem, as well as helping with homework.

Our boarding criteria and admissions guidance sets out when boarding is thought to be suitable for any pupil and if you are interested, I would encourage you to make contact with Mr Reid-Head of Care at school.

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# Helpful Contacts?

## 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.

**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/>



# Mentoring

We have started to use an assertive mentoring scheme with our pupils. Initially, this will only be used with pupils in Years 5/6, with pupils in years 3/4 starting after Easter.

## What is assertive mentoring?

**Assertive Mentoring is very different.** It involves all children and all staff, all of the time. It is high status, driven by the leadership team and is the central activity to drive forward school improvement and pupil achievement. Assertive Mentoring is a process rather than an activity. It is a collective term for the key processes of a school's work.

## How does it work?

At Larwood this process will work by using a number of activities. This includes:

- ⇒ Pupils regularly reviewing their own work, attitude and behaviour
- ⇒ Short, medium and longer term targets
- ⇒ Analysing data to inform all parties more regularly
- ⇒ Using data to intervene more effectively

## What does it aim to improve?

Assertive Mentoring is a guaranteed, regular, one to one dialogue between pupil and mentor. It is evidence based and focussed on 'The Triple A':

Attainment  
Achievement  
Attitude.

Progress towards long term targets is reviewed as well as the achievement of medium term targets. Further **meaningful** medium term targets are agreed. Targets are carefully chosen from agreed assessment criteria so as to be both challenging yet achievable and to have the greatest impact on performance. These targets transfer to pupils' personal mentor files and form the focus of continual assessment, marking, feedback and support.

We are aiming to have a one to one conversation using our data with our pupils every half term. They will know how they are doing by using a traffic light system.

## How can Parents Be Involved?

By attending a mentoring meeting in the near future and reviewing the data collection sheets when we send them to you.

If you do have any questions about this or would like to know more, please do contact me directly.

S D Trimble





*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.

# The Playbarn!

Here are some the items that we are planning to put into the playbarn:

Table tennis tables  
Music system  
Big television  
Bean bags and soft furnishing  
Storage cupboards  
Barbie dolls and dress up clothes  
Books  
Arts and crafts  
Table football  
Yoga mats



How exciting! We plan to use the building in a variety of ways. This will include:

1. For Physical Education lesson such as yoga and table tennis
2. For morning play
3. For lunchtime play, as part of a reward programme when pupils are earning points and behaving in the right way
4. For our black and gold shirts as a treat and a 'thank you'
5. During Friday afternoon activities
6. During the evening by our boarders



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## Some quotes from Ofsted, have a **GOOD!** half term!

- ◆ The strong leadership of the headteacher, other leaders and managers, and the governing body has led to good improvement since the last inspection.
- ◆ Leaders have concentrated on improving the quality of teaching in order to raise pupils' achievement. They have also improved systems for managing pupils' behaviour so that it better supports their learning.
- ◆ Teaching is now good, and pupils are making good progress and reaching higher standards than in previous years.
- ◆ Behaviour is good and the school makes sure that pupils feel safe. Good behaviour is rewarded in ways that motivate pupils and the number of fixed-term exclusions has fallen.
- ◆ The school meets with a good level of success in transforming pupils' attitudes to learning. This contributes a great deal to the progress that they make and helps to turn their lives around.
- ◆ The varied learning activities support pupils' good personal development as well as their academic achievement.
- ◆ There are examples of individual pupils making outstanding progress.

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