

VOLUME: EIGHT

ISSUE: FOUR

# Larwood Lowdown

## LOCKDOWN EDITION



I hope this edition of the Larwood Lowdown (almost a lockdown version!) finds you all healthy. This half term has been the strangest in my teaching career. However, I fully appreciate that it's not just the education sector that has been affected. This situation has challenged all of us in many ways. Thank you for your support during this time and I hope that we can continue to support you and your child in whatever ways are appropriate during the rest of the term.

I hope that you have noted, via the weekly letters that we continue to monitor the situation with Covid 19 and act in the best interests of pupils, parents and staff. It is very difficult to know what is 'the answer' to such a complex and new issue. However, as you will appreciate if we take it slow and get it wrong, there are less risks. If we change things quickly and get it wrong it could be very serious in terms of those affected and the impact it has on their health. It is also essential that you feel comfortable with a range of factors when sending your child back to Larwood. This would include the measures we have in place, alongside transport arrangements.

As always I am so proud of how your sons and daughters have adapted to the situation. I know that some are finding this just as difficult as the adults are. Yet, many are trying their best with online learning and for the few that we see at the moment, they are behaving in exactly the way we need, to keep all parties safe.

I hope the weather is kind during the half term break and look forward to seeing more pupils, when we all agree it is safe to do so next half term.

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 Sartorius 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!

*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.



# SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS





# Achieve

## Mr Jacobs - 'Walk like an Egyptian!'

On behalf of myself and Mrs Patey, we wanted to share how proud we are of class 2 for all the efforts they have made and how well they have coped with the changes that have occurred to their lives since the lockdown. It has been a difficult time for everyone but as admirably as all the teachers have been in managing the new ways of providing a fun education it's fair to say the efforts of all our children has been nothing short of outstanding and we stand united in applauding all of you for your efforts. The boys in class 2 have continued to learn about the Ancient Egyptians as well as touch up on their knowledge of countries, capital cities and the water cycle in geography. They have also completed a variety of writing, grammar and phonics themed learning in literacy and bus stop division and multiplication in numeracy. The boys have also spoken positively of the learning videos on the school YouTube page and yes this did include some funny critiques of the teachers acting abilities! Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you when it's safe to return.

## Stevenage Sporting Futures

Over the course of time that schools have been shut; Stevenage Sporting Futures Team have been highlighting different activities and tasks that children can complete from home during quarantine. We will be continuing to do this throughout the rest of the academic year giving children ideas of how they can stay physically active at home as well as activities that can be completed in school. Go check out some of the activities that we have posted online. We hope this is a useful resource for you all throughout the remainder of the academic year. Please find the links to our website and social media pages below:

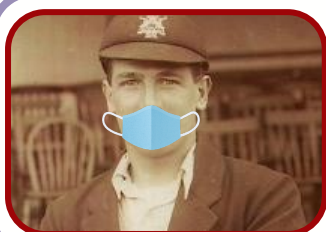


Facebook: Stevenage Sporting Futures Team <https://www.facebook.com/stevenagesportingfuturesteam>

Twitter: @stevenageSFT

Website: <http://stevenagesportingfutures.co.uk/covid-19/>

Adam Baker - Stevenage Sporting Futures



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





# Believe

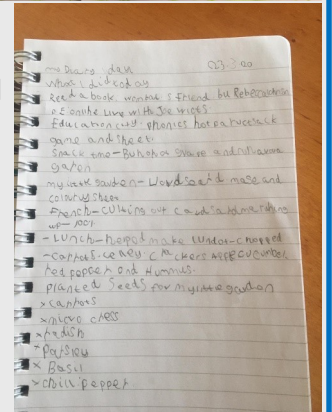
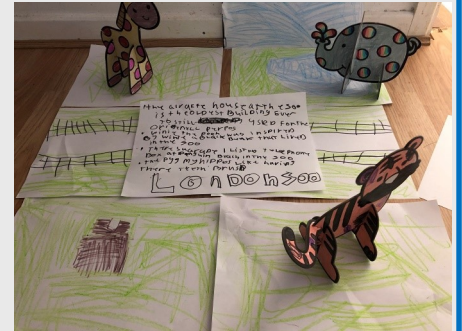
## Miss Kimpton

