



VOLUME: FOUR

NEWSLETTER DATE: MARCH 2016

ISSUE: FOUR

Larwood

LOWDOWN

EGGCELLENT HALF TERM

SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL

Ofsted
GRADED
GOOD

Ofsted
Outstanding

Diary

Dates

2016/2017 Term
dates inside

Spring Term 2016

Good Friday:

Friday 25th March

Easter Monday:

Monday 28th
March

End of term:

Friday 1st April
at 2:20pm

Summer Term 2016

First day of term:

Monday 18th April

Bank Holiday:

Monday 2nd May

Half term break:

Monday 30th May
to Friday 3rd June

End of term

Friday 22nd July
at 1:00pm

This term has flown by with lots of activities and progress being made in many different ways. The Larwood Low-down is always a nice moment to take stock and reflect upon some of the events that have happened during a half term. They include:

- We have a number of new pupils that have earned their coloured shirts. This means that they have achieved at least 90/100 points, over 6 weeks. At the 6th week, there is usually a target set and quite often pupils have completed 7 or 8 weeks before they earn their shirt. However, they all have one thing in common; they have demonstrated that they can meet our expectations and standards, and therefore can do this in the future as well.
- Medals have been awarded to quite a few pupils. This may have been Bronze for gaining 1000 points or Silver for 2000 points. Again this demonstrates consistency and determination to make better choices and progress and should be applauded. The race is on for Gold which is 3000 points for pupils.
- Trips and visits; I am extremely proud of Mr Jacobs class who have started to visit another special needs school -Greenside and begun to work with some of their children. This is a new venture for us and the pupils have reacted superbly to such a challenge. Our Year 6 pupils continue to work on their weekly Arts Award course, which is also going well.

Well done to all of your sons/daughters for their hard work and achievements, many of which haven't been mentioned here.

At this time of the year, it always feels a little bit strange, as I have the task of setting a budget for the new financial year 2016-2017 (April-March) whilst still in the academic year 2015-2016! It always presents various challenges and with no extra money coming our way from government (I did hope for an announcement for primary/Special Schools from the Chancellor, but no luck!), the challenge is ever present this year. Our priorities remain unchanged:

- Continue to provide best value for money in all that we do
- Ensure that our school development targets of Progress, Well-Being and Sustainability are met and catered for even in changing financial circumstances. Our curriculum still needs to be fit for our pupils and their needs, as well as prepare for the ever changing society that they are part of.
- Provide your children with the best trained and quality staff to help with the above
- Safeguard pupils and staff in a way which is appropriate for our community and take into account the changing nature of the school site. With Lonsdale School no longer here and the site being sold for housing at some point in time, there are additional factors to consider here.

With all of this in mind, we continue to pursue our aims of becoming an Academy School, during the next school year (2016-17-aiming for October 1st as a conversion date) and we are also currently seeking to place a gate on the approach to our school. It will be an automated gate and it will be open at key times (start and end of the school day) however there will also be an intercom system and closure of the gate for security of pupils and other adults who may wander on the site. Further details will follow in relation to this but if you do want any other information on this matter, please do contact me directly.

Mr Trimble - Headteacher



WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK



Horse Riding

Mr Jacobs' class have been horse riding at the RDA riding school in Todds Green this term. All of the pupils have had a fantastic start to their riding and have conquered some worries and fears that they had at the beginning to go on to pass the grade 2 RDA Proficiency Test. This means that they can mount and dismount safely, walk, trot and steer the ponies with confidence. During the last lesson this term the children had Easter fun after they had passed their tests. Perhaps next term they will go on to pass their Grade 3! Well done to Mr Jacobs' class and Kyla.



MUSIC WITH MR SIMLER



Here's one of our most gifted pianists writing his own song on our lovely old piano!

Joel B has perfect pitch and can name any note just by hearing it, which gives the school piano tuner a real challenge!



Another of our gifted musicians, Joel S can keep time with the best of them and is pretty handy when it comes to fills and thrills! Drumming feels like second nature to this young musician and he is confident not only on drums but with piano and guitar too, what a legend!

JOKES

How does the Easter Bunny stay fit?

