

Newsletter Date:
July 2013

Dates for your diary:

- Start of Autumn term for pupils-Tuesday 3rd September 2013
- Half Term-Monday 28th October until Friday 1st November 2013
- Monday 4th November-INSET day, pupils return to school on Tuesday 5th November 2013
- Monday 2nd December-Occasional Day-No pupils in school. Pupils return on Tuesday 3rd December 2013
- Friday 20th December-End of Autumn term 2013
- Monday 6th January-Start of Spring Term 2014
- Half Term-Monday 17th Feb-Friday 21st February 2014
- Friday 4th April-End of Spring term 2014
- Tuesday 22nd April-Start of Summer term 2014
- Monday 5th May Bank Holiday 2014
- Half term week-Monday 26th June-Friday 30th June 2014
- Friday 18th July-End of Summer term 2014

The Larwood Lowdown

Sizzling hot sports day a super success!

As we approach the end of the year, it is with great pleasure that I can write to you and commend so many of your sons and daughters for their hard work. Such work has been displayed in a variety of areas. It is the area of PE that I would like to focus on in this final edition (for this year) of The Larwood Lowdown.

On July 9th, Larwood School hosted its first sports day where parents were also invited to attend. This change had been requested by parents during many of my initial interviews with parents in September and October. I often talk to staff and pupils about taking a risk, which may not work. Clearly there was a chance that this could be the case with sports day? We had many thoughts regarding how pupils may or may not react? However, it was great to see so many pupils simply enjoy the chance to try their best and be supported by a friend or member of their family. Over 50 adults (friend and family) were present and gave great support to all of our pupils. On behalf of all of the staff, thank you for attending.

SATs have been and gone and I will report on these during next year. We had some very pleasing results, particularly with regard to English. We have also had a chance to review the setting procedures for Years 5/6 and they really do seem to have helped pupil progress. Therefore, next year, we will be extending this practice (Maths and English only) for all pupils. This will mean that the more creative subjects such as Art and PE will take place in the afternoon. Our current Year 6 pupils will not see such changes, as they move onto new secondary schools in September. Our best wishes go with all of them.

Finally, no school can be successful without the dedication and commitment of staff and parents working together. I am very lucky to have such a great team of professionals who have worked tirelessly this year with your children. I also appreciate your support and collaboration in many ways as the year has progressed. I wish you a restful and warm summer holiday and look forward to working with you next year.

S D Trimble

Headteacher

Achieve

Believe

Expect and

Enjoy



Residential inspection-May 2013

As stated in the last edition, I thought it appropriate to provide some more details relating to our residential inspection in May . Mrs Buckley spent two days with us and our pupils and made judgements in a number of areas. These were based on :

- Conversations with various staff
- Meetings with pupils
- Watching activities
- Conversations with parents
- Review of documentation and evidence

It was pleasing to see the completed report, published in the last few days which rates our *overall effectiveness as good*. It was also noted in the report that all aspects of the inspection process rated Larwood School residential procedures as *good*. *This included outcomes for residential pupils, quality of care, pupils safety and leadership and management of residential provision.*

There were many fantastic comments in the report but I would draw your attention to a quote provided by a parent;

'This school has changed my son's life, he has made excellent progress here'.

My thanks are extended to the residential team and all staff who have worked fantastically hard with our pupils who reside with us during the year.

WELL DONE TO YEAR 6!

Year 6 pupils have worked hard over the past few weeks in preparation for their SATs. The tests were completed throughout last week. Mrs Williams and Mr Van chose to take the boys who had completed all of the tests to Pizza Hut last Friday. Lots of Pizza, ice-cream and salad was consumed and it was a great end to a stressful month. Well done to all of them.

Pupils climb Snowdon!

The 1st - 3rd July 2013 saw 8 boys, 3 adults and Ike the dog venturing from the safety of Larwood School to the wilderness of Snowdonia National Park. Battling against the wind, rain and sleeping in a bumpy field these adventurers achieved something amazing and conquered Mount Snowdon.



The Journey began right back in September when the 8 boys, Aidey, Charlie, Joshua, Daniel, Finlay, Percy, Ellis and Aaron chose Outdoor Adventurous Activities for their skills curriculum activity. Every Tuesday afternoon from this point the boys dedicated themselves to learning survival skills that ranged from camp craft, open fire cooking, map reading skills, orienteering, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing and above all else team work and determination.

Who would have thought this group of boys, the vast majority of whom



moaned way back at the start about walking to Stevenage Lakes, (not even 1 and half miles!!!), would eventually walk for 6 hrs, a distance of 9 miles, ascend 3,199 ft and reach the summit of a mountain.

Well done boys we are all very proud of you.



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 for child protection is Ms Moore. Please do contact her if you have any concerns in this area.

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 - <http://familylives.org.uk/>

The website provides advice and a range of resources that aim to ensure that families get the support they need.

Sports day-Tuesday 9th July



Wow! What a Sports Day!

Who needs the World Cup or the Olympic Games when you can catch some real sporting talent at the Larwood School Sports Day? We had brilliant weather and a great turn out of parents. The children performed extremely well and supported each other in every event. The children had a very active and enjoyable day competing in a variety of events.

The children started off the day with wonderful track and field races. Many of the children in both KS1 and KS2 took part and the participating girls and boys put in strong performances throughout. The children cheered along with the parents and siblings from the sidelines as their peers used all their energy to cross the finish line.





After 60 minutes of high quality competitive, welly wanging, bean bag tossing, side jumping, javelin launching and long jumping the children were hot, sweaty and ready to call it a day. They were all brilliant! Especially well done to the Tigers who worked as a team and scored the most points! More importantly, well done to everyone taking part!

A big thank you to all the staff who helped the events run so smoothly.

Thank you to everyone who managed to attend our sports day we hope you enjoyed the opportunity to join us and thank you for supporting your child.

Maths Gifted and Talented Event



On 3rd June Nathan Griffiths Y5 and Chris Parry Y4 went with Mrs Kimpton to Woolenwick Junior School in Stevenage for a morning of maths activities with children from schools in Stevenage. We had to collect children from St Vincent De Pauls on the way.

When we got there we split up into groups and worked together on maths problems. At snack time we got to have squash and biscuits then went out to play. After that we did more maths. Some of the problems were harder than others, each group earned a crystal when they solved a problem within the time limit. At the end we exchanged the crystals for time in the ball bucket. In the bucket were sorting bears and the team who collected the most bears won the competition. Nathan's group got the most bears and won the competition and Chris's group came second. "It was a fun morning," says Chris Parry.

Meet the governors- Mr Pilgrim



My name is Bill Pilgrim and I am a staff governor. I have been a governor for over 10 years and I particularly specialise in the safer recruitment of all staff. This means that I am responsible for checking all appointments with references, to ensure that our children are safe.

I work at Larwood School as the Deputy Head of Care, along side Ian Reid, and the rest of the care team. I have worked at Larwood for 13 years and have enjoyed the challenge and rewards that working with young people at Larwood bring. I have also been organising and instructing for the Bikeability course, (New version of cycle proficiency test) which enables all of our Year 6 pupils to leave our school with a Level 1 or Level 2 award. This is a vital skill to have, particularly, as pupils leave to go onto their secondary schools.

Outside of school I have been happily married for 39 years, and have one son and two beautiful grand daughters. All of which keeps me on my toes!

My hobbies include running, cycling, swimming, gardening and travelling. I have been lucky to be able to complete over 50 marathons and approximately the same amount of half marathons. This has included the London marathon seven times, and the Dublin marathon.

I enjoy the responsibility of working and being a member of the Larwood school Community.