



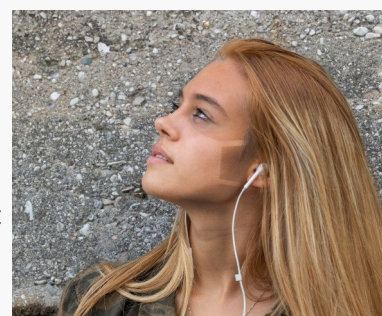
VOLUME: **NINE**

ISSUE: **FOUR**

Larwood *Lowdown*

NO FACIAL MASK TAN LINES THIS SUMMER, HOPEFULLY! MASKS OFF!

We are at the half way point of the summer term and I am so happy to be writing about a time that has not been interrupted! Although never complacent about such matters, it does feel as if we have collectively 'turned a corner' with the pandemic.



PARENT SURVEY

This was sent out last Friday to all parents via email but you can also request a hard copy or telephone call to discuss the questions. The focus is very much about moving on from Covid and some of the lessons we may learn due to the forced changes. Questions look at how we conduct events such as parents evenings, as well as how you would feel in relation to off-site visits after we return from the half term break. I would be grateful your input and comments with this process. I am also gaining information from staff and pupils.

INTERVENTIONS

These form a key part of our support for your sons and daughters now that they have returned, and they will continue in the summer term. Mrs Osobu has staffed this to cater for many needs and the current list includes: Use of Buddy for reading, Frank (the other dog) for social and emotional support, Sand Tray therapy, reading, writing, and maths support, Brain Gym, Active Break (physical exercise at key times), cooking, and speech and language. This is the most comprehensive range we have ever offered, and at the end of each half term, we review if progress to see if they can stop or need to continue. As always, any input you may have with these interventions is greatly appreciated.

PLANNING FOR SEPTEMBER

As always, this happens now! Year 6 are being encouraged and supported by you/school staff to visit their new secondary schools. This is being conducted in a Covid safe manner. There will be a range of activities taking place as the term moves on to help our pupils with this process and as always, we will formally mark the end of their time with us.

We are also reviewing our approach to staffing ready for next academic year, and there will be further information on this matter next half term.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND I HOPE THE WEATHER IS KIND TO US ALL DURING THE HALF TERM BREAK.
WE RETURN ON MONDAY JUNE 7TH AT THE USUAL TIME**

Due to the new housing project being built next to our school, we have a new address:

**LARWOOD ACADEMY TRUST
LARWOOD DRIVE
STEVENAGE.
SG1 5BZ**

Mr Trimble

S D Trimble
Executive Headteacher

Larwood Academy Trust



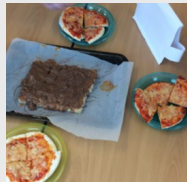
Achieve

Miss Hanam

'Mini Teacher!'

Another busy half term has flown by and we cannot believe where the time has gone! Miss Hanam's class have been getting their hands stuck in all sorts of crazy things! The boys have particularly enjoyed skills lessons. They collectively made a list of all the different things they wanted to try during the 7-week period. They set up their own restaurants during one of the lessons where they planned, cooked and delivered a variety of delicious food. They took turns to serve each other and were very complimentary of each other's cooking. Team effort and patience enabled everyone to have a great afternoon.

Playing the role of a teacher was entertaining and everyone was able to participate appropriately and show respect and kindness to each other. We must confess, some of the boys were rather strict teachers! We are absolutely loving art and DT and we have been painting T-shirts, tie dying socks; and building and painting our very own bird houses and much more. Gardening is something we are hoping to go out and do after the holidays, but we have been making lovely cross heads and growing our own chilli plants in class. We look forward to sharing all the lovely things we have done as part of our topic on Romans with you next half term.



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>

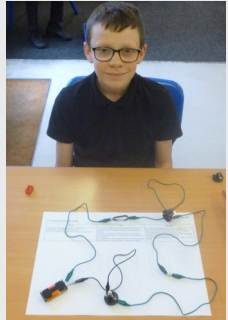
Twitter: @stevenageSFT

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

Adam Baker - Stevenage Sporting Futures



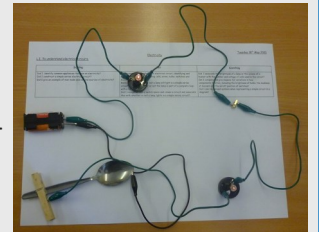
Believe



Miss Powell

'Number 5 is ALIVE!'

