



VOLUME: SEVEN

ISSUE: ONE

# Larwood

## LOWDOWN



### Academic Year

#### TERM DATES

**AUTUMN TERM**  
2018/2019

**HALF TERM BREAK**  
Monday 22nd October to  
Friday 2nd November

**LAST DAY OF TERM**  
Friday 21st December  
at 1:20\*

**CHRISTMAS BREAK**  
Monday 24th December to  
Friday 4th January 2019

**SPRING TERM**  
2019

**FIRST DAY OF TERM**  
Monday 7th January

**HALF TERM BREAK**  
Monday 18th February to  
Friday 22nd February

**END OF TERM**  
Friday 5th April  
at 2:20pm\*

**EASTER BREAK**  
Monday 8th April to  
Monday 22nd April

**SUMMER TERM**  
2019

**FIRST DAY OF TERM**  
Tuesday 23rd April

**MAY BANK HOLIDAY**  
Monday 6th May

**HALF TERM BREAK**  
Monday 27th May to  
Friday 31st May

**END OF TERM**  
Friday 19th July 1:00\*

The start of a new academic year always promises so much! New pupils have been welcomed, and changes have been made during the summer term and holidays. There are clear examples of new plans continuing to use and improve upon old strategies, but also new ventures are part of our future plans. This includes the following:

- A new curriculum - which is the Chris Quigley model. Please see our website for more information and information shared by Mrs Osobu: Assistant Headteacher
- The end of the residential consultation process in September. This now proceeds to a governing body vote and sharing information with the DFE.
- Increasing work with another SEMH school (secondary) - Brandles in Baldock. This is one of our main feeder schools for our pupils and we are considering ways of formalising this approach in the future, if possible.

During the summer term, we spent much time evaluating many areas of school life. As in previous years, all of this information is on our website. The relevant section can be found in the following way:

- [www.larwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.larwood.herts.sch.uk)
- See section tab-'How Effective Are We?'

Within this area, you can see other sections titled 'What Others Think of Us', 'What Pupils and Parents Think About us' and 'What We Know About Ourselves'. The website is always under review and being changed. Have you seen the video about Frank? Please do let me know what you think about our website, if you can spare the time.

Our new School Development Plan highlights the continued need to make improvements in the areas of Progress, Well-Being and Sustainability. We have various plans involving the curriculum, assessment, outreach, well-being, mental health training for staff, governance, teaching and learning and developing our work with pupils who have autism. Your support is essential as we move forwards. There were many areas of our plans that were successful last year. However, we have also identified areas that we want to make improvements with. For example, the new curriculum has been adopted to promote even better engagement from pupils building on last year's practice, where pupils were leading themes with their own ideas in writing.

Please do not forget that our half term break starts today and pupils are not expected back until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November at the normal time.

**S D Trimble - Headteacher**

**Start & Finish Times**  
**SCHOOL STARTS**  
**@ 9.00am EVERYDAY**  
**SCHOOL FINISHES**  
**MONDAY - THURSDAY**  
**@ 3.20pm**  
**FRIDAY @ 2.20pm**



# Achieve

## Miss Kimpton's Class

### Knowledge of the World Week

Over the last week of the half term we have been looking at how the teachings of Buddha have an impact on our everyday lives.

We have enjoyed learning about meditation and mindfulness and how it can help us to calm down in a situation and be mindful of our own feelings and that of others. We have used meditation as a relaxation tool.

We learned about the different foods eaten by Buddhists. We made vegan banana bread. We visited a Buddhist temple in Letchworth. It was an amazing experience. The Monk told us all about Buddha. He shared some mindfulness with us, we left feeling very relaxed and peaceful. We learned about meditation and even did some mindful listening.



## Mr Jacob's Class

### World War 2

&

### The School Community Group

Mr Jacobs class have been enjoying learning about World War II and focussing on the experiences of families during the evacuation of children to different countries including Canada, Wales and Scotland. Many would prefer the boat trip to Canada but thankfully no one wanted a Third World War! They have also created images of London during the blitz, studied different unsung heroes from the war all of which is illustrated on our fantastic looking class display. You should be warned many have suggested they may try making gas masks at home!



