

Larwood

LOWDOWN



BACK TO THE FUTURE

The start of 2016 has already been noted for the rapid pace of change at Larwood. We have welcomed a small number of pupils and some new staff. Our revised Senior Leadership Team has been reviewing some key areas of our school policy and practice. This has included how we allocate points to pupils, our House system, improving attendance, and how we admit and transfer pupils to and from Larwood. However, we can't keep pace with the number of storms we seem to be

experiencing and 'Imogen' is currently making an impression as I write these notes. Having said that so did Abigail, Barney, Clodagh (Clo-da), Desmond, Eva, Frank, Gertrude and Henry!

As part of our schools future development, the governing body, alongside the staff have reviewed our current school status (Foundation) and how things may change during the next few years. You may be aware that as part of the current government's election manifesto, they have made it clear that 'Free' Schools and Academies would be encouraged during their tenure. As part of this process, the governing body have decided to start the process of consultation related to Larwood School becoming an Academy. There has been extensive discussion on this matter as it will equate to a lot more work during the next few months. However, at this stage the perceived benefits of such a move are as follows:

- An increased level of autonomy with regards to the future direction of the school
- A natural step for us having already become a Foundation school
- Greater responsibility in ensuring the best, and most financially efficient ways of securing services to the school
- We would be an independent, state funded school rather than a local authority funded school
- There is greater freedom with regards to the curriculum and its application
- In a similar way to having Foundation Status, the Governing Body will continue to be the employer, and have responsibility for health and safety
- You can become your own admissions authority, however, this is not something that the governing body are considering at this point; and
- The ability to strengthen our work within Stevenage and the wider locality for pupils and other schools that may benefit from it

I think that the main question every parent would probably want to ask is 'how will this affect my child's education?' In short, they would not really notice the difference as much of the above would not be seen by them. However, they may, in due course experience an adjusted curriculum and/or benefit from savings made in the securing of services usually bought from the Local Authority. One thing should be a constant in all of this process and that is that the quality of education provided to your child remains excellent. Please note that a separate letter relating to this matter will follow and there will be an opportunity to ask any questions you have on the matter in a variety of ways.

In the meantime, let's hope we do not see storm Jack!

Diary Dates

2016/2017 Term

dates inside

Spring Term 2016

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



WORK, WORK, WORK & SOME TREATS!



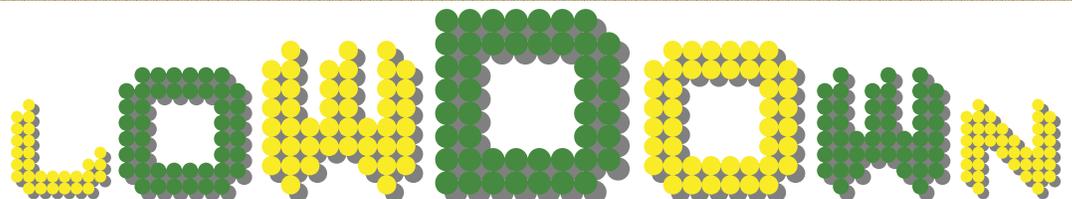
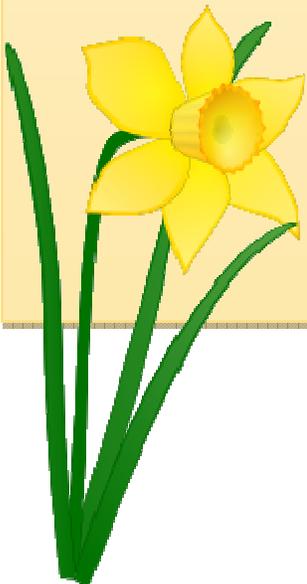
FORENSIC SCIENCE

Over the last 5 weeks in the forensic science after school club the pupils who attended have learned about procedures the police use to solve crimes. They have taken their own finger prints and analysed them. They have taken a plaster cast of their thumbs, and checked for 'poison' using pH test strips. All pupils who have attended this club have really enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about police sciences.



Let's get cooking

In let's get cooking this half term we have made Veggie Fajitas and Chocolate Surprise Cupcakes. The pupils enjoyed cutting and cooking the fajitas - they learned how to cut a chilli without touching it! They all tried the finished product and enjoyed what they had made. The Chocolate Surprise Cupcakes were a huge hit! The pupils were horrified at first to learn that the surprise ingredient was beetroot. However, the cakes were lovely and again all pupils tried them and were surprised to find they were indeed delicious!





BuSy



FOX News



Lego Therapy is taking off a like storm in Fox with two new groups now up and running. Fox has purchased some new Lego sets and the children are keen to get started on their new models. Lego Therapy is a collaborative play therapy where children in small groups work together to

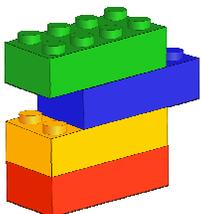


build Lego models.