### "Home Work"

All the children in my class have been busy since the beginning of lockdown. Some have been working through what I've been sending home. Well done to Amelie who has been busy on Education City - completing many of the activities I've set. She has been working very hard cooking and putting together a recipe book, working in the garden, completing many art projects, looking after pets and completing a diary. Kayden has worked hard daily on his diary entries and maths work - well done!!

One of the tasks I set was to research a London landmark. Gracie researched London Zoo and made a fact file - well done Gracie! Gracie and the rest of my class have been busy working through work books, gardening, learning new life skills during this time. It is wonderful hearing about all the wonderful new skills my class are learning.

Stay Safe everyone!



## Mrs Wood ~ 'Making the most of it'

We have had lots of different events take place in school. Before the Easter holidays we had our fantastic finish. With our trip to Southend - On - Sea cancelled due to COVID 19 we had a brilliant day in school with lots of different activities taking place. We set up outside games with hook a duck, tin alley, making their own sea monsters and lots of colouring in sea creatures to make their own aquarium. For lunch we had takeaway fish and chips as if we were on the beach. On the 17th March we celebrated Saint Patricks day, and the class enjoyed dressing up. We also celebrated Science week with a full day of science activities, the class had an egg drop challenge, magnet and forces challenge's, and panic room to investigate their way out were just some of the challenges they faced. On our last day of the term we had great fun running around the large playground doing our Easter egg hunt. Since Easter the class have been working hard with cooking, planting seeds in the gardens, building bird houses, and showing lots of different acts of kindness. I am really pleased to have received so many pictures of you all trying to complete the literacy, numeracy, French, History and Geography work. During these challenging times you have all been doing amazing work and I am so proud of what you are all doing. Keep safe and can't wait to see you all back in school in the future.

*Lockdown Lowdown*



# Expect

## Miss Trotts - 'Life before lockdown'

Before Lockdown the Life Skills Level 2 group were working hard at learning how to wash, dry, fold and iron laundry. They learnt how to read the labels on different materials and how to sort the materials into the correct piles, using the correct settings on the washing machine. With guidance they learned how to safely iron an item of clothing. Well Done Guys!!



After learning about WW2 and rationing in Miss Trotts class, we decided to try our own hand at following WW2 rationing recipes- using items that were readily available, and minimal amounts of the coupon items. We made Spam hash for our main, and carrot cookies for our pudding. It was a split decision on the spam hash, with half the class enjoying it, but an overwhelming thumbs up for the carrot cookies.



## Mrs Williams - 'Space Hub, still burning rocket fuel'

This has been a challenging and strange time for all of us, but Space Hub have been working hard during the time at home. Both the children and parents have adapted well and, although it is tricky at times, they have created individual timetables which work for them. It has been great to see some of the Hub/Home reward charts returning and lots of positive comments.

Early on we recognised the need to encourage interests and positive mental well-being as well as academic work. The work in School is generally hands-on and fun so this has been encouraged at home. Many brothers and sisters have also joined in with the learning too. Some activities were set by school and some were created by parents or by the children themselves.



# 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

'Thank you to the NHS!'

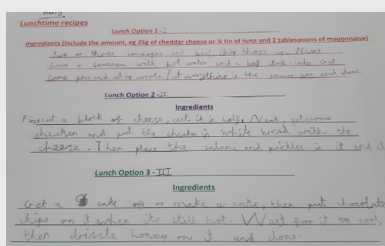
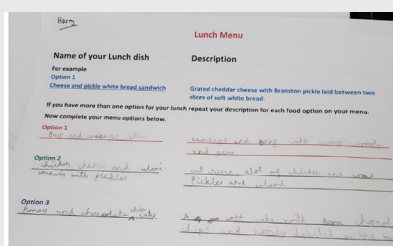
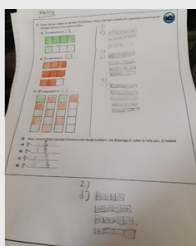
Miss Gwynn, Isaac and Mrs Rushbrooke spent a morning collecting daisies and dandelions to create this message for the NHS.