## COMMUNITY

The School community group continues to grow from strength to strength and the school is becoming well known across Stevenage for all their efforts which includes cleaner streets, a cleaner and friendlier environment at Fairland's Park and following our successful recycling project, fellow schools are indicating they'll join us next year! The local council are becoming increasingly impressed with our efforts. Plans are in place to submit a new application to acquire funding to redevelop our outdoor pond area. This will become a unique outdoor learning environment, that will enhance our science experiences and life skills. We will keep you all posted on our plans and the success of our application. It will include support from volunteers and financial support from local council groups and local businesses. We are aiming to begin the actual redevelopment in late spring next year and will be hoping many of you will be able to volunteer your services to help clear and tidy our outdoor garden areas.



# Believe



## FOX CUB

### Team Work, Cooking and Fresh Air!

In Cub we've had a great start to this school year. We have been focussing on teamwork. Each group had to work together to construct a marble run that worked. The results were so different but all worked in the end after a bit of re-thinking and perseverance. Well done boys!



The children have enjoyed our weekly cooking sessions. This half term we have cooked moon rock cakes, jam tarts, fruit smoothies, fridge cake and today an impressive celebration cake. It has been quite difficult keeping Mr Van, and his many disguises, away from the treats but we just about managed it! I hope you have indulged in the tasting of their produce.



As it's Autumn, Cub decided to go on an Autumn walk around the school grounds. The boys thoroughly enjoyed having some fresh air. The following day we created a piece of art work using the leaves we had collected. I think you will agree how cute they are.



## Miss Trott's Class

### Learning About Chocolate!

In Miss Trott's class we have been learning about chocolate. We have researched the top 10 cocoa producing countries around the world and learnt about the process of harvesting Cocoa and all the stages it goes through before being used in chocolate factories. We have also designed some games involving chocolate and really enjoyed playing them.





# Expect

## Mr Scales' Class

### Chocolate with a Mathematical Twist!



Our first instalment of the Larwood Lowdown as a new class of 2018 - 2019 focuses on our year 6 topic of 'Chocolate'. To get the creative juices flowing for our new topic as a year group, we opened up Larwood's very own chocolate shop. Upon entering the amazing chocolate shop, akin to Bill's Candy shop in the original Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, the children were issued with their spending money and access to the chocolate. The mathematical twist was all of the confectionary was priced in weight. So after some quick maths calculations the children were indulging on a small amount of chocolate, only later to realise they would then be completing scientific investigations to burn off the calories they had consumed. Chocolate is a topic that has captured the imagination and lent itself to many creative curricular activities, with many more to come.



## Miss Gwynne's Class

### Using Our Taste Buds to Explore the World . . . 1st Stop . . . Italy!

In Miss Gwynne, Mr Rooke and Miss Jarvis' class we have been using our taste buds to explore the world. Our focus started in Italy where we made our own pasta from scratch. Moving on to America where we baked amazing apple and cinnamon cookies. Finally we ended this half term's culinary coast to coast tour back home in our native England where we made our own butter.





# Enjoy

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN £100 OF SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS SEPTEMBER 2018 TO JULY 2019

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

98% + pupil attendance could win you £50 of supermarket vouchers

95%+ pupil attendance could win you £25 of supermarket vouchers

All qualifying names were put into a hat and picked by Mr Van. Congratulations to this years winners!

#AttendanceIsImportant

Be an Attendance Hero!



## 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.

### STAY CONNECTED

## Larwood



## Home

#LARWOODLIFE #STAYUPTODATE #CONNECTED



School Website: [www.larwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.larwood.herts.sch.uk)

Telephone Number: 01438 236 333



Email: [admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk)

School App: App Store - e4Education



Facebook: Larwood School Academy

YouTube: Channel - Larwood School



The Larwood Lowdown

**effective**  
communication

## Mrs Williams & Mrs Woods' Class

*"The snozberries taste like snozberries!"*

Mrs Williams, Mrs Wood and Mrs Longcroft's class have enjoyed half a term of studying the topic of 'Chocolate'. We are using a cross curricular approach and spreading our topic throughout each subject.

