



VOLUME: NINE

ISSUE: TWO

# Larwood LOWDOWN

## What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? Santa walking backwards!



Apologies, but I just couldn't help myself! After such an unusual year, seeing Santa walking backwards wouldn't even cause the raising of an eyebrow for most people! However, as we approach the holiday season, I think it's crucial that at this time of year we start to look forward, reflect on the last twelve months and enjoy time with those that are close to us.

At the time of writing the morning news has all been about the very first injection to prevent infection from COVID-19. A hopeful day for us all! I am limiting any COVID-19 references, and the focus here is not about COVID-19, but about our amazing staff. When anyone faces a huge challenge and rapid change it can cause many reactions and emotions. Fear, anxiety, the self-doubt that comes from 'what if...', determination, team spirit and selflessness that come from 'how can I help' have been considered by many of our staff during the last year. I have never met such a determined group of people, who when faced with an onslaught of frightening and sometimes misleading messages, both from the media and government, were determined to do one thing. That being, to support your sons/daughters as best they can. Initial lockdown experiences really rammed home the fact that not everybody can or wants to be a teacher or Learning Support Assistant. Our staff remained dedicated, full of determination and drive to continue learning and supporting our pupils as best they could. I thank each and every one of them for the way they have conducted themselves during this time.

As we move towards 2021, and just like any other year, your children continue to amaze us all. They have experienced such a challenging year. I will never be able to get over the fact that they have had to get used to increased hand washing, social distancing and staff wearing masks. This, of course is on top of the all of the other issues that many face in 'normal' times. Yet they have coped superbly and they continue to surprise us, challenge us, make us laugh and smile and remind us about how bright the future is. Their adaptation, alongside the staff has been nothing but miraculous and I am proud of each and every one of them.

Finally, we all know that Christmas will be a bit different this year. However, our staff have again risen to the challenge to ensure that all of our pupils (and their siblings where relevant) will be opening up presents on the big day, as they should be. My thanks are extended to Mrs Osobu for her idea of a Toy Drive and the support from many staff to make that happen. Mrs Ford managed to use some of her network to secure donations and many staff also made contributions. This is amazing and it just highlights what an amazing place this is!

### Special thanks go to:

Kenny Arnold (People for People)  
Sara Lawrence (AD Bly construction)  
Rachel (Tesco Community Champion)  
Michelle (Food/ Toy Shed)  
Laura Burrage (Butterfly Room)

*Mr Trimble*

S D Trimble

Executive Headteacher

On behalf of all at Larwood Academy Trust, have a wonderful Christmas break!

PLEASE NOTE ALL PUPILS SHOULD RETURN TO SCHOOL, AT THE USUAL TIME ON: MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2021



# Achieve



**Mrs Wood**

*'War of the World'*



This half term the class have enjoyed our topic 'War of the World' specifically looking at World War 2. They have designed uniforms, battle fields using clay and cardboard boxes. We have been looking at directions and graphs in Maths and the class have completed different lessons outside directing each other around the playground or counting the different coloured cars in the car park. In English we have written letters and poems pretending to be war soldiers and some of the pupils have enjoyed seeing their work published on Pobble. During Skills on a Thursday we have been rehearsing for our Christmas show (with a difference!) this year. The class created a dance routine to 'Run Run Rudolph'. Each week the boys would give 100% and I think we could have some future rockers in our class. In Science we looked at rocks and the class enjoyed designing their own ones to keep. In Knowledge Of The World week we have made Christingles and Salt dough decorations. Well done to the whole class who have achieved over 80 points each week and to Kareem who earned his gold shirt. Keep up your good work next year! Have a wonderful and safe Christmas.

## 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**





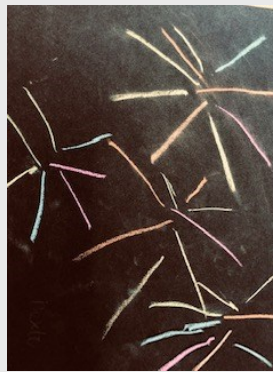
# Believe

## Miss Kimpton

'Ooooooooooooo!!! ahhhhhhhhh'

In literacy we have been looking at poetry. We have watched a firework display filmed at Disneyland and drawn our own firework pictures. We used these pictures to think of adjectives about fireworks.

