



# Larwood

## LOWDOWN

**Ofsted  
GRADED  
GOOD**

**VOLUME: FOUR  
ISSUE: TWO**

**NEWSLETTER DATE: DECEMBER 2015**

### Diary Dates

#### Spring Term 2016

**First day of term:**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**Half term break:**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February  
to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**Good Friday:**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**Easter Monday:**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**End of term:**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at  
2:20pm**

#### Summer Term 2016

**First day of term:**

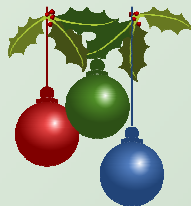
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**Half term break:**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

**End of term:**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at  
1:00pm**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS &**

*Happy New Year*

to all members of the Larwood School community

The Christmas period can mean many things to different people. For most it's the time of year for gifts, a party, a meal with friends and family and for some, a tad of over indulgence! Every year, I try to impress upon all of our pupils how important it is to get past these activities and give the greatest gift of all to your friends and family-some time! Time without looking at a mobile phone, time for talking and remembering or making plans for the future. The actual discussion topic is not the most important thing and ultimately, it is just making sure other people are alright. It sounds so simple but so often gets overlooked. I hope this year, all of you have the most fantastic time and if everyone makes time for at least one other person, it will be that little bit better for everybody concerned.

My thanks are extended to all of the staff for their unstinting work on a day to day basis. As always at this time of year, by the time you receive this, we would have completed our termly assessments, held an afternoon and evening school play, taken pupils on end of term trips and said some farewells to some staff. You may recall that Mrs Whitaker left the school a while ago to have a baby. Following this she has elected not to return to teaching at the moment, so she leaves to concentrate on her family. Mr Osobu will continue to deliver PE. This year, we say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Saphiris, after her second spell at Larwood, and Mrs Clark. After many years of service in many of the classrooms. Mrs Clarke was also the driving force in the school setting up and maintaining a 'Facebook' page, which has become incredibly popular. Finally, we say goodbye to Miss Moore-Deputy Headteacher. Miss Moore has gained promotion in another school, in another county and, as a school community we wish all her all the very best for her future. Such an appointment is always received with mixed emotions. On the one hand, it is with sadness that we lose a fantastic member of the team and yet on the other, there is great joy that she moves to another stage in her career. On behalf of all of our community I have thanked all of the staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment.

With these changes, there are some important alterations to the staffing structure for after Christmas. Please note that these have already been communicated via letter sent to you on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Finally, it is with huge pride that I can report to you that Ofsted visited to inspect our residential provision during November. Mrs Angie Bishop led this inspection which involved discussions with myself, the Head of Care, the residential team, pupils during the day and during residential activities, parents, Mr Myers-Governor for residential provision colleagues from the local authority. The final evaluation agreed with our own internal self evaluation of our residential provision. This was therefore judged **OUTSTANDING** in all areas. The final report will be available in due course and may be posted by the time you read this. It is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/CARE/SC056394>



# Merry Larwood

## Toy Camp

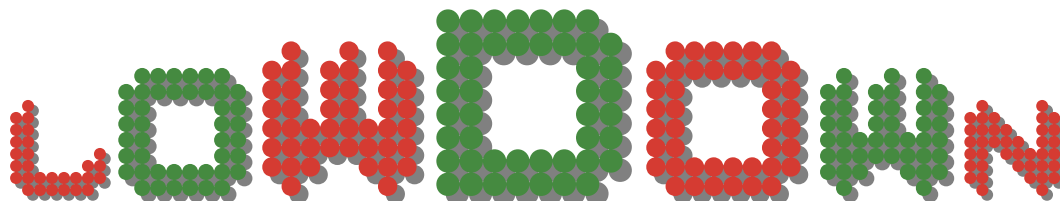
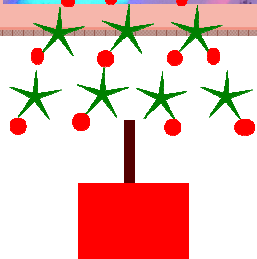


This year the children at Larwood School put on another fabulous musical production, called 'Toy Camp'. The amount of effort that the children put into practicing and learning the lines as well as the movements is no small feat. I am tremendously proud of all the children as each one has achieved something to be so, so proud of! It can be a nerve racking experience to take to the stage and the children behaved impeccably throughout rehearsals and during the final performances. The cast this year managed to move the audience to tears and laughter. Very well done!

## Larwood Choir

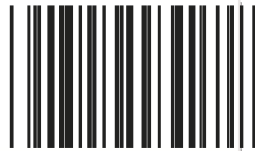


Due to the fantastic reputation of the Larwood Choir, the children were once again invited to entertain the residents from various nursing homes around Hertfordshire at Knebworth House, for their annual Christmas Dinner. There were over 300 people present and the children were sensational! One person commented to me that they sounded like angels! No doubt Larwood will be invited back next year after praise like that! Once again, the children were an amazing representation to the public of our wonderful school.