So far we have learned about:

- Where the beans come from;
- The transportation of Cocoa beans;
- The history of chocolate;
- The % of cocoa in chocolate and how this alters the texture and taste;

As part of Science we have been concentrating on devising and writing up our own experiments through 'changing state'. This did include a little bit of chocolate tasting.

We have been listening and responding to Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We have been producing our own pieces of writing based on it. There are some examples on Pobble.



### Keeping our Children Safe Keeping our Children Safe 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 Bianca Osobu: Assistant Headteacher, supported by our other DSP's Mr Sean Trimble: Headteacher, Mrs Sian Ford: Family Support Worker  
Nicolas Newman: ICT/Network manager & Jane Kimpton: Designated Senior Person  
Our Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Sandra Barr - Chair of Governors.



# School

## Mrs Kamene's Class

### The Theory of Evolution

For their Topic, the pupils in Mrs Kamene's class have been learning about Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. They learnt about his life, his research, the fossils he collected, his theories about geology and his beliefs about extinction. In science, the children in Mrs Kamene's class have learned about 'States of Matter' in which they observed that some materials



change states when they are heated or cooled.

As well as learning about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children worked scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the weight of a gas.

They also carried out an evaporation investigation to associate the effect of temperature on drying washing; and how this can explain that the higher the temperature, the quicker water evaporates.

The children did some experiments to find out the ideal temperature to melt chocolate.



## Mr V! He Does P.E.

### Cricket & Sports Ambassador

This half term we have had 'Chance to Shine' in teaching some of the children cricket skills. All of the children who had their session really enjoyed it and we look forward to learning more cricket skills as the year progresses.

Chance to Shine is a charity that provides free coaching and teaching to schools - we thank them for their time.

Congratulations to Skye who has been appointed as our Sport Ambassador working alongside Stevenage Sporting Futures Team. Her role is to organise 'in school' events run by SSFT and take scores. Other parts of her role are to help with the PE notice board and run lunch time events to help/encourage participation.





“Don't 'sir' me, I'm plain Harold, one - time coal miner and one - time professional cricketer.”

- Harold Larwood

## Mrs Osborne's Class

### Superheros and Villains!

Our topic this term is 'Superheroes and Villains'. We have been visited by some everyday heroes including the Police and the Fire Brigade and have made police cars by weaving paper in Skills. We took our finger prints and looked at the difference in prints on our fingers. We also talked about heroes from the past and looked at the work done by Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We thought about the different types of food superheroes might eat and learned about the different food types and which foods were in each category. In the supermarket we chose healthy foods for Superheroes and used our knowledge of numbers to purchase what we had chosen.

In literacy, we read the story Supertato and wrote our own versions of the story. Some of our stories have been published on Pobble.



## Miss Kimpton's Class - 2nd addition

### Excellent Earth!



At the beginning of term we had a day introducing our topic for the term - Excellent Earth. In Topic we had planned to look at three explorers, Charles Darwin, Christopher Columbus and Howard Carter.

In the morning, we went on a treasure hunt through Egypt. We had to follow clues and work as a team to complete the hunt. In the afternoon our class was transformed into Tutankhamen's tomb. We were able to look at artefacts which were found and facts surrounding Howard Carter finding the tomb. We also had a food taster session, looking at food found in and around Egypt. We all dressed up as explorers. A good, informative day was had by all!



## VIP Information

As part of the #WakeUpWednesday campaign, National Online Safety has teamed up with MusicAlternative to launch a Fortnite online safety song for us to share with our whole school community! Check out the YouTube video @

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j150BqInjnY>





Government legislation introduced in 2014 led to an increased emphasis on promoting British values to all pupils, as part of our spiritual, moral, social and cultural development program. Having placed a strong emphasis on moral values and being a responsible member of the Larwood school community, we had already established a strong base in this area. During the 2014-15, we have reviewed where we believe our strengths and weaknesses are within this program and this has helped to clarify what we need to do next, alongside what we need to continue to maintain. Such provision may be via the formal curriculum or via more informal opportunities such as play, lunchtimes, additional events including charity based days and trips and visits.