EGG-xercise and HARE-robics!

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?

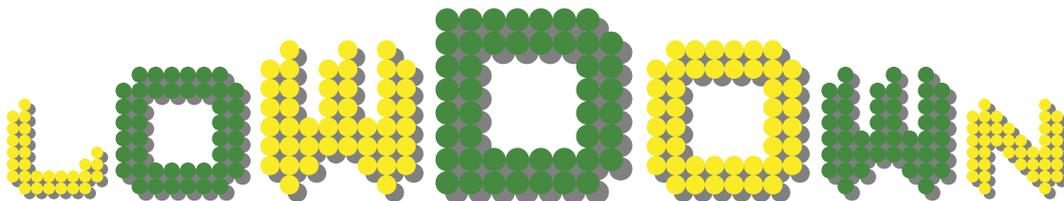
It might crack up!

How does Easter end?

With the letter R!

What's the best way to send a letter to the Easter Bunny?

Hare mail!





BUSSY



2016 to 2017 Term Dates

Term dates from the front page continued:

Autumn Term 2016:

INSET day: Tuesday 30th August

First day of term: Wednesday 31st August

Half Term Break: Monday 17th October to Friday 28th October inc.

Last day of term: Wednesday 21st December at 1:20



Spring Term 2017:

First day of term: Thursday 5th January

Half term break: Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February inc.

End of term: Friday 31st March at 2:20pm



Summer Term 2017:

First day of term: Tuesday 18th April

May Bank holiday: Monday 1st May

Half term break: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June inc.

End of term : Thursday 20th July 1:00pm



FOX News

This term, FOX have a new member of staff Miss Adiba Hanam who is working one to one in Fox with those children who require specialised support. Miss Hanam takes the children to read and work with her on subjects they find challenging in a whole class environment.

We have been lucky enough to have purchased a marble run for those children who spend time in Fox for their lunch time play. It seems to be a real hit with the boys and they are enjoying building their own runs. Lego club is still really popular and the children take great pride in their model making.

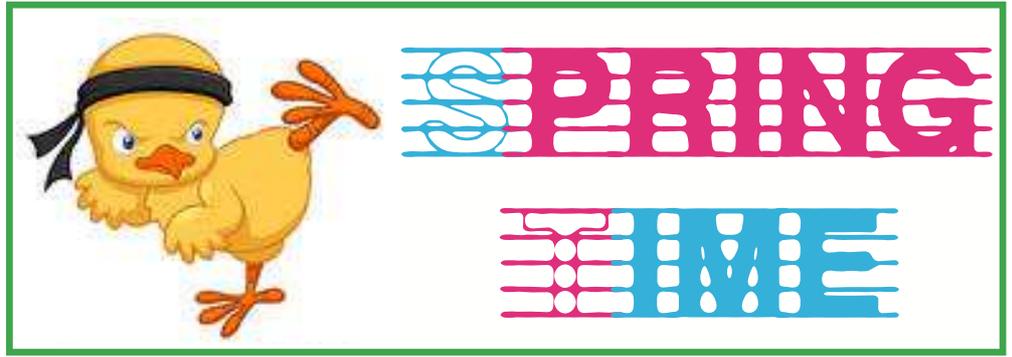
After the Easter break the children will be planting bulbs and sowing seeds in the Fox court yard garden in preparation for summer. This area is a real hit with the children and a space they can use for quiet reading and creative learning whilst using the sand pit which is another popular activity for the children.



NEW PLAYGROUND STUFF

After consulting our pupils for their favourite items of new climbing equipment, we installed fantastic additions to both our play areas for all to enjoy!





MISS KIMPTON'S CLASS



Over the last half term we have been looking at Classic Hollywood in our topic sessions. We have researched Charlie Chaplin and learned about his humble beginnings in London to his life and journey through Hollywood to his later years and death in Switzerland. We looked into the life of Judy Garland and the Wizard of Oz - we had a film festival where we watched 3 films set in Oz. "Oz - The Great and Powerful", "The Wizard of Oz" and "Return to Oz". We then compared and reviewed them. Finally, we looked at Andy Warhol and decided to create a piece of art work based on his famous piece of Marilyn Monroe. We used Charlie Chaplin as our famous face.

