



VOLUME: TEN

ISSUE: FIVE

Larwood

LOWDOWN



HISTORY WAS NOT MADE BY
THOSE WHO DID NOTHING!

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope you are all enjoying some of the lovely weather we have been having. As mentioned in my previous blog to you, we are looking forward to some fun and exciting events in the second half of the summer term. Assemblies will include Father's Day, World Music Day and celebrating the NHS just to name a few.

On the last day of this half term we are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, what an amazing achievement! We also have PGL for year 6 to look forward to in June and some residential opportunities for other year groups. Mrs Osobu will share some further information with you in due time.

In the second half term, you will also receive some further information with regards to Sports Week. Our last Sports Week was very successful and was enjoyed thoroughly by pupils and parents/carers alike.

As we look forward to half term, I want to wish you all a peaceful, safe and enjoyable break

LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME FUN TIMES!

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: MONDAY, 6TH JUNE 2022



Achieve



Mrs Wood

'Celebrations all round!'

This half term we have been learning about The Royals. The boys have enjoyed this topic and have recalled so much information about the different Kings and Queens throughout the years. During our stunning starter, the boys made crowns, shields, and practiced their archery skills. In Science, the boys have enjoyed learning about different Scientists. In maths, we have been looking at fractions and have now started to look at money. In English we have studied autobiographies and biographies, and the boys have written interesting autobiographies about themselves. The boys are enjoying our Monday morning spending time with the ponies – Charlie, Arthur and Pickles. The boys all enjoyed their extra trip day, some of them went swimming, some stayed in school and some went to church farm. Another busy half term with all the boys in the class earning their silver medals and celebrating some birthdays.



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



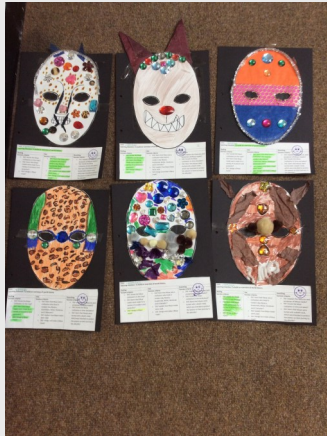
“Don’t ‘sir’ me, I’m plain Harold, one - time coal miner and one - time professional cricketer.” - Harold Larwood



Believe

Mrs Kamene

'MASK!'



This half-term our pupils have worked tremendously hard, and so well as a team. In history and geography we have been learning about The Maya Civilisation. They learnt that masks played a central role in Maya culture. They were made for a variety of occasions and purposes. The Maya kings wore leopard print masks. The children designed their own vibrant and colourful masks.

Our pupils also learnt that the Maya activities included weaving. They practised paper plate weaving and produced work to be proud of.

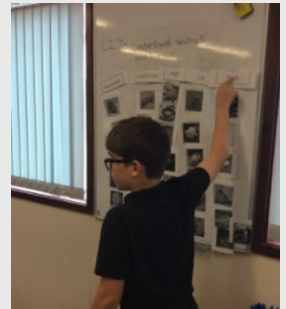
Mrs Kamene and Miss McMeekin, are proud of the progress that the pupils have made and look forward to one last primary school half term to celebrate their achievements.



Miss Hanam

'Busy Bees!'

This term in Miss Hanam's class, the children have been busy learning about the Mayan's as part of our termly topic. The children are super intrigued by the Mayan Empire, and their complex writing system. We look forward to doing our fantastic middle and finisher before the end of the Summer term. As the weather is improving and the days are getting warmer, we try to do as much outdoor learning as possible which is a success with the children. As most of the pupils are year 6 in our class, they are beginning to have transition days to their secondary schools and looking forward to all the exciting changes coming their way. We look forward to spending the last half term together and making lots of memories.





Expect



Mr Jacobs

'Outdoor Learning Garden!'

WE NEED – TOP SOIL, BARK/WOOD CHIPPINGS, OLD WOODEN POSTS, PALLETS, PLASTIC BOTTLES, AND PIPING

I'm sure many of you will recall the learning garden we first spoke of pre-covid. Many clearances later, we are now starting to put together our sensory garden. We will be teaming up with the charity 'Waste Not Want Not' near Knebworth, to access a variety of plants and flowers which will stimulate our children's minds. If anyone would like to donate colourful and strong scent smelling flowers, please get in contact with Mr Jacobs at his email stuart.jacobs@larwood.herts.sch.uk

We are desperate for wood chippings to help reduce weed growth in the garden and to help maintain the garden to keep it looking fresh and vibrant. We are calling out to any local gardeners or provide a solution to any garden waste from your home projects by donating wood chippings to the school.

The children will also be making bird feeders, boxes and bug hotels so any old pipping, wooden beams, pallets, top soil would be most welcome to help support and drive the project forward.



70 YEARS!

The Queens Platinum Jubilee

Larwood Celebrates



Poetry Competition

We are inviting you all to take part in a poetry competition. By taking part you can earn yourself 70 minutes reward time, that's one minute for every year of the Queen's reign. Your teachers will support you to write a themed poem about the Queen. Research details about her reign and create colourful images to help make your poem stand out proudly on display. We will send your colourful, creative poems to Buckingham Palace and her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Dress up day

We will be inviting everyone to dress in red blue and white to help celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as we celebrate with her, 70 years on the throne.

Party Lunch

We will be coming together to enjoy a celebration party lunch on the field. We will provide a variety of sandwiches, crisps, savoury snacks, sweet goodies and you'll have the opportunity to decorate cakes, make a dessert in your class. You will work together to create unique cake decorations or your choice of dessert that symbolise the Queen's celebrations. You will have time in class to plan, buy your preferred decorations and together create eye catching cakes or desserts that Paul Hollywood, Mary Berry and the Queen would be proud of.

