



VOLUME: TEN

ISSUE: FOUR

# Larwood

## L EGG W D EGG W N

## Chirpy, Chirpy, Cheep, Cheep!

What an amazing Spring Term we have had! As I sit here writing to you all, I can hear the happy sounds of children all over the school enjoying their various end of term reward activities such as blow-up bowling and the inflatable obstacle course. We are proud of how much the children have achieved this term and I have no doubt, that you as parents, feel the same way.

Some notable achievements this term have been; another group of year 6 children successfully completing their swimming course; therapy pony visits; year 6 annual trip to London – an especially proud trip as we've received multiple notes from members of the public commending those children and staff; KS1 took their first trip off site to the woods; other classes also took offsite trips and I know that for many children this would be their first opportunity to take part in an offsite trip. We also reintroduced our Thursday skills curriculum, which has been a great success. I would like to personally thank all of our wonderful staff who, as always, have gone above and beyond to support the children during what was an especially challenging term in regard to staff attendance. I know that our teaching teams and the intervention team are planning lots of great learning opportunities for the summer term. We will have more trip opportunities for all of the children.

During the Easter holidays there are various clubs available to your children and Mr V runs Kool Kidz Club out of Larwood so please get in touch if that is of interest. If you should need us during the holidays please reach out to Mrs Ford [sian.ford@larwoodschool.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sian.ford@larwoodschool.herts.sch.uk) or Mrs Osobu [bianca.osobu@larwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:bianca.osobu@larwood.herts.sch.uk) particularly in terms of safeguarding. Both will routinely check emails.

Have a wonderful and restful time with your families and we look forward to seeing your children at **9am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

*Mr Van der Merwe*

Pierre Van Der Merwe  
Headteacher



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

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL PUPILS TO RETURN TO SCHOOL, AT THE USUAL TIME ON: TUESDAY, 19TH APRIL 2022**



# Achieve

## Miss Hipkin

### 'Homes Under The Hammer'

During a hands on Literacy lesson, the children needed to use persuasive language to sell a home. The boys thought about who their buyer would be – a squirrel, a fairy, a bird etc – and went outside to build the home for them. They then needed to persuade the buyer to purchase the home they had built using positive language and pointing out the homes special features. The children were recorded talking about what they had built instead of writing it down which is the part they liked most! They did such a great job and they were so proud of their efforts, as were we!



## 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

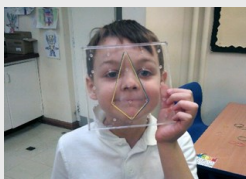
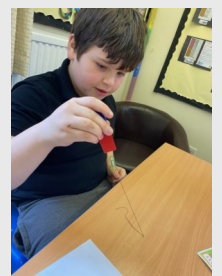
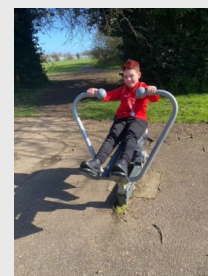
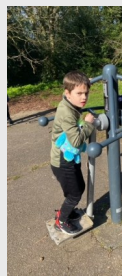
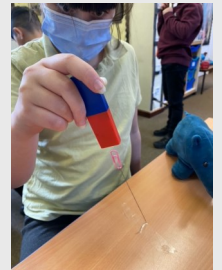
### 'Outdoor Learning!'

Our class has started pony therapy this half term. They really enjoyed walking the ponies around the playground. The ponies are very cute, and the children are looking forward to spending time with them.

For sports relief we went to Hampson Park for a mile walk. It was a very enjoyable walk. Following the lovely walk, we spent some time in the outside gym. The children really enjoyed spending time on the work out machines and being in the sunshine.

It was nice to be outside and in the sunshine.

In science we have been looking at forces and magnets. We conducted an investigation with a magnet to see how many paper clips it could hold in a row. We investigated if we could hold a magnet in the without touching it. The children enjoyed this investigation.



## Mrs Wood

### 'Busy Bees!'

This half term we have been learning about Railways. The boys have enjoyed this topic and have draw some brilliant pictures of trails through the years. In Science the boys have enjoyed magnets and forces. In maths we have been looking at shapes and the boys have amazed me with their knowledge of shapes. In English we have looked at persuasive writing and the boys have used some good persuasive language in their letters to Mr Van about an garden tea party for the Queens Jubilee in May and a non school uniform day. We have had a busy half term celebrating World book day, St Patricks day and World Maths day. All three days were great fun and as a class we enjoy dressing up. The boys have all enjoyed their Thursday afternoon skills lessons and even more their Friday reward activities. Another really successful half term and all of us our looking forward to our two week break for Easter.







# Expect

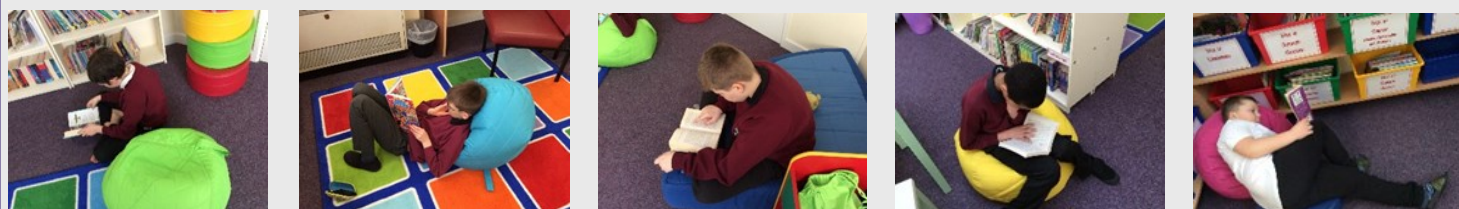
## Mrs Kamene

*'Impressive!'*

Mrs Kamene and Miss Mc are so impressed with the boys' commitment and attitude in their learning this half-term. All pupils settled back into the routine well and enjoyed carrying out experiments to support the content they cover in lessons. During Hands-on Monday the pupils have been fully engaged in every science skills session and they remained determined to experiment and complete all tasks set for them. Among other tasks they learnt how to dye rice, making parachutes using different materials e.g., tissue paper, and using salt to make an egg stand.