Miss Kimpton's Friday Reward Trip



For Friday afternoon reward time a group of pupils went to visit Pets At Home in Stevenage. The boys had a lovely time; they were polite and had some amazing questions for the man who showed them the corn snake. Each of the children had a chance to hold the snake. It was a lovely way to spend the afternoon.

Facebook is BACK



We are re-launching our Facebook page. Mr Quilty has kindly offered to take over the reins! The page will be live, with new content as from Monday, 18th April 2016. The Facebook page was a great success last time and showcased a lot of the children's hard work and achievements. A letter has been sent home (please check book bags) with a return slip that needs to be sent back to school if you do not wish for your child to appear on the page. All school and County guidelines will be followed but we understand that everyone has different circumstances. Enjoy the page, like the pictures and please only leave positive feedback and comments on the page as the children may see this (with adult supervision) and we obviously want to keep them encouraged and proud of their work and any achievements.





What Ofsted said about Larwood School

January 2014

Pupils have good opportunities to develop a range of skills, including through attending vocational taster sessions at North Herts College and working with visiting artists and musicians as part of the Trinity Guildhall Bronze Arts Award. These stimulating activities contribute to pupils' positive attitudes to learning and to their overall achievement.

Pupils make good progress in developing their physical and sporting skills. Outdoor education contributes considerably to this and those pupils who successfully complete this course have the opportunity to climb Snowdon at the end of the school year.

The quality of teaching has improved since the previous inspection and is now good at both key stages, including in English and mathematics.

Teachers have good relationships with their pupils, classrooms are made attractive with displays and lessons are purposeful.

In many lessons, teachers question pupils well to check their understanding and deepen their thinking.

Pupils have regular reading and spelling tasks for homework, and the teaching of reading is good throughout the school.

Teachers provide pupils with plenty of opportunity to practise their reading in class and in an outstanding English lesson in Years 2 and 3, the teacher supported pupils very skilfully as they drew on their knowledge of sounds and letters to label diagrams of what they see on their way to school.

An opportunity to win £200 of Supermarket Vouchers

September 2015 to July 2016

100% pupil attendance could win you £200 of supermarket vouchers

98% + pupil attendance could win you £150 of supermarket vouchers

95%+ pupil attendance could win you £100 of supermarket vouchers



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 DSP; Designated Senior Person for child protection is Mrs Kimpton. Please do contact her if you have any concerns in this area.



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.



NO KITCHEN COOKERY FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS BY KATHERINE TATE



No Kitchen Cookery
For Primary Schools
Katharine Tate



About the Book

'No Kitchen Cookery' has been designed for schools with limited or no kitchen access to deliver an aspect of the Cooking and Nutrition National Curriculum (2014) for Key Stage 1 and 2 within classrooms.

It aims to give teachers an outline for cookery lessons with objectives, outcomes and assessment opportunities clearly identified and provides straightforward, easy to follow recipes.

Katharine states:

As a classroom teacher and registered nutritional therapist I have combined my knowledge and understanding of both disciplines to develop this book building in nutrition know-how, which provides an opportunity for greater discussion about food and health in schools.

Author website <http://www.thefoodteacher.co.uk/>



Simple recipes for Key Stage 1 and 2 that deliver the Cooking and Nutrition Curriculum (2014) within the classroom

About the Author

The Food Teacher, thefoodteach Hertfordshire, UK

The Food Teacher, Katharine Tate, has worked as a teacher and education consultant internationally in primary and secondary schools for over 20 years. Qualified as a registered nutritional therapist, Katharine, combines her unique education and nutrition expertise to offer schools, organisations and families advice, education programmes, practical workshops, and individual/family consultations. Katharine is incredibly passionate about the impact of nutritious food for all individuals especially growing children and families. Through her work in Schools, The Food Teacher Clinic, Community and Media Katharine delivers education and nutrition with a unique and engaging approach.

Larwood School, has a mention in the front of this book because we tried out the recipes and were lucky enough to proof read the book. The children had great fun trying out the recipes, we recommend you try them too!