Arts and Craft

To complete our party celebrations we need home-made bunting, decorations, colourful posters and no royal party is complete without a crown! We want everyone dressed in their Union Jack colours and unique crowns. There will be winner chosen from each class who creates the most colourful, vibrant and creative crown.



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**
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

Mrs McGuinness

'Walk like an Egyptian!'



This half term our topic is the Ancient Egyptians and we have been very busy! We have been following instructions and using our weighing and measuring skills to make salt dough scarab beetles. We have even had a go at mummifying a doll and writing instructions. We are all looking forward to continuing this topic in the second half of the term!

During music, I have been really impressed with the boy's musical ability! We are practicing Three Little Birds by Bob Marley using the recorder, the glockenspiel and of course our voices.



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

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

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

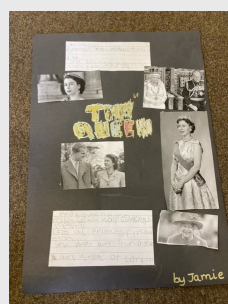
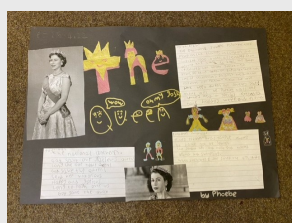
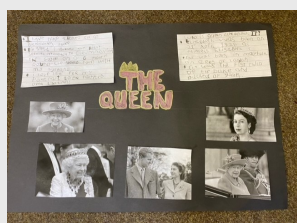
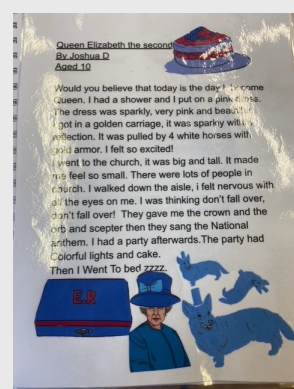
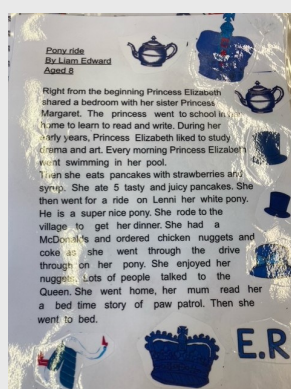
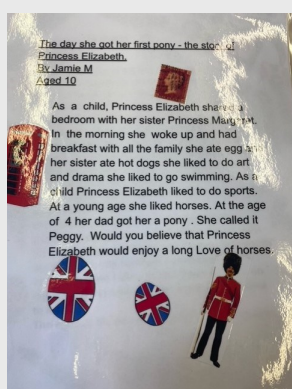
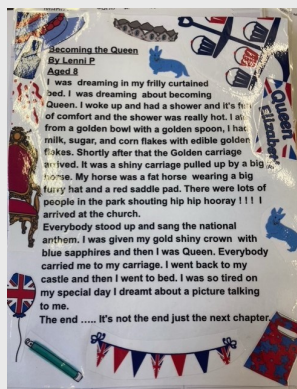


Miss Kimpton

'Her Majesty The Queen'



Our topic this half term has been they Royals. With the Queen's platinum jubilee in June we have taken this opportunity to learn about her and her life. In literacy we have created fact files and planned and typed stories based on facts from her life. In art we have created a collage which represents all things English. For our stunning starter we worked together to create a huge poster of the Queen celebrating her jubilee. We have really enjoyed learning about our Queen.

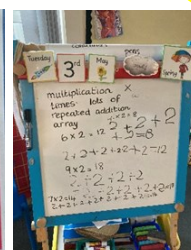


Mrs Osborne

'Hands on Learning!'

This half term, we have continued to adopt a more hands-on approach to our learning, alongside shorter topics. The children have enjoyed the different topics. Our topics have included Farms, Jungle, Spring, St George, and Judaism.

Our work has included learning about multiplication, making cookies, animals from rice cakes and fruit, fruit caterpillars and bugs on leaves, and writing dragon stories of our own and writing in sentences to describe characters from stories. It has been a very busy half term.



Larwood

BRITISH VALUES



Miss Gwynne

‘Ancient Egypt!’

In Miss Gwynne’s class we have enjoyed our topic of Ancient Egypt. We have used our literacy lessons to create instructions for creating an Egyptian Necklace. The following are Jake’s instructions.

How to make an Egyptian necklace

Equipment needed

- Paper plate
- Paint (gold, red, blue and green)
- Paint pallet and brush
- Scissors
- Pasta
- PVA glue

Instructions

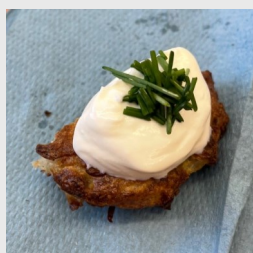
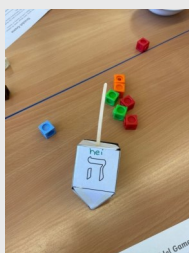
- Cut out the inside circle from the middle of the plate
- Paint the outside circle gold
- Mix the glue into the red, blue and green paint
- Paint the pasta red, blue and green
- When the paint is dry on the pasta stick them in a pattern around the necklace



Miss Trott

‘HMMMM Foood!’

For Knowledge of the world week we have been learning about Judaism and understanding their practices, beliefs and celebrations. We have learnt about where the religion started, what a Synagogue is like and the celebrations like Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah. Following our Hanukkah lesson, we made a traditional Jewish treat called Latkes; which we tried with sour cream and chives and apple sauce and we played a game of Dreidel.





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:

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.

