



Onwards and Upwards!

What a great start to the New Year we have had with your sons and daughters. Many of them are really trying hard to improve their work, and I am so pleased to see how many of them are listening to their teachers and teaching assistants. I hope that you are aware that every Friday, as a school, we celebrate the various great work that has taken place for the week that has passed. Last week was a typical week of comments during that assembly, and they included:

- Determined progress with work connected to writing
- Numerous acts of kindness between pupils
- Acts of kindness to staff by pupils
- Sporting success with our weekly nominations for 'Sportsperson of The Week' award
- Our pupils working within our community by reading and talking with adults at Jubilee Court
- Pupils taking part in and demonstrating Life Skills

DID YOU KNOW THAT STAFF AT LARWOOD ARE SETTING UP AND RUNNING A HOLIDAY CLUB?

It starts this half term holiday and will be run by Mr V, our resident PE Coach. It will have a sports and arts theme and no doubt will be great fun. Please contact Mr V directly if you are interested.



Please note that as of Feb 1st, Brandles School formally joined Larwood Academy Trust. You may be aware that Brandles is a secondary school for Social, Emotional and Mental Health related issues. Many of our pupils move there for their secondary education. We have been working with the DFE to enable this to happen for a long period of time. As part of our future collaborative work, we are including:

- Joint staff training opportunities.
- Weekly meetings between Mr Pearce (Headteacher at Brandles) and myself, discussing a wide range of topics that include curriculum, assessment, staffing, transitional arrangements etc.
- Greater joined up working in various areas such as ICT (Mr Newman), site, environment and health and safety (Mr Reid) and how we all approach common issues related to mental health (Mrs Ford). Mrs Smith and Mrs Fitz patrick are also providing support and guidance in relation to financial matters
- Potential joint funding of various services that we both use which should lead to savings that can be redirected towards pupils needs

Thank you for your continued support!

S D Trimble Executive Headteacher Larwood Academy Trust





Larwood School children are NOT OLD ENOUGH to use this social media platform!

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TIKTOK

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emoji's and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.

MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are light hearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities – social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorious have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emoji's to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.

WE KNOW THAT SOME LARWOOD CHILDREN ARE ON TIKTOK!

TERN

Get them off it!

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.

ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.

MATURE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.

EXPLORE & LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.





Achieve

Mr Jacobs, Miss Powell and Miss Troff

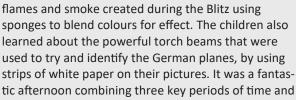
"Time is the fire in which we burn!"

The three classes are studying time travel this term; providing the children with the opportunity to learn a wide variety of historic events and time periods. In one afternoon, the children learned about Ancient Egypt, the Jurassic Period and the WWII Blitz.





Mr Jacobs challenged the children to create a silhouette image of London with the



the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

With Miss Trott and Miss Hipkin, the children looked at the Ancient Egyptian process of Mummification. They learnt about why mummification was used and the practices that were in-

volved. Then the fun bit; the children got to put what they learned into practice by mummifying an apple using salt and bicarb and then practicing their wrapping skills by bandaging up their friends. We cannot wait to see how our mummified apples turn out after the half term break!

With Miss Powell and Miss Kolthammer, the children had an archaeologist taster by excavating some dinosaur fossils and using a key to identify the dinosaurs that they had unearthed. They also compared dinosaurs and learned some fun facts through playing dinosaur top trumps and a memory game. Other children in the group also got creative and used a step by step tutorial to learn how to draw a Triceratops.













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



Believe





"No survivors? Then where do the stories come from, I wonder." - Captain Jack Sparrow'

Our topic this term is "Pirates of the Caribbean" and we introduced this to the class as a Pirate themed day full of different activities. Our stunning starter day included a treasure hunt around the school grounds. The children went from clue to clue until they found the treasure chest in Mr Trimble's office!

The class then went on to make Pirate themed biscuits.

During our Cub cooking sessions we have also made white chocolate and dried Cranberry Rocky Road. Rice Krispy chocolate cakes. The class have also made Parrots which look really effective on our display board in Cub.

As always we continue to focus on kindness and it was Joshua and James sharing the prize for the most certificates last term. 'Keep on completing those acts of kindness boys and who knows you could be the winner next term!'















Miss Kimpton's Glass

'Magna Force!'

This half term in science we have been investigating forces. To begin with we investigated push and pull forces by making freeze frames acting out different sports. We found that forces make objects stop and start. Following that we investigated friction by conducting an experiment. We used four different surfaces, a toy car and a ruler to work out which surface had more friction. We found the astro turf had more friction and it was harder to move the car. Our next experiment was to investigate how magnets work. We enjoyed building a race track using lollipop sticks to race cars on - we put a magnet on top of a toy car and used another magnet to push or pull it round. We used magnets to find magnetic objects on class.







<u>Be an attendance hero!</u>

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



Expect





Mrs Kamene's Glass

'Andy's COMING!'

For Toys topic this term, we visited the toy museum within Mountfitchet Castle to look at a collection of old toys. In ICT we have the internet to research information and facts about toys. We also learnt about the History of toys. In Art, we made Forky, a character from Toy Story, the minions and marble runs.







Mrs Wood's Glass

'Work like a captain, play like a pirate!'

The start of a new decade and we have been very busy in our class. We started our new topic —Life of the Ocean with a pirate themed day, where the classes made swords, hooks, eye patches and created a pirate themed dance where they battled against the other group. All the children had great fun and have enjoyed learning about pirates. We also completed two different workshops; one for maths where we did lots of problem solving and creating different shapes and the other one we worked with Billy Bob Buttons who is an author. During this workshop all the children had to draw a picture of the Muffin Monster using the description given to them. I am delighted that Jack was one of the winners and got a signed copy of a book. As a class we have also started to go horse riding every Monday and the class are really enjoying getting to know their horse and learning new skills each week.







www.larwood.herts.sch.uk



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.

