



Larwood

LOWDOWN

**Ofsted
GRADED
GOOD**

**VOLUME: THREE
ISSUE: SIX**

NEWSLETTER DATE: JULY 2015

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2015

INSET day:

Tuesday 1st September

First day of term:

Wednesday 2nd September

Half Term Break:

Monday 19th October to

Friday 30th October

Last day of term:

Friday 18th December at

1:20pm

Spring Term 2016

First day of term:

Monday 4th January

Half term break:

Monday 15th February to

Friday 19th February

Good Friday:

Friday 25th March

Easter Monday:

Monday 28th March

End of term:

Friday 1st April at 2:20pm

Summer Term 2016

First day of term:

Monday 18th April

Half term break:

**Monday 30th May to Friday
3rd June**

End of term:

Friday 22nd July at 1:00pm



It's that time of the year when things change and an awful lot of things happen very quickly! We prepare to say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils and a few staff alongside getting pupils ready for new classes and other changes for September.

Year 6

I am pleased to note that with Mrs Ford's work, many of our pupils have had a much better transition package than in previous years. Most have had numerous visits which is helpful. I have recently received their SATS reports and I am very pleased with the vast majority who tried their best and did really well. The main thing with tests is that all pupils prepare for them and then give their best possible effort on the day. I'm sure you'll agree if they do that then they make us all very proud! It was with huge pleasure that I accompanied Chris Parry and his mum to Leeds during July for him to win a gold award in the national Engage

awards ceremony. This was in recognition of his academic work but also his fantastic attitude to learning and school. It was also noted with great pride that Reece Bayliss recently represented his country against other European countries in Portugal. Well done to both boys and to all of Year 6 for their recent efforts and I wish them all the very best of luck for the future.

Staffing

At the end of the term we do say goodbye to two members of staff. Mrs Swinyard retires having served many years at Larwood and in a variety of roles. She has dedicated her teaching life to the pupils of Larwood School and we are in great debt to her for her commitment and passion for learning. We also say goodbye to Ms Geliot, who after many years of service is taking up a teaching post in another school. She has and will always be a very enthusiastic teacher and I would like to thank both staff for their service to our school. I am sure you would join me in wishing them both the very best for the future.

My thanks also go to all staff for their dedication and commitment to our pupils. They do an amazing job and its only with their great efforts that any of the amazing work reported in this Larwood Lowdown is possible. This includes the catering staff, cleaning and site staff, administration staff, learning and support staff, teaching staff and our governing body.

Your sons and daughters!

As always there are many examples of events and work that your children have provided that make our school such a special place to be. Please do take the time to read this superbly presented school magazine and enjoy the amazing work that your children have achieved. For those of you who have actively stayed in touch with us and supported us to make this happen, I am eternally grateful. I look forward to next year and a continuation of the progress that makes such a difference for all involved.



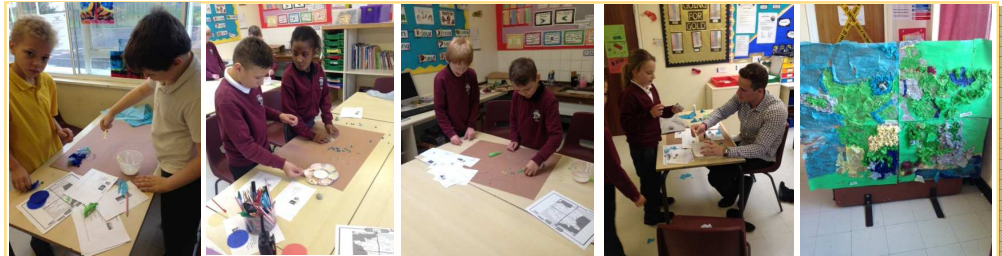
WORK, WORK, WORK & SOME TREATS!



Curriculum Skills Cooking Group



As part of our cookery skills group we have been lucky enough to be asked to pilot a cookery scheme for schools which is based around no kitchen cookery and healthy eating. We have made a variety of recipes such as hummus, smashed bean dip, coleslaw and avocado, orange chocolate mousse.



MISS KIMPTON'S CLASS

In topic, this half term, we have been looking at France. We have researched different regions and famous French people. We used Google Earth to travel around France and after spending some time looking at Paris we visited Disneyland!

In art, we worked in pairs to create a corner of France using tissue paper. When it was added together we had a beautiful collage of the country. We then shared everything we learned in a class assembly.

MRS WILLIAM'S CLASS

Natural History Museum

Year 4/5 and some 6's went to the Natural History Museum for our topic of Dinosaurs. We had a fantastic day and enjoyed the journey on the train and the underground. For some of the children this was the first time they had been to London and on a train. They all did amazingly well.



