



Larwood Academy Trust

Executive Headteacher: Mr Sean Trimble | B.Ed (Hons) MA NPQH |

Chair of Trustees: Cllr Sandra Barr | B.Sc (Hons) Dip.soc.pol |

WEBB RISE, STEVENAGE, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG1 5QU

Email: admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk

Telephone: 01438 236333

Website: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk

Facsimile: 01438 236363



Larwood School

Brandles School

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Pierre Van Der Merwe | BA, NPQH |

Headteacher: Mr David Pearce | BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH |

25th March 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

86 reasons to smile, be amazed and proud!

We have 86 pupils at Larwood and I have tried to imagine what the last year may have felt like for them. I guess it may have felt like:

- The start of some time that is not at school, so quite exciting for a while
- Really scary, seeing the headlines and hearing adults talk about what may happen
- Very frustrating, as I cannot do what I normally do and have to have some new routines. Even though I liked the old ones!
- A never-ending complication of 'what if this..., and .maybe that...'
- How do I learn like this?
- I will not see anyone else for a while and I'm okay with that
- I will not see anyone else for a while and I want to!

No doubt, there are many more variations to this and I cannot capture them all. However, what is striking to me is how amazing our children have dealt with this and the way that they have come back to school. They have adapted to online learning, 'bubbles,' people, wearing masks, having to do all sorts of things differently, not being too close to others, and not seeing relatives and friends. I am fairly certain I would have hated this as a youngster, even more than I have as an adult! However, our pupils, in the main, have dealt with this as best they can and some amazingly so. Therefore:

Thank you for your amazing support during this time and also, thanks to our incredible staff who have dealt with so much during the last year as well.

Moving on in relation to Covid!

The weeks when we return after the Easter break, should lead us all to brighter times in relation to the pandemic. There are many factors that could get in the way, but we are planning and hoping that we can stick to the timeline shared by the Government. Thus, we will continue with classroom bubbles, staff testing twice per week, staff accessing their second dose of vaccination during April/May, alongside the continued reduction of infection and death rates both locally and nationally. Pupils, unfortunately will still need to carry on with the health and safety associated with Covid for a bit longer. All being well, we will take on board national advice when we get to June but will remain cautious as we approach the end of the year.

Registered office:

Larwood School, Webb Rise, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. SG1 5QU, UK. Company Number: 10359418



Larwood Academy Trust

Executive Headteacher: Mr Sean Trimble | B.Ed (Hons) MA NPQH |

Chair of Trustees: Cllr Sandra Barr | B.Sc (Hons) Dip.soc.pol |

WEBB RISE, STEVENAGE, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG1 5QU

Email: admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk **Telephone:** 01438 236333

Website: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk **Facsimile:** 01438 236363



Larwood School

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Pierre Van Der Merwe | BA, NPQH |

Headteacher: Mr David Pearce | BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH |

Brandles School

Please remember to report any outbreaks of Covid directly to us up until Thursday 1st April. As before during holiday periods, you can do this at Larwood by using the email address below:

covidnotifications@larwood.herts.sch.uk

From April 2nd, you should use the normal track and trace procedures and do not contact school. Please do not attempt to call in as phone lines will not be monitored during the holiday period.

As we go into the Easter holidays, and some Government guidance changes around socialising outside and outdoor sport, it is so important that we do not let our guard down and increase the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks when schools return.

From Monday 29 March, you can:

- Meet up outside (including in private gardens) with six other people, or as two households
- Take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)
- Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children

You and your family can continue to keep yourselves and others safe by:

- Washing your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn't available
- Keeping socially distanced, staying at least 2 metres away from those not in your immediate household
- Wearing a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance
- Self-isolating and getting tested if you develop symptoms or receive a positive lateral flow test (LFT) result
- Not socialising indoors with anyone who isn't in your immediate household. You're not allowed to have sleepovers or playdates, even if your child is in a school bubble
- Not sending children back to school ill or with symptoms of Covid-19 after the Easter break – if your child is sick, please keep them at home

Moving on with School/Trust development.