#AttendancelSimportant

Be an Attendance Hero!



Enjoy



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.

STAY CONNECTED







#LARWOODLIFE #STAYUPTODATE #CONNECTED



http://www.School Website: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk

Telephone Number: 01438 236 333





Email: admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk

School App: App Store - e4Education





Facebook: Larwood School Academy

YouTube: Channel - Larwood School





The Larwood Lowdown



Larwood

Miss Grynna's Glass

"Who invited that kid!?" - Mr Potato Head

In Miss Gwynne's class our topic is 'Toys past and present'. After watching Toy Story the children researched and explored the actors behind the voices from the film franchise. They found it interesting to be able to see who had voiced their much loved characters. Did you know that they used archived voice recordings of Don Rickles, the voice of Mr Potato head, for Toy Story 4 due to his untimely death in 2017?







We have really enjoyed exploring, playing with and making toys from the past and present.

Mr Rooke's Glass

'Under the Sea!'



Our topic of "Life In The Ocean" has taken hold of Pod. We have investigated the wonders of the ocean, from the sea life that lies beneath to the giant vessels that sail on top. We have looked at the brave adventurers that have boarded ships for pirate adventures and discovered new lands.

We have looked at successful voyages across the sea such as Columbus and some disasters such as the titanic. The children have enjoyed using drama and music in their learning across all subjects to embrace the theme. Mr Rooke and Miss Gosnell would like to thank the class for an enjoyable and fantastic term and can't wait for what next term has to offer.



Online Safety

It can be hard to know how to talk to your child about online safety. From setting up parental controls to advice on sexting, online games and video apps, we can help you to understand the risks and keep your child safe.

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

Whether you're puzzled by parental controls or would like to get knowledgeable about gaming, Childnet can help. We all know that it can sometimes be challenging to keep up to speed with what children and young people are doing online. On this page you'll find a whole host of useful ways to help keep your child safe.



www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

Miss Gwynne, did an assembly about keeping safe online. The power point presentation that was used, is on the Larwood School website: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk



School

Mr Jacobs - Community Skills Group

'Helping the Homeless!'







The children have spoken in previous weeks about wanting to help the homeless community of Stevenage. On Thursday the boys made cheese sandwiches and then travelled to the town to buy crisps, a drink and a chocolate treat. They then visited the Oval, The Old Town, and the Town centre to present their gifts to some homeless people. The children were very polite and

caring towards a Gentleman near the Oval and he was very grateful for the food he was given. We were very proud of the boys for wanting to help someone less fortunate than themselves and today they did the school, themselves and their families proud. Well



The London Marathon

Miss Jarvis will be running/walking the London marathon on the 26th April 2020. She is raising money for 'Ambitious about Autism'; a charity that helps provide services and raises awareness of Autism. If you would like to donate to the cause she would be very grateful as 26.2 miles is a very long way.

You can donate

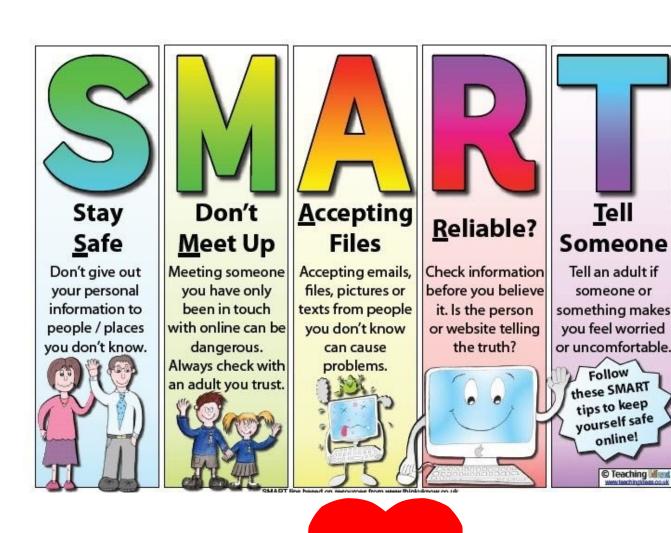
https:// uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ KaraJarvis

Thank you in advance.



Be an attendance Hero!

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#ATTENDANCEHERO!



#Attendance Simportant



PLEASE GO TO: 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!**



<u>T</u>ell

Follow

tips to keep

online!

© Teaching Mi

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!

VAP Anformation

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



Larwood British Values

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 strength 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

AND THIS YEARS OVERALL WINNER ...

TRENT

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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.



BACK TO SCHOOL MONDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY @ 9AM













IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARY OR YOUR FRIDGES OR YOUR NOTICE BOARDS

21st October – 1st November 2019 Autumn Half Term

> 18th December 2019: ast day of Autumn Term

19th Dec 2019 – 3rd Jan 2020: Christmas Break

6th January 2020: First Day of Spring

17th – 21st February 2020: Spring Half Term

3rd April 2020: Last Day of Spring Term 6th April – 17th April 2020: Easter Break

20th April 2020: First Day of Summer Term

> 4th May 2020: Bank Holiday

25th – 29th May 2020: Summer Half Term

17th July 2020:

Last Day of Summer Term and Academic Year

20th July – 31st August 2020: End of Year & Summer Break



SCHOOL STARTS @ 9.00am EVERYDAY
SCHOOL FINISHES @ 3.20pm MONDAY - THURSDAY and FRIDAY @ 2.20pm

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