



Larwood

LOWDOWN

VOLUME: THREE
ISSUE: ONE

NEWSLETTER DATE: SEPTEMBER 2014

Diary Dates

Half Term

Monday 27th—
Friday 31st October

Christmas

Break

Last day of term 19th
Dec. School closes at
1.20pm

Spring Term

First day back -
Tuesday 6th Jan

Half Term

Monday 16th Feb—
Friday 20th Feb

End of Term

Thursday 2nd April
2.20pm

Summer Term

Monday 20th April



NEW BEGINNINGS

I hope that this first newsletter of the new academic year finds you and your family looking forward to the half term break. Incredibly, we have already reached half term!

You will find in this edition lots of updates of events that have taken place during the half term. The nature of any school is that there is always lots of things going on, but this year, due to some governmental change, there has been even more to deal with than usual! This includes:

A new curriculum:

We began work on this last year and some pupils have now started to access and use this. We maintain our provision of teaching literacy and numeracy during the mornings, with other subjects (for example, Science, Geography and History) being delivered in the afternoons. Thursday afternoons still continue with our skills curriculum and Friday afternoons remain the same with our reward programme.

Assessment:

As part of the government's change to assessing primary aged pupils, they will no longer be given a level (with the exception of current Year 6). We will now start to record their progress and report to you with some reference to if they are working at/ below / above age related standards. Both the new curriculum and assessment methods have made things harder and more challenging. For example, in some areas of the curriculum, work that would've been completed in Year 5 is now part of Year 4! More information will follow with this as the year progresses.

Hertfordshire Steps:

As mentioned last year, we have now trained staff and implemented this Hertfordshire behavior management process. I have organised one information session for parents (Tuesday 21st October) and there will be some more in due course.

Summer Projects:

During the summer, Mr. Miles, his team and other contractors made a number of changes to the site including a new outdoor classroom being built; new fencing to add to existing school security; the main hall has been plastered, decorated and has new display boards and we now have an outdoor story telling area.

Kind regards
S D Trimble
Headteacher



Year 6 Fishing Trip

The annual year six fishing trip takes place at the Rib Valley Fishing Lakes which comprises of three still-water lakes; Rib Lake, Millennium Lake, and Westmill Lake. The three lakes are situated in the picturesque Rib Valley immediately adjacent to the River Rib at Ware in Hertfordshire.

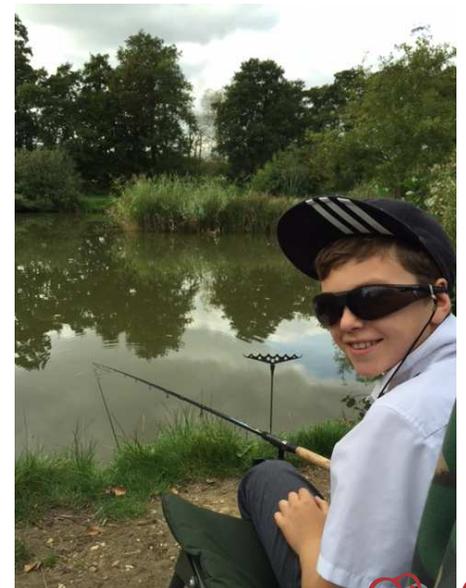
The children spent the day Trout and Coarse fishing. On arrival the children were teamed up with a professional angler from the Masons and were then taught how to fly and coarse fish.

Fly fishing is an angling method in which an artificial 'fly' is used to catch fish. The fly is cast using a fly rod, reel, and specialised weighted line. Casting a nearly weightless fly or 'lure' requires casting techniques significantly different from other forms of casting. Fly fishermen use hand tied flies that resemble natural invertebrates or other food organisms, or 'lures' to provoke the fish to strike.

Coarse fishing is a term used in the United Kingdom and Ireland for angling for coarse fish, which are types of freshwater fish other than game fish (trout, salmon and char). The sport and the techniques used are particularly popular in the United Kingdom and mainland Europe.

The children had an enjoyable day. The children caught lots of fish whilst coarse fishing and all were put back. A special mention to Finlay who caught 39 fish! Kiar for being so very patient when his fly line got caught in the weeds, Chris and Ryan for eating more burgers than anyone else! Some of the children had a go at Trout fishing but despite the lake being topped up with fish whilst we were there, the Rainbow Trout knew we were there and didn't bite so no fish for supper.

Thank you to the organisers at Rib Valley and to the Masons for taking time out of their work life to support our children, see you next year!