This half term, our class have worked really hard during lessons and have also worked well as a team. In Science we have been learning about electricity and we've taken pride in creating our own circuits and then drawing these using the electrical symbols. We have also been learning about healthy eating and have practised preparing a range of fruit and vegetables to make salads. We're so proud of all the progress that our class have made and look forward to one last half term to celebrate their achievements, and continue to succeed and grow. Wishing our class a very safe and happy half term.



Mrs Osborne

'IT'S A PUPPPPPPET!'

Another busy half term and lots of learning completed. Well done! Our topic in class this term is The Monarch. The children started their learning about the Monarch with a garden party, where they wore the crowns they had made in class and ate the food they had prepared.

The children have learnt about William Shakespeare and in literacy have been writing about him and one of his plays, 'A Mid-Summer Night's Dream'. The hands-on literacy activity for this term has been to create puppets and backdrops for a mini-theatre where they can recreate the play.

During skills lessons on a Thursday afternoon, children have used a variety of skills to create musical instruments, pop art Queens and Union Jacks, using a variety of materials. We have also been into the garden and planted fruit and vegetables.

As part of our Science learning on Animals, children have been out in the school grounds looking at animals and their habitats. They have talked about the different categories animals fall into and noticed similarities and differences within these categories.



Lowdown



Expect

Mrs Kamene



‘ANDALE! ANDALE! ARRIBA! ARRIBA! ARRIBA!’

This term in Mrs Kamene’s class, we have been learning about Maya Civilisation. We found that the Maya lived around Mexico and part of Central America. Their activities included weaving. The children have practised weaving God’s Eyes and produced work to be proud of. We also learned that the Maya used tablets for their writing; and were the first civilisation to use the number 0. In addition, we found out facts about the Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza Temple. We used clay and made our own Chichen Itza Temple.

The Maya were buried with a death mask. Some masks were simple and were worn during important events, like battles.



Miss Trott

‘Skills Life’

This half term we have been working on building our skills in team work and positive relationships. We have been taking on a lot of team building activities like nest building in Science, playing the djembe in-sync in Music to create a uniform sound, and each of the boys have taken a turn leading football coaching in Skills Curriculum.



NEW ADDRESS

LARWOOD ACADEMY TRUST
LARWOOD DRIVE
STEVENAGE
SG1 5BZ

NEW ADDRESS



Enjoy

AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN £100 OF SUPER MARKET VOUCHERS SEPTEMBER 2020 TO JULY 2021

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 extend-

ed 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

Larwood



Home

#LARWOODLIFE #STAYUPTODATE #CONNECTED



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

effective
communication

Larwood

Mr Rooke

'The Rotten Romans!'

We have explored artefacts, Roman numerals, how the Roman Empire grew at phenomenal rates, and life in Ancient Rome. In literacy we have made and performed our own scripts and the class have taken their learning to new levels! They have all really shined in this topic. I think it's safe to say we have some budding playwrights among us.

This half term has been fantastic and we have spent some well needed time looking back through our past work and reflecting not only on what we have accomplished academically, but also the growth we've all experienced as people.

WELL DONE BOYS! YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO BE A CREDIT TO THE CLASS AND TO LARWOOD SCHOOL

Mrs Wood

'To be, or not to be!'

At the start of our new Summer Term, our class were excited for our new topic "Over Sea Visitors".

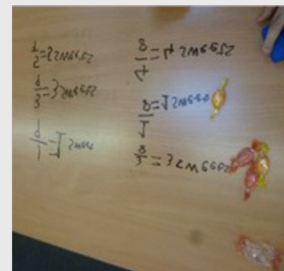
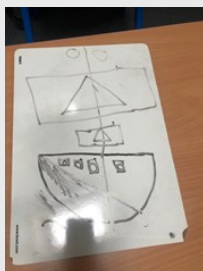
In literacy we have covered William Shakespeare and play scripts. The boys have worked in pairs writing their own plays and made their playscripts scenes.

In Skills Curriculum we have looked at how to tie shoelaces, folding clothes, step-by-step drawing and gardening. During History we have looked at the Vikings and have created long boats in Art and Design.

In Geography we have looked at Continents and Oceans; the boys have really enjoyed these topics. Well done to Matthew and Hayden who have completed this CREST Award in Science. The rest of the class are working hard to achieve their stickers to get their awards.

On a Friday, the class enjoy their reward time which is usually in the big playground and fingers crossed after half term we might be able to get to the park across the road.

Well done to all the boys for attending their interventions; we are seeing the progress you are making. Keep up your good work.