Gardening Group

Miss Trott: "The garden is coming along nicely with new paint and new produce. We now have strawberries, raspberries, beans, peas, pumpkin, garlic, beetroot and onions growing" This little oasis is really looking amazing, well done to all the gardening group!



Outdoor Classroom

Mrs Williams and Mrs Brittle used the outdoor classroom for their literacy session. The weather was brilliant and we were able to complete our work. The boys were very sensible and it gave us a different learning experience.



Science in Soil

As part of our Science sessions we had been looking at the environment which included a soil investigation. We had to look at the contents of different soils to see what they contain. We found that there were all sorts of things in soil including rocks, roots, plants and snail shells.





BuSy



'Kids Out' to Whipsnade Zoo



FOX NEWS

LEGO

THERAPY



In FOX this half term we have started a new Lego Therapy Club. Lego Therapy is a collaborative play session where children in small groups work together to build Lego models. The goals are to improve motivation to initiate positive social contact with peers. It has been very successful and the children have enjoyed visiting FOX and making new friends.

We asked Tony his thoughts on Lego club "It is great fun. I like building the models and helping the younger children to learn to take turns"



Some of our pupils were lucky enough to join more than 700 children, plus their teachers, carers and parents, for a 'KidsOut Big Day Out' at Whipsnade Zoo. The children had an amazing day, running around and learning facts about the animals of the world, many of which can be seen at the Zoo.

All of the events throughout the day were jam packed with smiling children, laughing and having so much fun. The train that travels around the park was also free of charge for any

children that were invited by KidsOut and Rotary, which was amazing as they got to see all around the park and all different animals including different types of deer, rhinos, camels and Asian elephants: many of these animals cannot always be seen on foot so this was an amazing opportunity for the children.

A big thank you to Colin Cropley and the whole of the Hitchin Priory Rotary, who were the main organisers of the Big Day Out at Whipsnade. We really appreciate the hard work and effort that went into making this day eventful and mesmerizing for the children that attended. Our appreciation also goes to the Rotarian volunteers and staff at the Zoo who all contributed to making this a special day for the children who all went home with very happy memories of a great day out.

Annual Dragon & Bell Boat Racing Competition

The Larwood School Dragon and Bell Boat teams, entered the annual Fairlands Valley competition again this year. Unfortunately, we were unable to retain our 2014 1st place in the Dragon Boat race but we were only 1 second behind which put us into second position. Great team work to achieve this goal! The Bell Boat team also did a fantastic job and earned us 3rd place. We had a lot of fun over the two day event, the children really enjoyed themselves, worked hard and most importantly worked together as a team! Well done boys and girls, very proud of you all.



NEWS

We have had a good final term in boarding. We have enjoyed trips to the Adventure Playground, Splash Park and Local Park. For the end of term activities Miss McMeekin's house enjoyed a trip to 360 where they were all very well behaved. Mr Dennis's house went to the outdoor pool in Letchworth. The care team wish the year 6's best wishes in their futures and everyone else happy holidays.



Larwood's NATIONAL SUPERSTAR



Roller Hockey Superstar from Larwood School Excels for the National Team!

Reece Bayliss (Year 6 Pupil) has recently returned from representing Great Britain in the sport of roller hockey. Reece has been playing this sport for a few years and was spotted as a possible star of the future and asked to attend some training. He has progressed to being selected for the Great Britain team and recently toured with the team in Portugal. This pitted his age group against other national teams and they had some close matches, with Reece scoring some important goals. Their great hope is that the team will continue to work together in the future.



ARTS AWARD ARTS AWARD

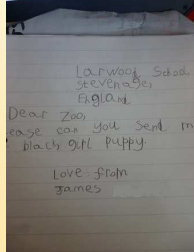
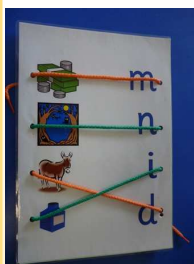
As always, the year 6 children had the opportunity to get their bronze Arts Award this year. The Arts Award is very challenging. Nearly every week there is a change to the routine and the pace is super speedy. The boys this year have learnt how to use scrap to make puppets, they have written a rap song, played string and percussion instruments, written a story, performed for an audience, blogged about their experiences and danced...among other things. I'm very pleased and proud to announce that all of the children have passed their bronze award! Well done, year 6!



LOWDOWN



MRS HAYES CLASS



Mrs Hayes' class have been super busy this term. Here is a quick run-down of what they have been up to:

- In science we have been looking at properties of materials.
- In RE we learned about Pandora's Box.
- In maths we have been learning about doubles and halves. We have been attempting more difficult multiplications.
- In literacy we have been writing letters.
- In phonics, we have been matching words to pictures, graphemes to pictures and sorting real and made up words.