We are also proud to say all pupils have made tremendous progress in all areas of the curriculum, especially in reading. The pupils enjoy reading silently to an adult or being read to. They always look forward to our weekly library session.



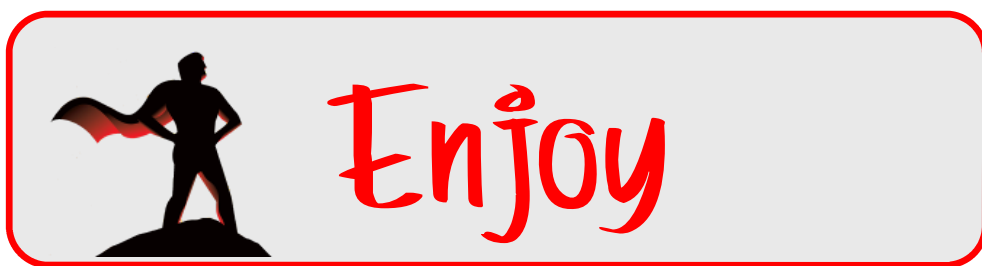
Our Knowledge of the World Week this half term is about Easter. Our boys have worked tremendously hard and produced work to be proud of. They learnt that egg represent new life and rebirth; the cross buns symbolise when Jesus was crucified and that rabbits are symbol of fertility and new life.



## Miss Gwynne

*'Plant Life!'*

In Miss Gwynne's class we have particularly enjoyed science. We explored the requirements of plants for life and growth and how this varies between plants. We identified and described the functions of different parts of flowering plants and thoroughly enjoyed dissecting plants to identify the different parts needed for reproduction. We also investigated the way in which water is transported within plants.



**AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
WIN £100 OF SUPER  
MARKET VOUCHERS  
SEPTEMBER 2022  
TO JULY 2023**

**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

# Larwood

## Mr Jacobs

*'Time to grow!'*

The class have had a super Half Term with some earning their silver medals, or reward shirts or off-site activities. They have been learning about plant life in science with some successfully growing their broad bean seeds in different environments, in class, outside and in the cupboard. They have also written some outstanding diary entrances by using their imagination to describe people's experiences on Titanic as it set sail and sadly when it sank. However, they survived and wrote some excellent descriptive writing! As I write this the boys are comparing how Easter is celebrated around the world and the story of Jesus's crucifixion and joyous resurrection. I'm confident they could describe the Easter week to you in good detail. Happy Easter from everyone in Mr Jacobs class.

The school council met this week and shared some fantastic ideas on how we can support them with their literacy learning. They were also excited to hear they will have the opportunity to attend a fun afternoon Tea with a member of SLT in return for their hard work. Well, they were when they understood a Larwood afternoon Tea party would involve more cake and sweets than mugs of actual tea! The class representatives did themselves proud!

## 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

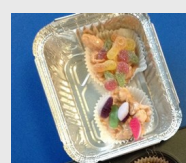
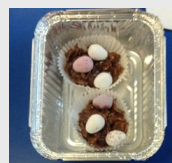
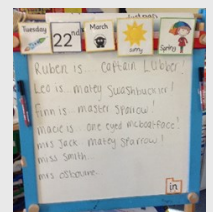
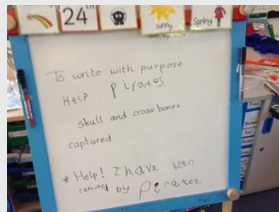
## 'Happy Easter! From Key Stage One'

This half term, Key stage 1 have been really lucky to spend time with the Pickles the pony. The class have thoroughly enjoyed the pony visits each week. Across the half term, children have walked and fed the pony and learned some of the tricks the pony can perform.

This half term our learning has changed, and we have adopted more of a hands on approach alongside shorter topics. The children have enjoyed the different topics. In geography, the children have been looking at the United Kingdom and have enjoyed making flags for each of the four countries.

In history, we have learned about Pirates and the children wrote letters for a message in a bottle. They worked out their pirate names and made hooks for their hands.

This term, the children have also tried their hand at cooking. They have made waffles, Easter nest cakes and Easter inspired snacks.



**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=j150BqInjY>



# Larwood BRITISH VALUES



## SPACE HUB!

*'Continuing to grow!'*

This half term has been busy in Hub. We have been working hard looking at angles, shapes including perimeter and area, as well as other areas of maths.

We have been researching facts and writing fact files.

We have also been continuing our Roman topic and made our Roman helmets. We have also been studying the local environment.

Knowledge of the World week involved studying Easter and how it is important for Christians. We have been building on accepting others beliefs that can be different to us.



## Miss Trott

*'HMMMM Foood!'*

For knowledge of the world week we have been studying Christianity and learning about Holy Week. We started our learning with Palm Sunday and we created crosses out of palm leaves. We moved onto learning about Maundy Thursday and held a Last Supper in class, trying traditional food that would have been eaten by Jesus and his disciples. We finished off the week learning about Good Friday and Easter Sunday, creating Resurrection Rolls to represent the empty tomb.







## 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: Acting Deputy Headteacher

Supported by our other DSP's:

**Mr Sean Trimble: CEO**

**Mrs Emma Williams: Assistant headteacher**

**Mrs Sian Ford: Family Support Worker**

**Marcus McKechnie: LASA - Lead Behaviour Support**

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