# BuSy



## FOX NEWS

### IMPROVEMENTS

This half term has seen some new changes in the Fox Pastoral Base. Building work has been completed and we now have a small dining area for those children who require a quieter more nurturing environment to enjoy their lunch. Another work space is now available for those children who attend interventions with our Fox 'one to one' staff member, Miss Rushbrooke. The Fox Base court yard is no longer in use during the winter months but will be in full bloom again by next spring enabling the children to enjoy the garden and outside space.

At Larwood school we are very lucky to have this space for



interventions, quiet time away, lunch breaks or even to spend time in the play area enjoying making new friends and building on their social skills with the support of the Fox team. The winter months can often bring coughs and colds and when children are feeling unwell we are able to offer a place

where they can rest until parents are available to collect them.

The improved facilities now enable us to provide speech and language therapy on a weekly basis along with other specialist interventions, in more comfortable surroundings.

The School Family Support Worker, Mrs Marshall and Mrs Ford, the schools transition worker are also resident in Fox. If you would like to contact us directly please contact us on 01438 347385 or email:

jacky.marshall@larwood.herts.sch.uk  
sian.ford@larwood.herts.sch.uk  
amanda.rushbrooke@larwood.herts.sch.uk

## THANK YOU!

A huge Larwood thank you to Sandra Barr our Chair of Governors & Mr Dennis, one of our care team. Mrs Barr and Mr Dennis, kindly each donated a Nintendo Wii to us along with some games. One of the games is 'Just Dance 2' and as you can see from the pictures, Jarod loves it and declared a dance off with Miss Hipkin. He kept getting 'perfect' 'perfect' 'perfect'. It's bringing a lot of fun to a lot of children. We are short on controllers and nun chucks if you have any to donate, they would be gratefully received.

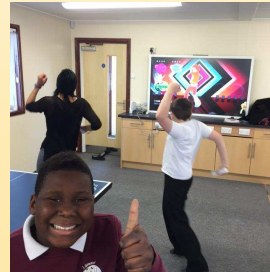


Photo Bombed By Kaiayle



## MRS MARSHALL JAM



These young hopefuls have been attending music at break times for a few weeks honing their songs. They've already broken up once citing music differences, and they're in talks with other musicians about a comeback tour! Watch this space for the final line-up....



One of our most prolific year six musicians playing ukulele, she can also play piano, drums and guitar and sings beautifully!



## Mrs Williams' Class

We have been learning about materials and their properties. We have been making scientific tests thinking about solids, liquids and gases. We have created an insulator to keep our ice cubes cold. We have also looked at separation of solids and liquids. We have had to consider how to do a fair test. Everyone worked scientifically.



## Skills Curriculum - Mrs Williams



We made some delicious lemon cheesecakes in the cookery skills group. They contained mascarpone cheese, icing sugar and double cream. They were enjoyed by the children and the staff!

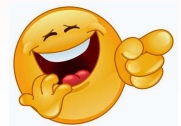
## Christmas Jokes

What's an ig?  
An Eskimo's house without a loo!

Why does Mr Simler keep his guitar in the freezer?  
Because he loves cool music!

What's brown and sneaks around the kitchen?  
Mince pies!

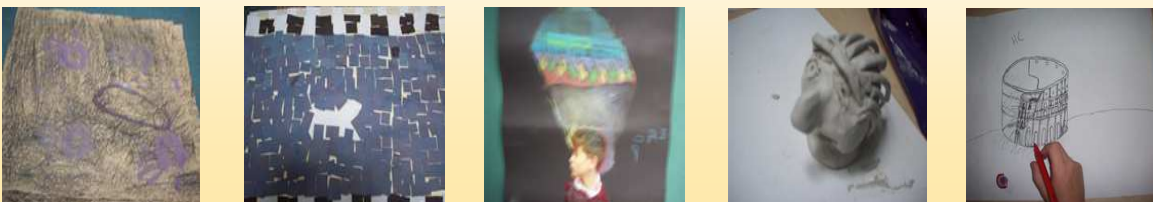
What did the cow say on Christmas morning?  
Moooooeey Christmas! 🐮



## Miss Gwynne's Class

we worked together to create a giant snow globe using our finger prints. —————→

During Thursday skills the Art group looked at famous art and art styles throughout history. We used different mediums to recreate the various styles.





## 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 Mrs Jane Kimpton. 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](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.