Once we completed this we created a class poem. We completed the poem into best, and some of us had our version of the poem published onto Pobble.



## Firework Display

By Miss Kimpton's class

Sparkly!!

Its exploding and noisy

It is loud and Banging.

Beautiful!!

They are colourful and bright

They may give you a fright.

Wooshy!!

On a stary night

There are fireworks.

They are poperly and big

They flicker and crackle.

Dazzling!!

They glitter like a shiny diamond

You can see them and hear them

Whizzy!!

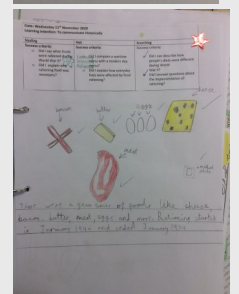
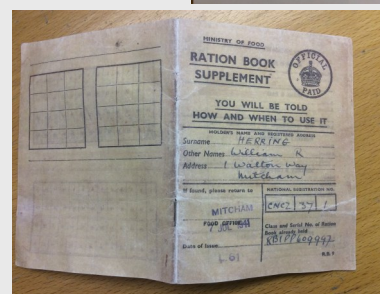
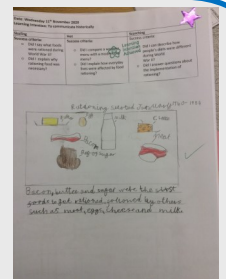
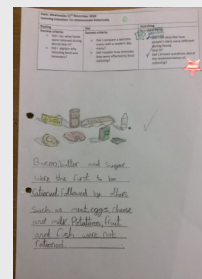
Watching with your family

It is fun.

## Mrs Kamene

'Please Sir!'

During our history lessons on World War 2, in Mrs Kamene's class, we covered a session on rationing. The pupils considered how rationing might have affected families at home. A pupil brought in some example of a ration book and distributed to all his classmates. The children showed some understanding that much of our food and many other resources are imported and why rationing was therefore important during WW2.



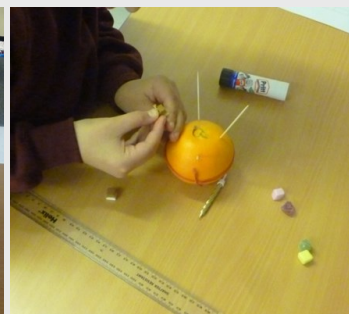
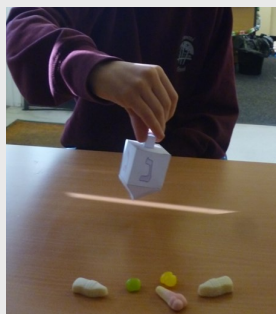


# Expect

## Miss Hipkin & Mrs Powell

### 'Settled'

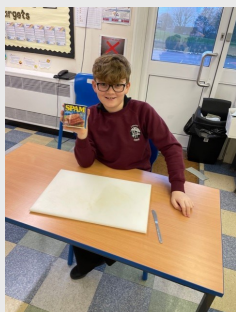
During Knowledge Of The World week, we were looking at Christmas across different religions and the children made some Christingles which is a Christian tradition. The Orange symbolises the world, the red ribbon is the blood of Christ and the 4 toothpicks represent the seasons or points of a compass. The sweets are the 'Fruits Of The Earth.' We also made a Dreidel which is a Jewish game played at Hanukkah. The Dreidel helps children to remember the miracle of the oil that burned for 8 days. The children then played the game using sweets as prizes although traditionally it is played using money.



## Miss Trott

### 'Magic & Myths'

In Miss Trott's class we have been learning all about World War 2. We have studied the axis and allies and what evacuation was like. We put ourselves in the middle of The Blitz and did some fantastic descriptive writing and tried our hand at making and tasting a rationing meal of Spam Hash and Carrot Cookies! The result: we thought it was pretty tasty. We soon realised though that we would never cope with clothes rationing! We ended the term with learning about the tragedy of the Holocaust and were very reflective and respectful during our discussions of this sad event in history.







