



# NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



## Headteacher Comment:

Easter seems like a long time ago now even though we have only been back at school for a week, but I hope you all had a good break – it felt quite a long one.

I spoke previously about how the longer days with the warmer and sunnier weather (hopefully) can improve the way we feel. However, there are other things we can do to feel good. As you will remember, at the end of every week classes share three things that have been good for them as this means we end the week with a boost to our mental health. Having a positive mindset makes such a difference and although it is something we are doing to teach the children how to improve their mindset, it also works for us adults.

So, I shared with staff on Monday three things that I am looking forward to this term and thought it worth sharing with you all too.

Firstly, we have lots trips booked. Every class has one and the dates are all below. Letters with details of each trip will come out nearer the time. These trips build on the learning children do in class and are often a highlight of the year.

Secondly, having looked at lots of children's books, watched lots of learning and had feedback from other schools, I am really pleased at how our enquiry curriculum is being taught. Just this week I have seen excellent examples across the school. It is something we have worked hard on and this term we will see even more exciting learning taking place.

Finally, Tuesday was National Offer Day for children starting school in September. Once again Larchwood was greatly oversubscribed and it means we are a school of choice which is one of our aims. As most of you will know, I now start calling our new (and existing) parents who have a child starting at the school in September. It is always a pleasure to speak to them and find out about the children who will be starting school in a few months and I am looking forward to meeting them.

Three highlights from across this week include the enquiry lessons I mentioned above which I saw on Tuesday. The great Don Rae workshop that Year 5 had on Thursday was fab and finally seeing how our allotment / garden area is shaping up after lots of hard work from Miss Barrett and Miss Kimber over Easter and the plans they are drawing up with Mrs Morgan. Great stuff!

### Parking

In less positive news, I continue to have contact with Councillor Aspinell, from Brentwood Council, regarding the ongoing situation with the parking at drop off and pick up. Essex County Council seem to have changed their mind about Larchwood Gardens being a 'school street' and we are now just one of the possible roads that are being considered. To say we are disappointed that this has changed is an understatement. In the meantime, Councillor Aspinell has managed to get additional parking patrols from the enforcement officers to visit the school.

It would be a lot simpler and a lot safer if the few parents who park illegally park elsewhere.



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## Happy News

Right, back to the good news. Many of you will already know this, but if you don't then I'm sure you will be pleased to know that Mrs Chalkley who teaches in Year 4 and who is also one of our SENDCOs is expecting a baby. Miss Morris, who teaches RM in Reception is also expecting a baby. Both teachers will be here for the remainder of the academic year before they go off to start their families. The Larchwood family continues to grow!

## Word of the Week

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Aid	Research	Annual	Retain	Complex	Paragraph	Crucial



## Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Mrs Barrett and Miss Kimber for showing the value of responsibility and making the allotment / garden ready for summer.



## Stars of the Week

RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B
Tommy	Ilham	Jacob	Freddy-Mac	Kian	Charlie	Freya
3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R
Anesa	Jake	Abigail	Henry	Leila-May	Bella	Courtney-Rose



## Reading at Home

Well done to the classes that started the term off well and had 100% reading. Reception and Year 1 we need to see an improvement from some of you.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RM	6 (21%)	5 (17%)	18 (62%)	23 (79%)
RT	8 (28%)	3 (11%)	17 (61%)	20 (72%)
1A	6 (21%)	10 (36%)	12 (43%)	22 (79%)
1P	4 (14%)	8 (29%)	16 (57%)	24 (86%)
2C	2 (7%)	9 (30%)	19 (63%)	28 (93%)
2G	4 (14%)	3 (11%)	20 (75%)	23 (86%)
3B	4 (13%)	3 (10%)	23 (77%)	26 (87%)
3C	2 (7%)	6 (20%)	22 (73%)	28 (93%)
4LC	0 (0%)	4 (15%)	23 (85%)	27 (100%)
4T	2 (8%)	9 (33%)	16 (59%)	25 (92%)
5L	2 (8%)	6 (22%)	17 (70%)	25 (92%)
5P	0 (0%)	5 (17%)	24 (93%)	29 (100%)
6C	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	26 (93%)	28 (100%)
6R	0 (0%)	4 (14%)	24 (86%)	28 (100%)
Total				89%



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## Diary Dates

Below are some of the important dates coming up this term:

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Local election in Year 6 wing – school still open for all.
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 4 Trip – Duxford IWM
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Trip – Colchester Zoo
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception, Year 1 and 2 sports day (am)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 – 6 sports day (am)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 Trip – Colchester Museum
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Trip – Barleylands
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	LPPA Big Barbeque and Bounce (after school)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2 Trip – Thorndon Country Park
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Residential Trip – Mersea Outdoors
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception Trip – Boydells Dairy Farm
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Celebration Evening
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term



## Weekly Attendance

Not a bad start to the term. Fingers crossed for a healthy one.

### Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Class	RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B	Whole school
Attendance	94.7%	98.1%	94%	95.7%	98.7%	96.3%	99.3%	
Class	3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R	96%
Attendance	97.3%	92.7%	93.8%	90%	98.6%	100%	94.1%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
6C	3B	2C



## Yearly Attendance

### Yearly Attendance – from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Class	RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B	Whole school
Attendance	95.7%	92.8%	95.3%	95.7%	96.3%	95.4%	96.1%	
Class	3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R	95.3%
Attendance	95.9%	95.1%	94.5%	95%	95.9%	96.7%	93.5%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
6C	2C	3B



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