Mrs Williams' Class

In Science, Mrs Williams' class have been learning about forces which included how gravity works. The children have had a great time creating fair tests and devising their own experiments to test theories. They have had to predict, conclude and work as a team.





Larwood Residential Care

OUTSTANDING

Ofsted Outstanding! Yes, that's what we are!

Mr Trimble (Head Teacher) and Mr Reid (Head of Care) were not only very pleased but also proud to receive the recent Ofsted report for residential care. The report had confirmed our own self evaluation that we were now outstanding in all areas of residential care. Mr Trimble has thanked all staff for their work in this area but particularly praised the Care Team for their hard work and commitment, to provide the very best possible experience for all of our residential pupils. It was also noted that pupil voice and parent comments featured strongly in the inspection process and report itself.

A few quotes from the inspection:

A parent said: 'My son has a fantastic opportunity here. He enjoys doing his homework and he is making really good progress. He is calmer. He is not confused, he likes the boarding routine. He likes boarding a lot and he is learning about how to look after himself. He is doing things he would not have done before.'

A parent said: 'They have really helped me understand what is happening for my son; they involve me and don't shut me out. I feel I am valued as a parent and my views count.'

Using consistent routines and responses, staff support children to identify their feelings and develop self-regulation skills. Where the head identifies gaps in services for children he appoints staff and fills service voids. This provides expedited access to specialist advice and support for home, school and the care team.

Children identify the risk of cyber bullying and meeting strangers during games, they play at home. They attribute this to staff helping them understand about internet dangers.

The business manager meticulously maintains records of recruitment within the school, and records in respect of people living on the school site. Robust agreements require non-school employees to adhere to a number of requirements, which focus on the protection of the children in the school.

The experienced governing body appropriately scrutinise and challenge decision making in the residential provision. They meet with children and understand the challenges children and leaders experience in a school with a residential provision.

One governor said: 'The heads are constantly looking to improve, constantly asking what can we do next? They strive to make things better for children. Children come first and without a shadow of a doubt everybody here cares.'

The leadership team consult with staff, parents, carers, and children to inform improvement planning. The head teacher visits similar provisions outside of the school's local authority to share experiences and learn from other's positive practice models and successes. The recent recruitment of specialist staff and successful engagement of parents and carers continues to maximise the benefits to children in school and at home. A specialist member of staff said: 'The school are being creative in engaging me, and there is healthy partnership working. They are looking at the best they can do for their pupils. They are completely focussed on the individual children.'

OFSTED JUDGEMENT

GOOD

A school providing effective services which exceed minimum requirements. Children and young people are protected and cared for and have their welfare safeguarded and promoted.



OUTSTANDING

A school where the experiences and progress of children and young people consistently exceeds the standard of good and results in sustained progress and achievement. The outcomes achieved by children and young people are outstanding and the impact the boarding/residential provision has had in supporting this progress and achieving these outcomes is clearly evidenced.



FAMILY SUPPORT TASTERS



Are you a family with a child or young person who struggles with adversity or mainstream structures?

Do you want to make changes to create a harmonious family life?

Join us down on the farm and see how your children blossom in our Yes and Can do environment. The whole family can have a go at some of our hands-on-exercises enabling you to:

- Experience the value of working in a holistic approach to support your family.
- Understand how our non-verbal language affects those around us.
- Learn to communicate more authentically.
- Observe the benefits of building relationships.
- Return feeling inspired to try some new ideas.

6th April



BOOK YOUR PLACE
PLACES ARE LIMITED

Email: infosouth@autismangels.co.uk

TO BOOK OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 2016

SLOT 1. 10.00am–11.00am SLOT 2. 11.30am–12.30pm SLOT 3. 1.00pm–2.00pm SLOT 4. 2.30pm–3.30pm

Dress warm with appropriate footwear
Refreshments are provided. No horse experience is necessary

Can't make this event? See our website for our next one...
Also watch out for our Family Fun Days and Summer Camps
www.autismangels.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you down on the farm soon.
Take care,

Sarah & the Autism Angels Team

Southern Team: East Hall Farm, St Pauls Walden, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 8DJ
Head Office: The Cherry Trees, Kirkby Lane, Kearby, Nr. Harrogate, North Yorkshire. LS22 4BR
A Registered Charity: 1160289 Company Number: 08168948





Larwood School

Larwood Residential Care



Mr Jacobs' Class GREENSIDE SCHOOL



Mr Jacobs' class continued to support the pupils at Greenside School Stevenage. Mr Jacobs and Miss Warwick from Greenside decided to take both classes to McDonalds to provide the children with a unique social experience. Many of the children from Greenside are unable to communicate verbally and many are confined to a wheelchair.