## 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!



**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



## Mr Jacobs - 'off the naughty list, look at all of his work!'

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

The whole school once again paid a moving tribute to those serving in the armed forces and those who have given their lives to protecting us. Every year classes enjoy making wreaths and coming up with heart felt messages and every year it's amazing to see new designs we never have two classes producing identical wreaths. The classes shared their wreaths and messages via a virtual assembly which ended with a two-minute silence and the Last Post being played. The wreaths were on display at the war memorial in Stevenage Old Town and I'm sure like us those who visited to pay their respects would've been touched by the children's hard work



### CARRY ON IN THE COMMUNITY

Sadly, the social restrictions have prevented us from visiting the residents at Jubilee court this year but that hasn't prevented us from sending them our best wishes for a Happy Christmas. Cards were made in early December to ensure they were safe to send and we hope the residents enjoy the cards as much as we enjoyed seeing the children make them. The children have always enjoyed visiting the residents and many have commented on wishing to visit them as soon as it's safe to do so. As you can see from a few of the designs they have put a lot of hard work into their designs and all the messages are likely to bring a smile and tear of joy to those lucky enough to receive one. I'm sure you will all enjoy the various Christmas craft and cooking creations the children bring home this Christmas.



### MR JACOBS CLASS

The boys have really started to build the foundations for friendships in class and are now realising they are all pretty cool and fun to play with, cook breakfasts together and play creepy hand at every opportunity. They are also starting to total up their points towards their Bronze medals and keep up the consistency to earn their black shirt. Despite a couple needing to isolate the children have kept up their friendships via Teams with some fun and entertaining virtual meet ups online. The class are really starting to join in with the Christmas countdown and as you can see have been making some lovely Christmas centre pieces. Some of the choices to include some colour may not be the traditional colours but then 2020 is no traditional or ordinary year! So like the boys, stay calm, smile and carry on!. We hope you also enjoy the fabulous Christingles they've created for you this Christmas too.





# School

## Mr Rooke

'Positive growers!'

This term has been one of the best yet. We have welcomed new students into the class and we have seen some fantastic friendships bloom. As always we have had a lot of fun and learned a lot.

In Maths, we have explored capacity and had great fun getting our creative hats on to make our very own drinks... with mixed success, who knew Bubble-gum flavour and Orange juice didn't go well together? In Literacy we have been creating adverts and explored story writing, some amazing adventures have happened on paper and a real passion for writing has come out of it for many of our children, even taking the initiative of writing their own at home. Our topic this term has been "the jungle" Our stunning starter was an amazing success; we tried our own bush tucker trials based on sound, touch, and taste. I have to say our class is amazingly brave tasting some of these strange recipes including BBQ flavoured cockroaches which we found out later that most of the staff team wouldn't even try. Miss Gosnell and I have seen this class grow every day as learners and as people and we are so very proud of all of their accomplishments. We would both like to wish the students and families a very Merry Christmas and a happy 2021.

## Mrs Jack

'Kindness Awards'

Miss Osborne - Phoebe, Miss Kimpton - Amelie, E Wo - Freddie, Mrs Kamene - Arthur, Mr Rooke - Alfie, Mrs Powell - Aston, Mr Jacobs - Cameron, Miss Trott - Jack, Miss Hanam - Charlie

Well DONE!



## 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)

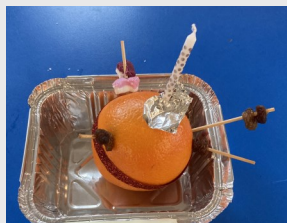
Whether you're puzzled by parental controls or would like to get knowledgeable about gaming, Childnet can help. We all know that it can sometimes be challenging to keep up to speed with what children and young people are doing online. On this page you'll find a whole host of useful ways to help keep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

## Mrs Osborne



This has been a very busy term for Key Stage 1. Children have been having fun and working hard in all areas of the curriculum.

In Knowledge of the World, Children have been looking at festivals around the world. They have looked at different Autumn Festivals, particularly Hanukkah, Diwali, Advent and Christmas. We dressed up and retold the Nativity story.



