



VOLUME: **EIGHT**

ISSUE: **ONE**

# Larwood LOWDOWN

## OFSTEDILY INTO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR!

The start of a new academic year always promises so much! New pupils have been welcomed, changes made during the summer term and holiday now seem very old. There are clear examples of new plans continuing to be used to improve upon old strategies, but new ventures are also becoming part of our future plans.

We have welcomed new pupils and some new staff at the start of this academic year. Mrs. Smith is now our new Business Manager, but we retain the use of Mrs. Fitzpatrick for projects. We have also added to our Learning and Support Staff with the addition of Miss Kolthammer.

You may be aware that we had a visit from Ofsted inspectors during Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th October. This was something that we had expected to happen as we were due such a visit. Until the final report is published I am not able to confirm the inspection outcomes, however, I look forward to sharing this with you, as soon as it is published.

During the summer term, we spent much time evaluating many areas of school life. As always, all of this material is available for you to read. 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?'

Our new School Development Plan highlights the continued need to continue improving in the areas of Progress, Well-Being and Sustainability. We continue to review the quality of teaching and learning every term by using lesson observations, mentoring and data related to behaviour and incidents. We know that we must continue to strive to refine and improve upon our practice, to ensure that all of your sons and daughters receive the outstanding education that they deserve. Your support is essential as we move forwards.

We continue to work very closely with Brandles School, and we are aiming for them to join Larwood Academy Trust by 1st January 2020. This will mean some staffing structural changes at Larwood and I will inform you of these as we move closer to the proposed date above. Any such change made will be completed so that it does not affect the day-to-day quality of educational provision and care that your children experience.

Please do not forget that our half term break starts today and pupils are not expected back until Monday 4th November at the normal time.

I wish you all a restful half term break.

Kind regards,

S D Trimble  
Headteacher



**Back to School!**  
**Monday 4th November**



# Achieve

## Mrs Woods' Class

### 'Zoo Life!'

The start of the new school year and we have been welcoming more pupils into our class. We are now up to 7 wonderful boys. This term we are studying Zoo life and the class have enjoyed doing bug trails outside in our science lessons, learning how to do different graphs in maths and using the bug trail information. During skills on a Thursday afternoon we have covered different activities from den building, music, creating our own small gardens and cooking. We have been looking at continents in geography and in history we have studied Charles Darwin. The class are really enjoying our Zoo Life topic and enjoyed their stunning starter at Whipsnade Zoo and in school.



## Mrs Powell's Class

### 'Lots of bibbidi bobbidi boo's'

This half term we've started our topic, 'Abracadabra!' As part of this, we've focussed a lot on 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.' We've got creative with our writing, imagining some interesting characters and some adventurous plot twists. We've also honed our water colour skills in art and put those newly acquired skills to use in our 'Mirror of Erised' self-portraits- which I can't wait to put up on display for everyone to admire! In PSHE we've spent a lot of time thinking about qualities that we admire in one another and have been comparing talents and interests to get to know each other better for it. We've welcomed lots of new additions to our class over the half term and are now a full class of happy, helpful learners. You should be proud of all that you've achieved this half term and how kind you've been to one another, keep it up!



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



# Believe

## Nurture Room - Mrs Jack



*'Continuing to grow!'*

In Cub we have focussed on welcoming our new children to the class. We have been building friendships and encouraging teamwork.

We are continuing to use our kindness board from last year. Every child that is in Mrs Osborne's class has the opportunity to earn kindness awards from every adult in the school. To earn a kindness slip a child should be seen, without any prompts, to be doing something kind. The child that has received the most kindness slips at the end of any term is awarded a prize. Good luck boys!

Our focus for our cookery lessons this ½ term has been "Pastry" we have made some delicious produce for you all to sample, I hope the children have shared them with you!



## Miss Kimpton's Class

*'We're going the Zoo, Zoo, Zoo! How 'bout You, You, You!'*

On Wednesday 2nd October, Miss Kimpton's, Mr Rooke's and Mrs Wood's classes went to Whipsnade Zoo. This was our stunning starter for our topic this term which is Zoo life.

It was a wonderful day, and all the children enjoyed seeing the animals, especially the squirrels!!

The children were so enthusiastic about the zoo and talked about the enclosures and what made them appropriate for the animals. We stopped and watched the sea lion talk - it was very informative and everyone enjoyed watching them move in and out of the water.

In science, we have been learning about plants and flowers.

As a practical experiment we dissected a lily and made notes of our observations. We use magnifying glasses to look at the smaller parts, and following this we stuck all the parts to a piece of paper and labelled them. We also did a sorting activity, where we sorted the different parts of the flower into different trays. Finally, we looked at botanical illustrations and created our own. We learned lots about the inside of a flower and its purpose.