**THANK YOU**



## Mrs Kamene - 'Parent Feedback'

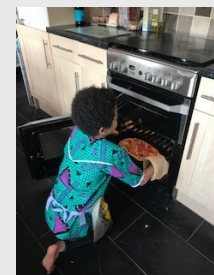
Harry M from Mrs Kamene's class has not let the lockdown interrupt his learning. He has been working hard and producing some beautiful work. He has been doing work set by Mrs Kamene and other tasks from the school YouTube channel, set by other member's of staff.



Jayden in Mrs Kamene's class has been doing very well during Lockdown. He has been enjoying doing his learning with or without been prompted by his parents.

Jayden has certainly enjoyed spending this time with his family doing things that he loves to do and learning new skills. He cooked his family pizza for dinner, helped care for Thomas the rabbit and made Cinnamon buns. Both him and his sister have enjoyed seeing Mrs Kamene in the French lesson on YouTube. They are both doing a good job of being kind to each other.

Jayden has really focused on doing French and enjoys the videos on YouTube and has played the games on the website. He's enjoyed working with his sister looking at plastic usage and playing in the garden together. Jayden even sat for his daddy to cut his hair, although he didn't feel daddy has enough training and prefers the barbers. He made lunch for his family and did a very good job even making the rabbit a foraging box to snack on.





# School

**Mrs Jack - CUB**



Although we've had to do things a bit differently this half term we have still be managing to do some Cub themed activities via Mrs Jack's Larwood School Youtube account! We have followed some delicious recipes including:

- Chocolate Easter nests
- Blueberry Muffins
- Macaroni cheese
- Victoria sponge cake
- Moon rock cakes
- Galaxy Space biscuits



**Check them out on Larwood YouTube account!**

There are also a couple of art activities to try!

Why not try and make your own Tic, Tac, Toe game painting stones in the style of two different mini beasts.

To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day we decorated our own bunting and added the different emotions that people may have experienced at that time.

**Why don't you have a go! Send your teachers any pictures. I would love to see them.**

*Stay safe everyone and hopefully see you all soon.*

*Mrs Jack.*

**NSPCC**   
Cruelty to children must stop. **FULL STOP.**

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



<h1 style="color: green; text-align: center;">S</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Stay Safe</h2> <p>Don't give out your personal information to people / places you don't know.</p> 	<h1 style="color: green; text-align: center;">M</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Don't Meet Up</h2> <p>Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Always check with an adult you trust.</p> 	<h1 style="color: red; text-align: center;">A</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Accepting Files</h2> <p>Accepting emails, files, pictures or texts from people you don't know can cause problems.</p> 	<h1 style="color: red; text-align: center;">R</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Reliable?</h2> <p>Check information before you believe it. Is the person or website telling the truth?</p> 	<h1 style="color: blue; text-align: center;">T</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Tell Someone</h2> <p>Tell an adult if someone or something makes you feel worried or uncomfortable.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Follow these SMART tips to keep yourself safe online!</p> </div> 
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# #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.
- 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.

The curriculum enhances reference to laws where relevant and helps pupils to understand the rules that they have to follow whilst not at school.

### 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.



# 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.**

**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.

**IMPORTANT DATES  
FOR YOUR  
CALENDAR!**



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

**17<sup>th</sup> July 2020:**

**Last Day of Summer Term and Academic Year**

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

**OR YOUR FRIDGE? OR  
YOUR NOTICE BOARD  
IN THE NEXT  
EDITION**