Miss Kimpton

"The error is the result of letting fear rule your actions." – The Saga of Harald Hardrada, c.46.'



We have been learning about the Vikings in History and we have made Runes. We made our names, and then painted them. We also made Viking jewellery. We have been learning about the Kings and Viking life.

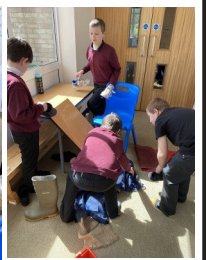
In literacy we have been learning about A Midsummer Nights Dream. Lots of the work completed has been put on Pobble. The children worked very well and enjoyed the comedy. We made fairy houses which were inspired by the play. The children enjoyed making the houses.

SPACEHUB

'Knowledge of the World'

We have been working hard in Hub. This week, as part of Knowledge of The World week, we have been learning about Islam and Sikhism.

We have also been learning hard about Biomes, Earth and Space, World War Two, poetry (rhyme and syllables) and a variety of Maths concepts. We have had a great term and look forward to the final half of the Summer Term.





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.



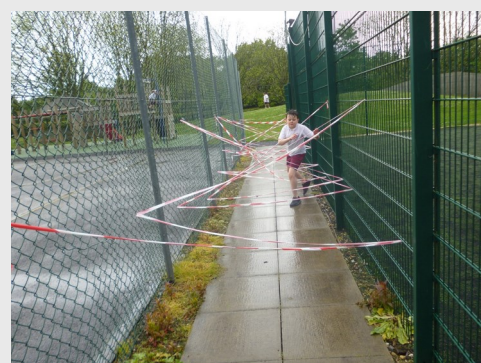
SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

We're officially
GOOD
and well on our way
to OUTSTANDING

Larwood

Mr V! 'he does PE!'

'The Obstacle Course'



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.



School

Mr Jacobs

'Which Roman geezer squashed his wife with a lemon squeezer?'

The class have been learning about the Romans and have researched facts about the Roman Gods. Many of the boys recognised many of the heroes or characters that feature in their favourite films and video games. We also enjoyed watching a short video about Boudicca and enjoyed an in-depth discussion about why Boudicca's attempt to defeat the Romans failed. We discussed how not uniting together as the United Kingdom allowed the well trained Romans to defeat several tribes including Boudicca's Iceni army. We were able to compare the well trained professional Roman army defeating larger tribes to 3 or 4 England footballers beating 3-4 classes all at once on the school Astroturf!

The boys also created detailed profiles of their favourite wild animals as part of their non-chronological report writing in Literacy. They were very interested to learn about what animals are on the endangered list and it showed in our discussions that they care a great deal about it. They were very interested to learn about what animals are on the endangered list and it showed in our discussions that they care a great deal about the world around them.

Mrs Sandra Barr

'Our Chair of Governors has been inaugurated as Mayor of Stevenage!'

Mrs Sandra Barr, our Chair of Governors, has been inaugurated as Mayor of Stevenage with Miss Louisa Barr (daughter) as her Mayoress. Mayor Sandra Barr has very kindly shared with us part of her Inaugural speech:

I should very much like to introduce you to my three mayoral charities for the coming year.

My first is Leyden House, Stevenage Day Centre for Adults with Learning Disabilities. This is a centre of excellence for the most vulnerable and hidden residents in this town. They deservedly won Covid pride of Stevenage 2020, and are always struggling for extra funding to enrich the lives of the clients, who are amongst the poorest members of our community.

My second charity is **Larwood Academy School**, this is a special school for children with severe emotional, behavioural & mental health issues. They also have an outstanding outreach program open to all the primary schools in Stevenage, thus helping to keep the children of our town, who are feeling the stresses of modern life, post Covid, in mainstream school, trying to avert crisis situations in their educational life.

My third and last choice reflects my great love for the arts and particularly dance for children. I believe that dance, as well as being a great class leveller, is good for the body and the soul and once again so needed for our young people again in the new post Covid time.

Well done and congratulations to you both from us all at Larwood!





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.

And Finally.... Some jokes from the children

What did the sink say to the toilet? **You look really flushed!** - Thank you, Laurie

What day of the week are most twins born on? **Twosday** - Thank you, Laurie

What do you call a haunted chicken? **A poultry guise** - Thank you, Dexter

Why was the skeleton so cruel? **Because he was bad to the bone!** - Thank you, Hayden

What did the science book say to the maths book? **You've got problems!** - Thank you, Anon

Thank you, Mr Dennis for remembering all of these for the Lowdown! They're all very funny!



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 DSPs:

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.