The boys have had a few lessons on sign language and together we spoke about how we can help the pupils of Greenside. With the new touch screen ordering system at McDonalds the children from Greenside were able to order their own food for the first time with the help from Mr Jacobs' class.

The boys were understandably nervous when we arrived but very quickly set about helping their new friends by assisting them in being able to press the items of food they desired. At first the boys sat with each other, too nervous to sit with the children from Greenside. However they soon felt comfortable and indeed brave enough to sit with them and communicate with them.

At one point Callum walked round the tables patting the other children on the back and asking them if they had enjoyed their meal. Callum understood the boys couldn't verbally communicate their responses but he certainly was appreciated, their smiles spoke a thousand words about how much they appreciated the help from this class.

It was a truly memorable experience and one I will hold close to my heart, the boys really rose to the occasion and have already indicated a desire to work with Greenside again. We are very proud of the boys and thank them for helping make the experience a memorable one for the boys at Greenside.

Miss Warwick, Greenside School

The link we have with Larwood School is providing opportunities for our learners to socialise and interact with a wider range of students. The support that Greenside learners are receiving from Larwood School enables our students to be a part of the wider community, it is giving them a voice and a sense of achievement. It is building meaningful relationships, helping individuals to generalise their skills with different people in a range of contexts. It is great to see Larwood students become more confident when supporting our individuals and it is a joy to see them so engaged when assisting our learners.

Miss Gwynne's Class

During Spring term Miss Gwynne's class have been investigating sound during both music and science lessons. They have looked at; how vibration creates sound, how sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases, how to soundproof using different materials and how to change the loudness and pitch of an instrument.



Miss Gwynne's class also created 3D hearts for Valentine's Day using weaving around nails.

GET V FIT
EVERY WEDNESDAY
4PM - 5PM AND 5PM - 6PM
AT LARWOOD SCHOOL

FITNESS BOOT CAMP

£5.00 per session or
 pay £20.00 in advance
 for 5 sessions and
 save a fiver!

For more info, call contact Mr V
 victor.osobu@larwood.herts.sch.uk

- KEEP FIT TO MUSIC
- CORE WORK
- TONING
- STRENGTHENING
- WEIGHT LOSS





LOWDOWN

HIRE OUR FACILITIES

Check out our conference facilities!

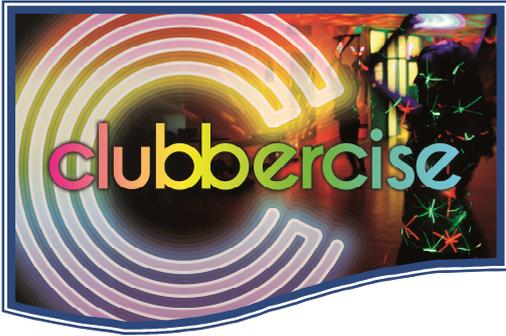


Are you looking for a professional conference venue for staff training / business meetings / conducting interviews ?

Take a look at our high quality conference / meeting room facilities available at competitive rates. Catering service available also.

A great opportunity for local businesses in Stevenage to contribute directly to our community - All revenue goes to funding school activities and resources!

For further information: please call Sandra Fitzpatrick, School Business Manager, on 01438 236333



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LAUNCH NIGHT
TUESDAY
5th APRIL

Achieve, Believe, Expect and Enjoy



The End!



H O U S E R U N S

T R E N T	L O R D S	T R A F F O R D	H E A D I N G L Y
2295	2011	2316	1958
2 N D	3 R D	1 S T	4 T H

WELL DONE TO HOUSE:
TRAFFORD

Back to School:

Monday, 18th April 2016