MISS GELLIOT'S CLASS



We visited a water mill as part of our history topic and made our own bread. In science we have continued

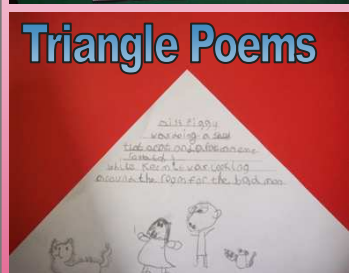
learning about different materials and their properties; we investigated objects that float and sink. We've used stories to prompt discussion in RE. The children have used the Bee Bots with command cards to create algorithms.

MRS GWYNNE'S CLASS



In Miss Gwynne's class we have been looking at different shape poems. We worked hard to produce our own poetry anthologies.

In our anthologies we had:



Curriculum Skills Natural Art Group



This term in The Natural Art Curriculum group we have been exploring a variety of different materials and have used them for making our arts and crafts. We have made salt pictures mixing chalk and salt and lovely candle holders using clay. We have also explored aboriginal art, water-colours and potatoes! They certainly are versatile and the group had great fun!





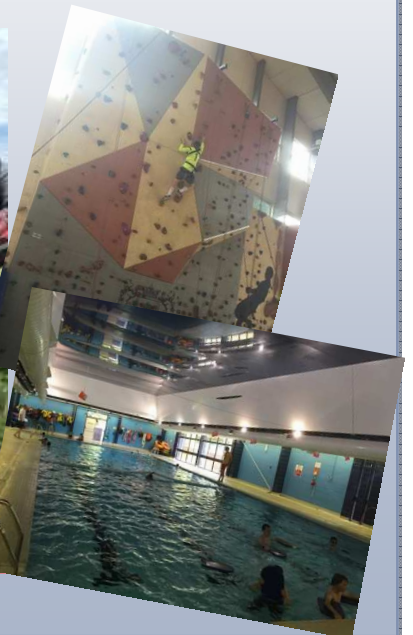
MISS TROTT'S CLASS

In Miss Trotts class this half term we have been studying Canada as our topic. We have studied famous landmarks and watched webcams of Niagara Falls, Hopewell rocks, Bay of Fundy, the Rocky Mountains as well as Miss Trott's hometown in Nova Scotia; where we were sent a special message. We have created our own aboriginal artwork as well as trying loads of different Canadian treats. The children have worked really hard on all of their topic work and really enjoyed learning about a different country.



KINGSWOOD

This summer the year 6 pupil's went on their residential trip to Kingswood in Kent. They participated in loads of adventurous outdoor activities like the 3G swing and Ariel Runway as well as team building activities like solving a murder mystery. One of the most positive outcomes was the pleasant and happy atmosphere from the children even in downtime. The boys were kind to each other and had excellent behaviour. Some of the children said they'd never forget their experiences and that they'd had 'the best



LOWDOWN



SPORTS DAY

Our Annual Sports Day was held on Tuesday 30th June this year. In the morning, children from Mr Jacobs, Miss Gwyne and Mrs Hayes classes competed against each other in a carousel of activities. The morning culminated with an egg and spoon race and a 50 metre sprint.

In the afternoon, children from Miss Trott, Miss Kimpton, Miss Clulow, Mrs Williams and Mr Van's class competed against each other in a carousel of activities. The afternoon culminated with a 400 metre and 100 metre.



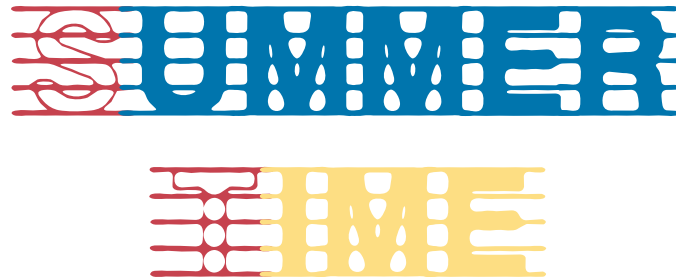
WINNER RESULT TABLES

Egg & Spoon Race Winners		400 Metre Race Winners		House Scores		
Year 2	Louie H	Year 4	Tia B, Tony B & Adam G	1st	2356	TRENT
Year 3	Hannah W	Year 5	Ronnie K	2nd	2148	TRAFFORD
Year 4	Henry W	Year 6	Joshua M & Tyrone P	3rd	2060	LORDS
50 Metre Race Winners		100 Metre Race Winners		4th	1948	HEADINGLY
Year 2	Westley K	Year 4	Tony B			
Year 3	Aiden B	Year 5	Olivia W			
Year 4	Louie P	Year 6	Joshua M			

GYM DANCE DISPLAY

This term, the children have been working very hard on the 2015 gym and dance display. As always, the children who took part were hard working and came up with some great ideas to make this show one of the best. We hope you enjoyed it!





