10th July 2015

Headteacher’s Comment

Last year, I have to say, I might not have explained “celebration evening” as well as I might of. The reason I say that is simply because the turnout was relatively low compared to other events we have held. So this year I am going to fully explain it, in the hope (and expectation) you will attend.

On Tuesday evening, the school will be open at 5:00pm until 7:00pm for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and anyone else that is connected to the school to visit and partake in the following:

- Discuss their child’s report with their current teacher (no time slots needed)
- Look at their child’s books and work they have completed over the year
- Browse the displays in your child’s classroom
- Visit your child’s next classroom and speak to their teacher (and get to know them)
- Walk in and out of all classrooms around the school, taking in all our achievements
- Peruse the displays located across the school
- Speak to me about anything and everything (as per normal)
- The opportunity to give vital “school improvement” feedback to our governing body

Additionally, Pabulum, our caterers who provide our excellent school meals, will be offering food tasting from our school menu. Refreshments will also be served.

Please treat this as a “parent consultation” evening, which we have excellent turnout for, but with bells and whistles on. All teachers will be in attendance and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Your participation in this event shows your commitment to your child’s current and continuous education.

Sunflower Growing Competition

I can officially say, I am out of the running for the staff trophy. With only a few days to go, my sunflower, although healthy, is lacking the height needed to win. That said, I know of other sunflowers, not just staff but from lots of children, that are doing a lot better.

Please do not forget the deadline of Tuesday 14th July (this coming Tuesday) and we need photographic evidence of the height. Either send a photo in with your child or send it electronically, by email, to the office please (office@larchwood.essex.sch.uk). I look forward to seeing all of them!

Stranger Danger

Without wanting to send anyone into a panic, there has been a couple of local incidents this week where children have been approached by strangers whilst on their way to school. Both incidents have been passed over to the police but I am just going to take this opportunity to make our parents aware.

Linked to this, some of our older children, who walk to school on their own, have been arriving for school before 8:30am. Although I applaud their keenness, if they arrive on the school grounds before 8:30am, they are not to leave the site and start walking (or cycling) around the local streets. I stopped two children doing exactly that this week.

Parents who allow their children to walk to school on their own, it is your responsibility to ensure your children know they are to walk or cycle, straight to school and on arrival, wait on the school grounds until the bell goes.

We all want the children of Larchwood to be safe and in light of the two incidents this week, a reminder to your children would be much appreciated. Thank you for your support and understanding.
Building Work
Next week sees the start of the revamping of the Reception building. This means our youngest children will be going on an adventure from Monday. The scene has already been set and the children know where they will be and truth be told, they are very excited! Please bring your children in through the same gate in the morning and head for the hall doors. You will be met their by a member of the Reception team.

As for everyone else, hoardings will be erected in the Key Stage 1 playground on Monday. Could you please ensure your children keep well away from them.

Larchwood Primary School’s expansion has begun. Exciting times ahead 😊

School Results
Year 6 received their SATs results back earlier this week and I have to say, they were excellent. A full rundown of these, and others from around the school, will be published next week in a letter to parents.

After school clubs
All clubs, including football club, finish this week. Can I thank our staff for running them this year, your commitment to these ensures our children received opportunities and experiences outside the curriculum.

LPPA
The PA Ladies would like to say a big thank you to the following people for all their help with the Summer Fete:

Mr and Mrs Kang, Mr Bailey, Mrs Griffiths, Miss Storey, Mr McDiarmid, Miss Wooller, Mr and Mrs Scott, Mrs Kebbell, Mrs Skingsley, Mrs Hayden, Mollie Hayden, Mr and Mrs Rockey, Mrs Jaycock, Mrs Wild-Smith, Mrs Wright, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Powis, Miss Strickland, Miss Andrews, Miss Bell, Mr Musgrave, Mrs Jarvis and Mrs Dansey. Mrs Staples for selling raffle tickets and last but by no means least, Mr Doug for all your help and hard work!

Not forgetting everybody who attended the event and helped make it such a huge success.

Reading at Home
The table below shows results from Monday 6th July – Friday 10th July 2015 (percentages are rounded)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Times read at home during the week – number of children and percentages (rounded)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>4 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Last week we had 27 children read less than 3 times or more a week, this week we have 25
- Most of these are from Reception (15 children), which I have to say, is disappointing
- Well done to Years 1 – 6, your figures are the best we have had since I have monitored this
- I am hoping that all children will read at least three times next week. Let’s set a new record!
D-I-S-C-O
On Thursday we have the end of year discos!

- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – 4:00pm to 5:00pm
- Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 – 5:30pm to 7:00pm
  Year 6 extension – 7:00pm to 7:30pm

The cost is £3:00 and includes food and drink; no money is required. There are no tickets and it’s pay on the door, as per normal. The DJ is Micky B and the children, I have no doubt, will thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Weekly Attendance – week commencing 6th July 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>98.3%</td>
<td>95.4%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>96.5%</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weekly
1st – Year 5  2nd – Reception  3rd – Year 4

Whole Academic Year – week commencing 3rd September 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>94.9%</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
<td>97.0%</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Whole Year
1st – Year 4  2nd – Year 2  3rd – Year 1 & 6

Outside School Achievements
Lucy in Year 4 gained her British Gymnastics Level 7 Award at the weekend. Well done Lucy! 😊

Stars of the Week
Reception – George  Year 4 – Paige
Year 1 – Poppy  Year 5 – Shannon & James
Year 2 – Levi  Year 6 – Luke
Year 3 – Lara