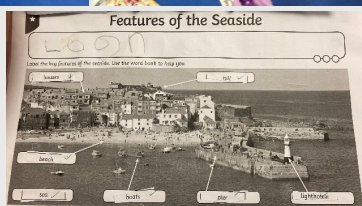
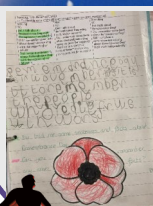
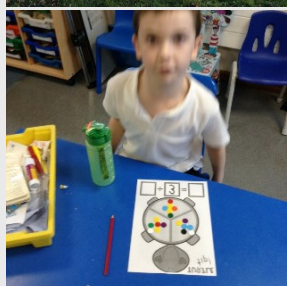
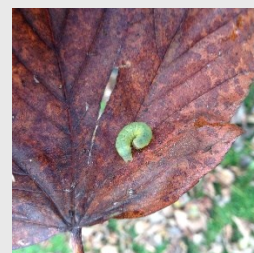
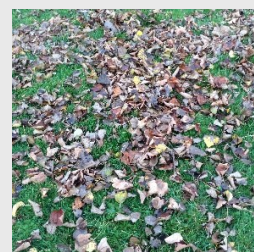
In Science, children have been investigating living things. They have learned the differences between 'alive, dead and things that have never lived'. Children have been investigating the outdoor environment to find examples.

In Maths, the class have been enjoying learning about multiplication and division.

In History, they have used different sources to investigate famous people and events from the past.

In Geography, children have used different sources, including Google Maps, to investigate features of different locations. They have looked at contrasting localities and features of different locations.

The class have worked very hard this term to earn points, with Isaac earning his Gold shirt and Harry, Charlie and Phoebe earning their blue shirts.



**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>





# Larwood BRITISH VALUES



## Miss Hanam

### 'Settled'

With the blink of an eye, another brilliant half term has passed us by! As always, we have been extremely busy learning and discovering lots of new things in Miss Hanam's class. We have particularly enjoyed studying 'the jungle' as part of our topic this term.

To conclude our topic, we organised a 'fantastic finisher' where we created our very own unpleasant and yucky bush tucker trials.

The boys got stuck in and trialled eating revolting foods including, BBQ roasted crickets, broccoli and sprout slime, vomit fruit smoothies, crocodile eyeballs, mud cookies, spicy jungle cakes and many more. The pupils did remarkably well and took part in every challenge- they even earned lots of house points in the process! Being kind and supportive and using lots of encouraging words is what got us through the day. Team work is definitely the dream work!

We are already looking forward to returning to school after a relaxing Christmas break and continuing with our journey on exploring and seeing all the weird and wonderful things 2021 brings for us!



## SPACE HUB

### Mrs Williams



This term has been challenging in Hub. There have been changes and new rules. The children have coped amazingly. They have been working extremely hard, writing stories, reading maps, building outdoor dens, making hammocks from string, cooking, art activities, Maths and Science. We have also been learning about the Ancient Greeks. The children have embraced this and especially enjoyed the Greek Myths and Legends. The children have also shown growing empathy especially with Remembrance Day and by writing letters to the people in the local residential area. Our learning has continued throughout our isolation, and the Hub staff are VERY proud of all the children who have continued to work and engage, either through the work packs and/or the Teams online meetings. It has been lovely to see most of the children engaging so well in the sessions and with each other. It is not an easy thing to do, to suddenly change the way we are teaching and learning but they have really embraced it. They have produced some amazing work. Lucas created an amazing Olympic stadium and temple on Minecraft as did others. We also had some great models made of Lego.

Well done and thank you to all the children, parents and Staff for making this a successful experience.



## 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



## 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    **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 Designated Senior Person (DSP) for child protection is Mrs Bianca Osobu: Assistant Headteacher

Supported by our other DSP's:

Mr Sean Trimble: Executive Headteacher

Mrs Sian Ford: Family Support Worker

Marcus McKechnie: LASA - Lead Behaviour Support

Our Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Sandra Barr - Chair of Governors.





Merry Christmas



Happy New Year

From  
Everyone at  
Larwood School