## How we do this, what are our strengths and what needs more development?

### Influencing decisions making through democratic processes.

This is promoted via the school structure that enables pupils to have a voice and make choices as part of the day to running of the school, as well as long term change and decisions that may affect them. We do this by:

- Promoting class debate around subjects and choices
- Electing school council members and having pupils speak to members of the Leadership Team/Chair of the Governing Body about ideas and choices
- Pupil opinion is sought regularly and in a variety of ways. This includes how they are taught, what food is available, play equipment, where trips may go to and how they are helped to improve their work and behaviour
- The school curriculum looks at how some people and countries replicate our beliefs and how some don't

We know that we need to continue to develop the idea that although many aspects of change can be managed via opinion, sometimes, a decision has to be made on the evidence available and that lots of people may have differing opinions. This can cause anxiety and confusion during periods of change.

### The law and how this protects people, with clear reference to well being and safety

We make it clear that there are laws (rules) that work at school, in the community and across the country. Alongside these there are also consequences and rewards. Again this is embedded via our day to day interactions, as well as assemblies, PSHE, and curriculum. We promote this by:

- Having clear behaviour management policies for staff/parents etc. and ensuring that pupils are clear about our rules and sanctions. The behaviour ladders and reward ladders are displayed throughout the school and referred to regularly.
- Assemblies promote and remind pupils about such values and our points system and consequences are applied fairly and consistently.

- The curriculum enhances reference to laws where relevant and helps pupils to understand the rules that they have to follow whilst not at school.
- Assemblies promote and remind pupils about such values and our points system and consequences are applied fairly and consistently.
- We have an excellent relationship with our local Police and Fire service colleagues. They visit to speak to pupils both during the day and in boarding about general and specific issues.
- The curriculum enhances reference to laws where relevant and helps pupils to understand the rules that they have to follow whilst not at school.

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### Individual liberty and mutual respect

This is closely related to law and our ethos and values are driven by the idea of mutual respect that allows us to have the freedom of choice when following rules and laws. We do this by:

- Promotion of rules and laws alongside consequences, that allow schools, communities, families and countries to work, play and enjoy various environments.
- Actions have consequences. Assemblies, lessons, play. Trios and everything that we do is underpinned by a points system that is supported by a culture of working together to get things right.
- Making the right choice can be difficult but rewarding in many ways.

We will maintain our day to day interaction with pupils to reinforce the idea that all people should be respected, that laws are there to serve us all and we all have the right to be safe.

### Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

As our intake varies greatly, both during the year, and from year to year, we ensure that curriculum provision, assemblies, PSHE and a range of activities support and extend knowledge and understanding this area. Views are discussed from a historical (For example, World War 2) and topical context. Where views are expressed that need deeper discussion, they take place with support and guidance and visits are arranged to different faiths that help to break down perceived barriers and perceptions.

We continue to be very aware of perceptions that exist with regards to different cultures that may not be particularly prevalent within the Stevenage and North Herts area, as well as maintaining a close eye of the political climate and some view that may be generated via such debates.

# HOUSE RUNS

## WELL DONE TO HOUSE

# TRAFFORD

TRENT	TRAFFORD	HEADINGLY	LORDS
628	634	595	551
2ND	1ST	4TH	3RD

## Finally

*A Piece from Mrs Osobo*

On October 10th a most strange thing happened at Larwood School. Captain Richard Morgan arrived at school, more than a little confused. Because just a few hours beforehand he was on his pirate vessel, The Good Ship Mathematics, in the middle of the Caribbean! Swept to our school by a Time Tornado, he needed the pupils' help to get back to his own time and place. We were up to the Challenge! It's a Challenge that tested the pupil's understanding of number, shape and direction 'to the max'. Captain Morgan really engaged the children and provided a fun element to the day. The children gained a love of learning, resilience in problem solving, team work and an opportunity to ask questions!



**BACK TO SCHOOL: MONDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 2018**