The goal of Lego Therapy is to improve motivation to initiate social contact with peers.

- Improve the ability to sustain interaction with peers for a period of time.
- To overcome symptoms of rigidity
- To communicate with each other and solve problems by building in small groups according to set rules.
- Joint attention and problem solving
- Turn taking
- Sharing
- Listening and general social communication skills

So let's get building!



MISS GWYNNE'S CLASS

In Miss Gwynne's class we have looked at various types of poems. We focused on Kenning poems and created our own Kenning poem books about school. We wrote a Kenning poem about different aspects of school. This included; children, classroom, teachers, Larwood and the playground.

Larwood

Awesome boarders
Point earners
Activity pickers
Bossy teachers
Kind manners
News watchers
House winners
Creative learners
Whole class



Q: What do you call a chicken staring at a lettuce?
A: Chicken sees a salad!

Q: What object is king of the classroom?
A: The ruler!

Q: How does the barber cut the moon's hair?
A: E-clipse it!

Q: What vegetables do librarians like?
A: Quiet peas

Shrove Tuesday

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday at school with an assembly led by Miss Clulow. In the assembly, Miss Clulow and Mrs Hayes had their traditional live cook off! It was close but Miss Clulow won! After the assembly explaining the meaning and history of Shrove Tuesday and encouraging the children to think about what they could give up for Lent we had the Pancake races. Gold - Trent, Silver - Trafford, Bronze - Headingly and last but not least - Lords! Well done everyone!





SKIING WITH MR OSOBU



In skiing, the children learnt the basic skills needed to be a successful skier. They (along with us adults) learnt how to walk sideways up the slope, lean forward and keep our hands on our knees to make sure that we were stable. Once we were brave enough to go down the hill we needed to keep our feet in a V shape. All of the group did fantastically well and persevered even though they might have been nervous at the start. Chenai in particular gets special praise for persevering. She said 'I'm not going to give up!' That's the Larwood way! Well done Larwood Slopers! Mr V

Mrs Hayes' Class



In class this term we are learning about The Rainforest. We have made salt dough maps of continents where rainforests can be found and painted them, indicating where the forests can be found using green paint.

We have used the internet to search for the flags of countries where rainforests can be found and painted them. In science we have been learning about Living Things and their habitats. We have used Mrs Nerg to help us remember the seven life processes of animals. In literacy, we have been looking at books by the same author. We read the story, 'Millie's Marvellous Hat' and made hats of our own. We then wrote about our hats.

OFSTED JUDGEMENT



GOOD

A school providing effective services which exceed minimum requirements. Children and young people are protected and cared for and have their welfare safeguarded and promoted.



OUTSTANDING

A school where the experiences and progress of children and young people consistently exceeds the standard of good and results in sustained progress and achievement. The outcomes achieved by children and young people are outstanding and the impact the boarding/residential provision has had in supporting this progress and achieving these outcomes is clearly evidenced.





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 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

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



Larwood School

PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

HIRE OUR FACILITIES

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A FAMILY FRIENDLY PARTY SPACE ?

DO YOU RUN A LOCAL CLUB — SPORT, KEEP FIT, DANCE — NEED A REASONABLE PRICED SPACE TO RUN YOUR BUSINESS ?

HIRE OUR MAIN HALL !

- REASONABLE RATES
- EASY ACCESS
- ALL HIRING FEES GO DIRECTLY TO SCHOOL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT FOR OUR PUPILS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL SANDRA FITZPATRICK SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER ON
01438 236333



I hired this space for my sons 5th birthday party. Cheapest hall hire I could find, the space was fantastic and clean toilet facilities. My son and his friends had a great time! I will definitely hire this hall again!
Sarah Scott—Stevenage



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SLIMMING WORLD



Join a warm and friendly Slimming World group near you today...

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we look forward to seeing you there! x

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- ♥ Half price membership – save £5 (pay £9.95 on week one)
- ♥ Five or more friends join together, all get your first week free (pay just £5 each on week one)

Standard membership fee is £10 and weekly group fee is £4.95. See website for details.

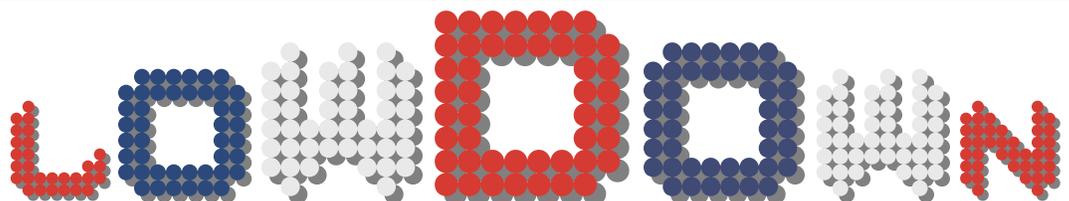
read Kelsey-Beth's story here
slimmingworld.co.uk