# Larwood

## BRITISH VALUES

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 strength 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:

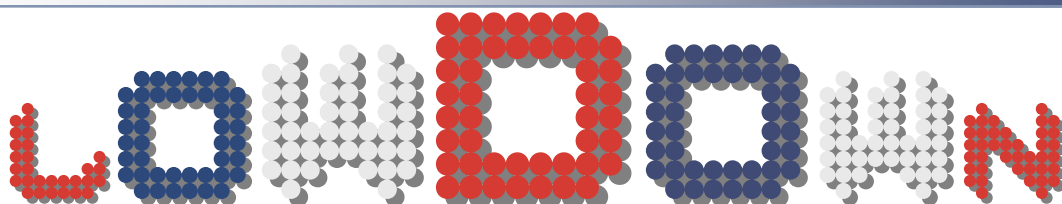
- Promoting class debate around subjects and choices
- Electing school council members and having pupils speak to members of the Leadership Team/Chair of the Governing Body about ideas and choices
- Pupil opinion is sought regularly and in a variety of ways. This includes how they are taught, what food is available, play equipment, where trips may go to and how they are helped to improve their work and behavior
- 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 behavior 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.





# Larwood

## BRITISH VALUES

- 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.

### 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.





# Remembrance

## Mr Jacob's Class



Class 8 have been studying World War II this term and the children have enjoyed a variety of subjects including Drama, Food Technology, Arts and Crafts and Literacy to support their History learning. We wanted to demonstrate some of our learning by hosting the school's Remembrance Day assembly. We spoke about how we could create a serious atmosphere whilst maintaining everyone's interest throughout. We watched a few clips from 'Black Adder Goes Forth' and were able to identify the use of humour in the series and spoke of how soldiers used humour during the war to keep up their spirits. We felt by creating a little humour into our assembly we would help everyone to focus on our message through open eyes rather than tear filled ones!



Children arrived to school listening to famous records by Dame Vera Lynn, surrounded by images from the War and the Union Jack flag. Joel kindly assisted our assembly by reading out the famous poem, 'Flanders Field'. Hannah stood proudly at the memorial in the old town where we laid each wreath made by every class. Hannah wanted to read her poem and some passer-by's were visibly proud of hers and the schools efforts to commemorate this important event. We lightened the atmosphere in assembly through the boys reciting Baldrick's famous German Guns poem, which raised a few chuckles!

We viewed some clips from the British Legion and learned how the poppy money is spent in supporting our war hero's. We finished the assembly by honouring the fallen in a minute of silence as the last post played. We were honoured by the responses we had from our peers and felt proud of our efforts. Recently we put the icing on our wartime cake by making and hosting a VE day celebratory meal of sausage casserole and apple crumble, it was beautiful!





# H A P P Y C H R I S T M A S

## Let's get cooking

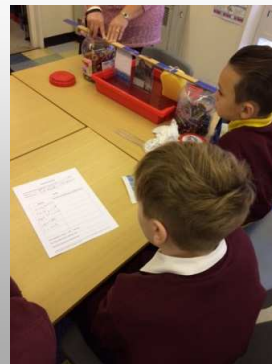
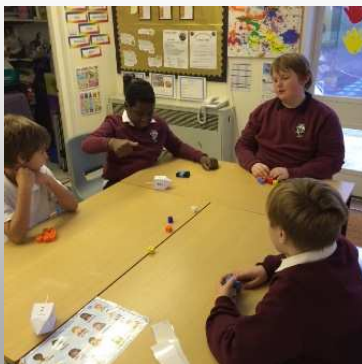
With Miss Kimpton & Mr Dennis

The Let's Get Cooking after school club have been busy putting together the dry ingredients for Ginger shapes. They have made some as a free sample for parents who came to the Christmas play. The dry ingredient packs were also sold during the play.

The cooking group have enjoyed a term of cooking and learning and wanted to share this with as many of the other pupils as they could. They hope you all enjoyed making you ginger shapes at home.



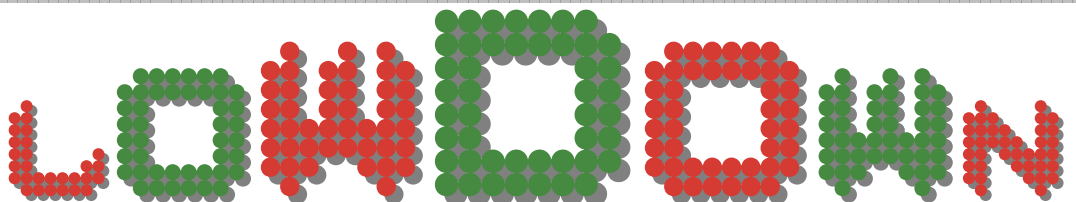
## Miss Trott's Class



The children in Miss Trott's class have been learning about Judaism in RE. We made our own dreidels and then played the Jewish game.

In Science we have been looking at materials and did an experiment to test which material is the most absorbent.

We have also made our own advent calendar to countdown to the Christmas holidays.



Achieve, Believe, Expect and Enjoy



The End!



H O U S E R U N S

TRENT	TRAFFORD	LORDS	HEADINGLY
1003	1003	915	
1ST	1ST	2ND	3RD

WELL DONE TO HOUSE:  
TRENT AND TRAFFORD

Back to School:

Monday 4th January 2016