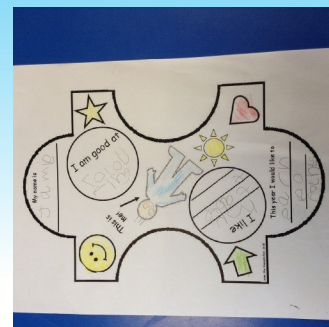
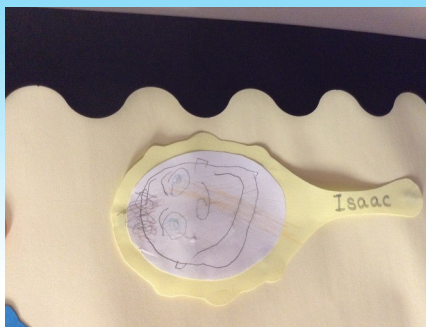
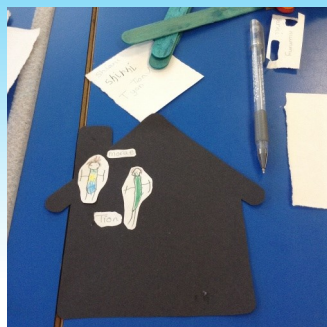


# Expect

## Mrs Osborne's Class

*'Good to be me'*

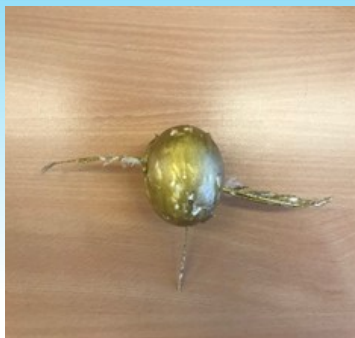
At the beginning of term we had a day introducing our topic for the term – Good To Be Me. We looked at the similarities and differences between ourselves. We completed jigsaw pieces highlighting things we are good at and our likes and dislikes. We made houses and drew pictures of the people who live there. We made picture frames for our photographs and then we looked at ourselves in the mirror and drew our portrait in a mirror.



## Mr Jacobs' Class

*'POTTER!'*

The boys have blended well as a new class and are starting to show a good friendship with each other often supporting and helping one another. They have been enjoying their topic of Abracadabra which began with stunning starter activities which included potion creating, butter beer making, performing magic tricks, identifying their Hogwarts house, watching the film and enjoying a banquet hosted by Dumbledore and his band of wizard teachers! They have many more fun activities to look forward to which will provide their families with some excellent Art and Craft creations.



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



# Enjoy

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN £100 OF SUPER MARKET VOUCHERS SEPTEMBER 2019 TO JULY 2020

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 will be put into a  
hat and picked by Mr Van.

#AttendanceIsImportant

Be an Attendance Hero!



### 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



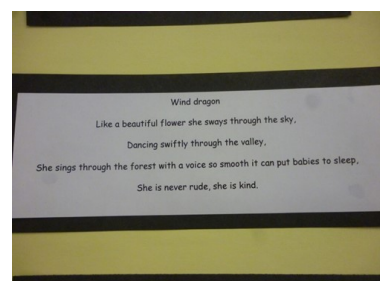
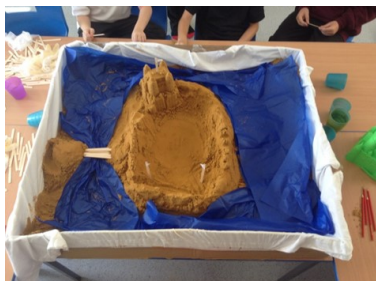
The Larwood Lowdown

**effective**  
communication

## Miss Gwynne's Class

### 'Coat of Arms'

In Miss Gwynne's class, our topic is 'Castles, Knights and Dragons'. Over this half term we have learnt about the different parts of castles and created our own using sand and Lego. We researched our family coat of arms and re-designed them. As a class we followed instructions to create our own knight helmet with movable parts. The whole class showed just how creative they could be by creating their own dragon poems.



## Mr Rooke's Class

### Hands on Learning - Building a Zoo!

POD have had a fantastic start to a new year. We have been using hands on learning to explore our topic of "at the zoo." We have started building and developing our own Zoos using money, planning and our knowledge of the animals to make a well-rounded, sustainable place for our animals to live. We ending our term on a trip to the Whipsnade zoo where the children were a credit to the school and the children really enjoyed their time. Through drama, storytelling and great imagination we have developed our own stories using descriptive writing. We have had the pleasure of introducing a new member to our class who has fitted in brilliantly to our small class. All the pupils in POD have worked so hard and Mr Rooke and Miss Gosnell are very proud of how well everyone has started back after the summer break. Showing how hard they can work and showing amazing behaviour, some earning their yellow shirts and the rest of the class making great progress to earning theirs.

We look forward to seeing what the next half term has in store.