Sam rocking out during skills curriculum. He's really got a good sense of rhythm and can change chords swiftly and precisely,. A star in the making?



Look what I made! Musical Boom Whackers make all sorts of noises when they're stacked up and knocked down, also the different colours are musical notes which correspond to other instruments in the music room making it a multi-sensory place of music and learning!

So, it turns out that Larwood has a lot of musical talent! We look forward to seeing more of it in the next school year. Well done everyone!



MISS JACOB'S CLASS

The boys have spent the summer term learning about English proverbs and using role play to illustrate them. The boys wrote their own play script involving Batman, Spiderman and the evil Green Goblin, to illustrate that 'Two heads are better than one'. In an evil plot to destroy mankind, Spiderman and Batman worked in partnership to diffuse a nuclear bomb, capture the evil Green Goblin, and save the world. The boys enjoyed creating and performing their play scripts so much that they voted in favour of performing their plays to the school during our class assembly.

The boys have continued to make good progress in their numeracy, learning new techniques to solve a variety of number problems including division, multiplication and addition. The boys helped create a times table challenge which tests their knowledge from 2 to 12, although Louie has started to challenge himself in learning the 13th and 14th times table. Since the beginning of June the boys have taken 2 – 3 times table challenges each week, and are now attempting to complete their eleven and twelve times table challenges.

The boys have played a key role in the development of the school's first Bug City, which now features several sites around the school. The majority of my class and from other classes team up during break periods and as part of Friday afternoon activities, to create several Bug Hotels that make up the schools City for bugs. We have expanded their learning about mini-beasts to focus upon the habitats, feeding habits, and life spans of the children's most favoured mini-beasts, namely ladybirds, newts and ants. It's wonderful to witness their enthusiasm and passion for something they feel very proud of, and interested to learn more each time we revisit their city during lesson and activity periods.

I have been extremely proud to teach 4/5SJ this year and look forward to seeing all the boys progress further next year. I've thoroughly enjoyed teaching them this year and learning from them as well as helping teach them their curriculum this past year. I wish all of them success for next year, starting with a very relaxing and peaceful summer holiday!

Larwood School Pupil Awarded **GOLD** in Prestigious National Award Scheme



Mr Trimble (Headteacher) visited Leeds with year 6 pupil Christopher Parry and Chris's mum on Wednesday 1st July. Chris had been selected to receive an award at the Engage National Awards ceremony. The Engage group was formed to enable Headteachers to work together and improve services for pupils in similar schools across the country. It represents a collective group of likeminded leaders who seek innovative solutions to challenges in the learning environment and provides advocacy for those in such circumstances. Chris was nominated in the 'outstanding achievement' category, for his work in all subjects, academic progress and superb relationships that he has developed with staff and his peers. He is very much seen as a role model to others and is well liked by all.

We were delighted to find out on the day that Chris had been given the gold award. This really did represent an amazing achievement and thoroughly deserved by Chris. We are all very proud!



What Ofsted said about Larwood School

January 2014

Pupils have good opportunities to develop a range of skills, including through attending vocational taster sessions at North Herts College and working with visiting artists and musicians as part of the Trinity Guildhall Bronze Arts Award. These stimulating activities contribute to pupils' positive attitudes to learning and to their overall achievement.

Pupils make good progress in developing their physical and sporting skills. Outdoor education contributes considerably to this and those pupils who successfully complete this course have the opportunity to climb Snowdon at the end of the school year.

The quality of teaching has improved since the previous inspection and is now good at both key stages, including in English and mathematics.

Teachers have good relationships with their pupils, classrooms are made attractive with displays and lessons are purposeful.

In many lessons, teachers question pupils well to check their understanding and deepen their thinking.

Pupils have regular reading and spelling tasks for homework, and the teaching of reading is good throughout the school.

Teachers provide pupils with plenty of opportunity to practise their reading in class and in an outstanding English lesson in Years 2 and 3, the teacher supported pupils very skilfully as they drew on their knowledge of sounds and letters to label diagrams of what they see on their way to school.

An opportunity to win £200 of Supermarket Vouchers

September 2015 to July 2016

100% pupil attendance could win you £200 of supermarket vouchers

98% + pupil attendance could win you £150 of supermarket vouchers

95%+ pupil attendance could win you £100 of supermarket vouchers



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 DSP; Designated Senior Person for child protection is Ms Moore. Please do contact her if you have any concerns in this area.



*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.

Achieve, Believe, Expect and Enjoy



The End!



Final

H O U S E R U N S

TRENT	TRAFFORD	LORDS	HEADINGLY
4094	3955	3561	3527
1ST	2ND	4TH	3RD

WELL DONE TO HOUSE:

TRENT TRENT TRENT TRENT TRENT

Back to School:

Wednesday 2nd September 2015