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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/

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/>



Harvest Festival



*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

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

THANK YOU!

hyh

Herts Young Homeless

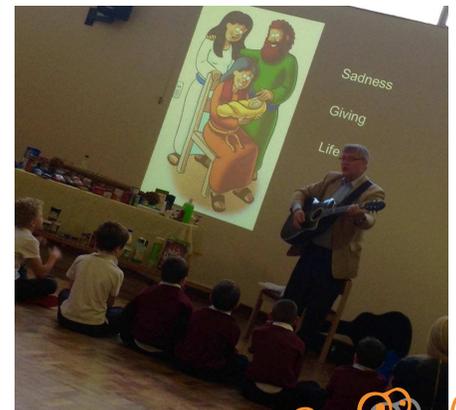
Working to prevent
homelessness in Hertfordshire
for 15 years

Thank you to everyone who made generous contributions to our Harvest Festival this year. The items that we have received will be going to the Herts Young Homeless Shelter in Hatfield. HYH is an independent charity that has been supporting vulnerable people in Hertfordshire for over 15 years.

hyh mission is

- To prevent homelessness by empowering individuals to make positive informed choices.
- To support young people, those in crisis and individuals at risk of becoming homeless.

We had a lovely Harvest festival Assembly with a special visit from Dave Morris, the Senior Minister from the Bunyan Baptist Church in the Old Town of Stevenage who spoke to the children about the celebration of food being grown on the land and the meaning of Harvest Festival.



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HALLOWEEN

The Vampire House

A Poem By Finlay

I was walking in the woods
When I saw a house made of wood,
It was very creepy
But I felt quite sleepy.
I walked up to the wooden house
And I saw a man who said "my name is
Klaus,
Come in my sweet." He said with a grin.
I looked at him, he had a very pointy
chin.
"hello" I said quite shakily
"My name is Melanie."
"well come in, Melanie" he said,
His grin was ear-to-ear on his head.
He said "you must be hungry, let me get
you some food
And our dinner for tonight will be...
YOU!"

My heart was pounding, my mind was
racing, I thought 'is he
really going to eat me? If I run he might
start chasing.'

I thought about it for a second, he
seemed like a nice bloke

So I just assumed that it was all a joke
"ah, you fooled me, good one." I tried
to laugh

I carried on going along that path.

"Oh, I'm not joking" he spookily said

"I'm going to eat you, you'll taste great
with bread"

I ran really fast but he caught me before
I could even get to the door.

He bit right into my soft neck

I just screamed "what the heck!"

He sucked the blood straight out from
me

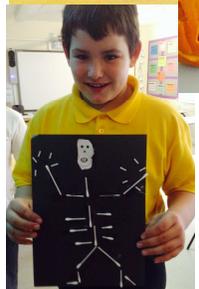
Like I was a jam doughnut going with his
tea.

I simply fell and died straight after

But before I died I heard the sound of
laughter.

The End!
Or is it!?!..

The children have been busy with their Halloween arts and crafts and some classes even made their own scarecrows!



A Haunted House

I was out walking in the woods when I saw a dark, old house on top of a hill, it looked really scary but I went closer and knocked on the door. The heavy door opened so I stepped inside and I saw a tall, thin man with skin paler than chalk on the steps. Nowhere near the door but there was no-one behind the door but before I could ask who opened the door he said, 'hello my name is Vhilding.' Then he pointed to the left of him to a women as tall, thin and pale as her husband, who I hadn't noticed before 'and this is my beautiful wife Grendile, what brings you here?'

'My name is Gerda, and I'm 6' I said. 'I was playing in the woods when I realised I was lost. I wandered around for a while cold and scared and I saw the smoke coming from your house's chimney.'

'Oh you poor, poor girl,' said Grendle. 'Why don't you stay here for the night, then we will help you find your parents tomorrow.'

'Yes, yes' said Vhilding, 'but first you must be starved!' he clapped his hands twice and said 'Jeeves!' and a man wearing a tuxedo came in. His head was square and his skin was grey with a sickeningly green hue. He carried a plate with what I assumed to be boiled eggs which tasted a bit weird but I was so hungry I wolfed it down anyway. When I'd finished Vhilding said 'Well it's getting late we'd better be off to bed.' Jeeves showed me my room and I jumped into bed. I was just drifting off when I heard a cruel, evil laugh and felt a stabbing pain in my neck then everything went black... A Story By Kester



Website Photographer

Last week we had a professional photographer in school to take some pictures for our school website. The photographer went round each class, including all of the Friday rewards activities and some random shots of the day to day things that happen at Larwood. The website banner has now changed, if you see your child on there and you would like the picture(s) please email nic.newman@larwood.herts.sch.uk and the pictures will be emailed to you.

Here are some of our children holding up our tag line Achieve, Believe, Expect & Enjoy!