# School

## Mrs Kamene's Class

### 'Kamene - at - Arms'

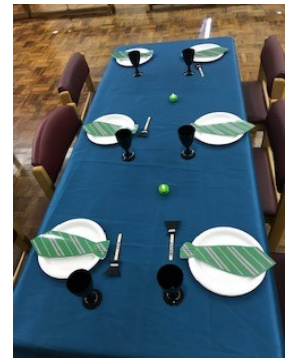
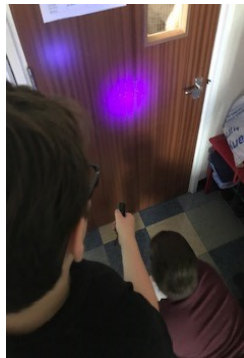
In Mrs Kamene's class, the children acquired some ideas in the Medieval Castles, Knights and Dragons theme, including instructions for making a fire breathing Dragon, shields and swords. They also designed and made large cardboard castles. In addition, the children sewed their own sensory toys using felt and filled it in with rice.



## Miss Trott's Class

### 'Abracadabra!'

In Miss Trott's class the children have really immersed themselves into this term's topic of Abracadabra. They have taken part in potions lessons, sorting hat ceremony, cooking and have created some magical pieces. The kids have all entered the world of Harry Potter in Literacy and have followed JK Rowling's lead to create some brilliant pieces of writing. We can't wait to see what we get up to next half term.



# BE AN ATTENDANCE HERO!

ATTENDING SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT & YOU COULD WIN UPTO £100 IN SHOPPING VOUCHERS!  
#ATTENDANCEHERO!



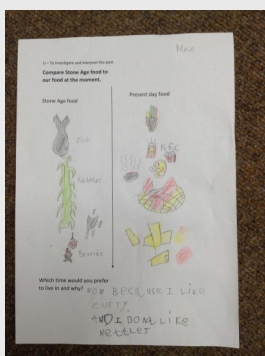
## Mrs Williams - SPACE HUB

*'Clear for Launch!'*

In Space Hub this term, we have been looking at food. This half term we have travelled through the ages from the Stone Age gatherer and hunters through to modern day food. We have looked at the Victorian era, Normans, Tudors, World War 2 and the Romans. We have had theme days on a Wednesday where we cook and create food from the era as well as taking part in art and history activities.

As part of the Stone Age we have created a hut and fireplace. We found that cooking outdoors is temperamental and ended up with burned sausages!

Moon side of Space Hub have completed their first horse riding certificate with the RDA. They have been a credit to the school and I was extremely proud to take them riding. They have learned some vital horse skills including trotting.



# #AttendanceIsImportant



**PLEASE GO TO: [www.larwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.larwood.herts.sch.uk)**

- ▶ Click on the menu (top right of the screen)
- ▶ Click Parent Zone
- ▶ Read our updated eSafety section called:  
**KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE!**



In this section you will find instructions for 'Parental Controls' for most devices and gadgets: SKY, VIRGIN, Google Home, Alexa, Mobile phone operators; O2, EE. We have tried to cover all platforms, but if there are controls you would like and cannot find, please contact the school and we will try and get the information you need.

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE!**

## VIP Information

As part of the #WakeUpWednesday campaign, National Online Safety has teamed up with Music Alternative 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.
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- 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

## AND THIS YEARS OVERALL WINNER ...

# TRENT!

TRENT	TRAFFORD	HEADINGLY	LORDS
805	866	799	665
2ND	1ST	3RD	4TH

### Keeping our Children Safe

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### 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.



**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
**MONDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER 2019 @ 9AM**



# EXTRA

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR! OR YOUR FRIDGE? OR YOUR NOTICE BOARD?

21<sup>st</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019:  
Autumn Half Term

18<sup>th</sup> December 2019:  
Last day of Autumn Term

19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2020:  
Christmas Break

6<sup>th</sup> January 2020:  
First Day of Winter Term

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020:  
Winter Half Term

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020:  
Last Day of Winter Term

6<sup>th</sup> April – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020:  
Easter Break

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020:  
First Day of Spring Term

4<sup>th</sup> May 2020:  
Bank Holiday

25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020:  
Spring Half Term

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020:  
Last Day of Spring Term and Academic Year

20<sup>th</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020:  
End of Year & Summer Break



### START & FINISH TIMES

SCHOOL STARTS @ 9.00am EVERYDAY

SCHOOL FINISHES @ 3.20pm MONDAY - THURSDAY and FRIDAY @ 2.20pm

## BE AN ATTENDANCE HERO!

ATTENDING SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT & YOU COULD WIN UPTO £100 IN SHOPPING VOUCHERS!  
#ATTENDANCEHERO

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 WILL BE PUT INTO A HAT AND PICKED BY MR VAN.