Please note that we continue to plan for change aspects of our practice that support our pupils. Covid may have slowed us down but it has not stopped us! During the summer term we hope the following will take place, that helps Larwood school reflect and improve:

Registered office:

Larwood School, Webb Rise, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. SG1 5QU, UK. Company Number: 10359418



Larwood Academy Trust

Executive Headteacher: Mr Sean Trimble | B.Ed (Hons) MA NPQH |

Chair of Trustees: Cllr Sandra Barr | B.Sc (Hons) Dip.soc.pol |

WEBB RISE, STEVENAGE, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG1 5QU

Email: admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk **Telephone:** 01438 236333

Website: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk **Facsimile:** 01438 236363



Larwood School

Brandles School

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Pierre Van Der Merwe | BA, NPQH |

Headteacher: Mr David Pearce | BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH |

1. A school based assessment by The National Autistic Society. We have been able to conduct part of this process via Teams but will plan for one person from the society to attend school for a day and see us in action. This should then lead to re-accreditation status.
2. Across the Country there are no SAT's this year so pupils will not be taking any form of exam this year. For future Year 6 cohorts, we are planning to implement our own tests, which are better suited to our pupils rather than use SAT's. They hold little value and are we believe that a range of teacher led assessments will be better suited and of more use to use and our secondary colleagues.
3. We will also conduct a review of our approach to online learning with external colleagues via The Partner Challenge group. Other Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers will critically review our approach with us.
4. We will have a Sports Day! I am not sure what that format may be yet, but I made a pledge to myself last year, that it would be the only year that we would not have such an event.
5. As always there will be many challenges and fun activities for pupils to get stuck into as the summer term progresses. Let's hope the weather is kind!

Other news that needs to be shared with you is that David Pearce, Headteacher at Brandles has been successfully appointed to Headship at another school. David has been at Brandles for five years and has worked incredibly hard to move the school on. I will say more about his work when we approach the end of the summer term, but please be rest assured that David remains focussed on leading the school during the remainder of his time there.

The Trustees have appointed Paul Smith (current Deputy Headteacher at Brandles) to become Acting Head from September 2021, whilst a recruitment process takes place. Interviews would be set for Jan 2022, in order that time is allocated to advertise for the best possible field. Paul has been at Brandles for a number of years, knows the school well and is ready for such an important role. I will be visiting regularly and providing direct support alongside Mr Van and other colleagues whilst the changes take place. We have a whole term to prepare for such change which is really helpful.

On the subject of kindness, I would like to extend thanks to **Stevenage Vineyard** and **AD Bly** (Construction Company). They have very kindly donated gifts for pupils, some families and staff at Larwood for the end of this term. The Lead Pastor-Daniel Barnes, from The Vineyard, wrote a lovely letter, with part of it summing up superbly how amazing our staff have been by stating:

'We know this year has been a real challenge in so many ways. It has impacted the children and the families you work with, but we are well aware it has also affected you...We appreciate the commitment, time and effort that you give the children and families that walk through your doors.'

Therefore, our thanks are extended to both Stevenage Vineyard and AD Bly for their very generous and kind donations

Registered office:

Larwood School, Webb Rise, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. SG1 5QU, UK. Company Number: 10359418



Larwood Academy Trust

Executive Headteacher: Mr Sean Trimble | B.Ed (Hons) MA NPQH |

Chair of Trustees: Cllr Sandra Barr | B.Sc (Hons) Dip.soc.pol |

WEBB RISE, STEVENAGE, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG1 5QU

Email: admin@larwood.herts.sch.uk **Telephone:** 01438 236333

Website: www.larwood.herts.sch.uk **Facsimile:** 01438 236363



Larwood School

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Pierre Van Der Merwe | BA, NPQH |

Headteacher: Mr David Pearce | BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH |

Please note that we all return on April 12th (Monday) at the usual time of 9.00am. I look forward to seeing all pupils back at this point and eagerly await a summer term, packed with exciting lessons and opportunities for our youngsters.

Have a restful break.

Yours sincerely

S D Trimble

Executive Headteacher

Registered office:

Larwood School, Webb Rise, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. SG1 5QU, UK. Company Number: 10359418