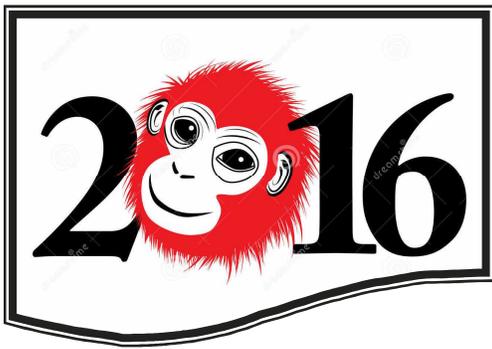
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*More people in the UK choose to attend a Slimming World group each week than any other weight loss group.
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WORK



Miss Trott's Class

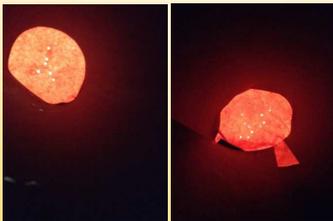


In Miss Trott's class we have been doing different teamwork challenges. We have been learning how working together is better than tackling things on your own. We found our cup challenge the trickiest, but we persevered and were successful stacking our cups using an elastic band pulled by strings.

In skills curriculum we have become mad scientists and have tried fun experiments like the Mentos and diet coke challenge and also made giant bubbles.



MRS WILLIAMS' CLASS



Mrs Williams' class have been studying Earth and Space. We have looked at the moon, stars and the sun. We also looked at star constellations. We looked at our own star signs, their features and what the constellations look like and then we made our own viewers.

2016 to 2017 Term Dates

Autumn Term 2016:

INSET day: Tuesday 30th August
First day of term: Wednesday 31st August
Half Term Break: Monday 17th October to Friday 28th October inc.

Last day of term: Wednesday 21st December at 1:20



Spring Term 2017:

First day of term: Thursday 5th January
Half term break: Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February inc.
End of term: Friday 31st March at 2:20pm

Summer Term 2017:

First day of term: Tuesday 18th April
May Bank holiday: Monday 1st May
Half term break: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June inc.
End of term : Thursday 20th July 1:00pm



MUSIC WITH MR SIMLER



These chaps prove that year six and year three can play nicely with each other especially where music is concerned. Both boys totally engrossed in their song writing, well done!





Larwood Residential Care

OUTSTANDING

Ofsted Outstanding! Yes, that's what we are!

Mr Trimble (Head Teacher) and Mr Reid (Head of Care) were not only very pleased but also proud to receive the recent Ofsted report for residential care. The report had confirmed our own self evaluation that we were now outstanding in all areas of residential care. Mr Trimble has thanked all staff for their work in this area but particularly praised the Care Team for their hard work and commitment, to provide the very best possible experience for all of our residential pupils. It was also noted that pupil voice and parent comments featured strongly in the inspection process and report itself.

A few quotes from the inspection:

Children make exceptional progress in all areas of academic and emotional development from their starting point in this school.

All children are proud of their accommodation, they are keen to share it with visitors and unanimously talk positively about their experiences. One child said: 'I want to stay here forever and ever. It is fun being here, I do not think they could do anything better.'

Staff respect individual identities, behaviours and characters; they use positive reinforcement and celebration of difference to allow children's individual personalities to shine.

The head teacher, head of care and staff form a very strong and stable staff team. They strive to deliver the highest quality care and focus development of the provision on promoting purposeful achievement for all children. The joined up school and residential management and staff teams provide effective and attuned leadership and care across the provision.

The Head teacher invests in the residential provision. He uses continuous monitoring to inform future planning and expand on positive experiences for children. Children are encouraged to access the independent visitors and all children know how to do this.

Trusting relationships develop between all children and the stable care staff team. These are characterised by consistency, understanding, and warmth. These dependable relationships provide a stable base from which all children achieve. Peer relationships are strong and staff support children to understand each other's differences. Where children have trouble in their friendships, staff allow each child time to explore their feelings and the impact of their behaviours on each other.

Creative approaches to behaviour management complement more traditional responses. Staff effectively safeguard children and carefully balance safety in a non-oppressive way to ensure that children enjoy a variety of life experiences when they begin boarding. This includes purposeful and fun activities in the community. Through these activities, children make a valid contribution to other's lives, their social skills develop along with positive feelings of self-worth. An example of this is visits to a neighbouring home for older people where children read books to the residents.

A parent said: 'My son has a fantastic opportunity here. He enjoys doing his homework and he is making really good progress. He is calmer. He is not confused, he likes the boarding routine. He likes boarding a lot and he is learning about how to look after himself. He is doing things he would not have done before.'

Achieve, Believe, Expect and Enjoy



The End!



H O U S E R U N S

TRENT	LORDS	TRAFFORD	HEADINGLY
1744	1601	1676	1511
1ST	3RD	2ND	4TH

WELL DONE TO HOUSE:
TRENT

Back to School:

Monday 22nd February 2016

