2nd May 2014

Headteacher’s Comment
It’s that time of year again!! How tall can you grow a sunflower starting from a seed? The competition last year was a huge success and this will be an annual event going forward.

Your child would have brought a sunflower seed home with them today. It has already been planted in a plastic cup but this is only to “start it off”. Please feel free to replant it elsewhere, in a bigger pot, in your garden or even in an allotment (if you have one).

The aim is very simple, to nurture and look after your sunflower and see how tall you can grow it? You plenty of time to do this, the end date is Friday 4th July 2014. If for some reason your seed has not started to grow within two weeks (by Friday 16th May), please let your child’s class teacher know and they will send home another one for you to try again.

There will be year group winners, who will each receive a lovely sunflower trophy. There will also be an overall winner, who will not only get the aforementioned trophy but an even bigger one as well. Their name will also be engraved on our “Larchwood Sunflower Growing Annual Competition” plaque (which stays in school). Currently there is only one name on it, Jack in Year 3, last year’s winner. He will be the one to beat this year. Watch out Jack you have 187 children after your title!

Proof, in the form of a photo will be needed to prove the final height but I would also like to see photos sent to us via Twitter throughout the competition as well. If you have not yet signed up, this could be a good time. It’s really simple to do and there are no costs involved. You will not have to print the photos out at the end of the competition, simply email the school office with them attached and we will print these. They will make a great display as well.

School staff will be fully involved and we have also bought a trophy to award to the winning staff member as well. Miss Spenceley and Miss Fraser are the early favourites but Mrs Lackford has green fingers!

So it’s all to play for! Let the competition begin!!

Headteacher Homework
The children that said they wanted to complete my homework have all got a sheet in their bag. It has not got to be in until Tuesday 13th May and I am looking forward to seeing what jobs and professions our children say they would like to do when they are older. All completed homework will be looked at by myself and I will be sharing some of these with our community. I also intend for them to be displayed in and around the school, including my office.

Twitter Update
We are up to 194 followers, which is fantastic. We also broke the 500 tweets barrier this week. What does this all mean? Well it allows us to continually communicate with our parents and give them daily updates in regards to Larchwood Life.

The Mayor of Brentwood started following us this week and I tweeted that we would love to show her around our school. Within hour the Mayor’s office had called and she has booked in for a tour on Monday 19th May at 10:00. Excellent!

Such is the power of Twitter it allows us to do things such as this, so after reading the News and Views, please sign up, it takes two minutes, and follow us. Maybe we’ll get to our 200 followers target very soon.

Thank you 😊
Year 6 SATS
Preparation is nearly complete and we are confident our Year 6 are ready for their upcoming tests. They start on Monday 12th May and last all week. It goes without saying how important they are so please ensure your child attends every day in order for them to sit all their tests. We will be making sure our children are as relaxed as possible; we can only ask they do their best. They have been working extremely hard and deserve credit for this. This also includes Miss Collins and Mrs Bean. Go for it Year 6!

Academy Update
As you know we should have converted to an academy with St. Martins on May 1st but due to a delay in some of the paperwork, the date has been put back slightly. As schools only convert to academies on the first working day of each month, our conversion is due to go through on Monday 2nd June 2014.

Ofsted Update
We were hoping to share the final report with parents today but it is not yet back from Ofsted’s internal quality assurance process. As soon as it is a copy will be sent home with every child.

Social Media
Can I just remind parents in regards to posting on social media formats such as Facebook. Even when your profile is restricted there will still be people that can read it and as such we can and do get told of any inappropriate comments which may have been posted. We have not had the same issues that I know other schools have faced in regards to social media and I am keen to keep it that way. All I am going to say on the matter is can we be mindful of our comments please.

Outside School Achievements
A group of our girls have attended a dance show and have written this report: “On Saturday 26th April Leni, Kara, Charlotte, Jessica, Samantha, Erin and Kennedy took part in a dance show. We all did these dances: Bye Bye Baby, When I Grow Up and Hand Jive. The second half of the show was based on “Grease”. We really enjoyed it!”

Leni in Year 3 also wants to tell us she started the 3rd Brentwood Brownies at St Georges this week.

Amilee in Year 1 swims at the Brentwood Centre and has achieved her Star 1 badge and has moved up to the next group.

Matthew in Year 2 passed his first dance exam with 98 out of 100 with honours and Katie his sister in Year 6 passed social dance 2 scoring 97 out of 100 also with honours. Matthew also achieved his stance badge at karate.

Congratulations to all our children!

Weekly Attendance
1st – Year 4 – 98.5% 
2nd – Year 6 – 98.4% 
3rd – Year 1 – 96.6% 
Whole school attendance – 95.0%

Stars of the Week
Reception – Sara 
Year 1 – Frankie 
Year 2 – Oona 
Year 3 – Samantha 
Year 4 – George 
Year 5 – Megan & Charlie 
Year 6 – Harry