



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

We are very proud of our curriculum here at Larchwood and the way in which we fulfil our aims. We have always said that we want our children to reach their potential while also enjoying their primary school years, and this week I have seen plenty of evidence of both happening in our classrooms.

Ultimately, our aim is for children to leave Larchwood with the following:

- a rich vocabulary that enables them to communicate successfully;
- a love of reading that leaves them with a thirst for general knowledge;
- a high level of mathematical reasoning and the ability to problem solve and be creative;
- a wealth of experiences to develop cultural capital;
- an understanding of the world around them that they are fully equipped to compete in;
- a lifelong enthusiasm for learning that enables them to reach their potential.

The above was demonstrated perfectly on Tuesday when I walked into Year 4 to see them all holding balloons during their maths lesson. It quickly became apparent that the balloons were not simply there for fun, but were being used to help the children understand rounding and, in particular, when to round up. It was great to see such a practical and memorable approach being used to develop their mathematical understanding. Sometimes the best learning experiences are those that children remember long after the lesson has finished.

Yesterday was National Poetry Day and Mrs Johnson, our English subject leader, shared a poem she had written about our school and its values. (I think she had some help!) This was shared across the classes and it clearly makes reference to our six school values, which we reference every day. See if your children can remember it.

If you would like to know more about what your child's class are learning this term, please look at our Curriculum Year Group Overviews on our website [here](#).

Finally, just a couple of reminders. The LPPA will be holding its **AGM on Wednesday 7 October at 6pm in the school hall**. If you would like to join the Parents' Association, they are always looking for more volunteers, so please come along. There will be tea, coffee and cake!

Next week Reception will be hosting two parent workshops with their children. RE parents will be able to come in on Wednesday 7 October at 14.30 and RA parents will be able to come in on Thursday 8 October at 14.30.

Last but not least, if you, or someone you know, has a child due to start school in September 2027 and would like to see Larchwood in action, please contact the school office to book a tour.



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Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Tyler in 2P for demonstrating all the school values, but particularly friendship and respect.



Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2IM	2P	3LC
Renata	Shayla	Eva	Noah	Callie	Mason	Bella
3T	4C	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Cristiano	Elijah	Theo	Carley	Arihan	Freya	George



Reading at Home

Well done to all 4 and 5 times reader. We need to see a improvement from a few classes next week please.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 28 September to Friday 2 October			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	5 (17%)	4 (13%)	21 (70%)	25 (84%)
RE	6 (22%)	5 (19%)	16 (59%)	21 (78%)
1B	8 (29%)	5 (18%)	14 (53%)	22 (81%)
1G	3 (11%)	4 (15%)	20 (74%)	24 (89%)
2IM	1 (3%)	6 (21%)	24 (76%)	38 (97%)
2P	2 (7%)	7 (25%)	19 (68%)	26 (93%)
3LC	5 (17%)	2 (7%)	19 (68%)	21 (75%)
3T	2 (6%)	8 (27%)	20 (67%)	28 (94%)
4C	4 (14%)	5 (19%)	18 (67%)	23 (86%)
4J	2 (8%)	8 (32%)	15 (60%)	23 (92%)
5L	0 (0%)	7 (23%)	24 (49%)	31 (100%)
5P	4 (11%)	9 (29%)	18 (60%)	27 (89%)
6R	0 (0%)	6 (21%)	22 (79%)	28 (100%)
6H	1 (3%)	5 (17%)	24 (80%)	29 (97%)
Total				89.4%



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Diary Dates

Wednesday 7 October	RE parent and child nursery rhyme workshop 14.30
Thursday 8 October	RA parent and child nursery rhyme workshop 14.30
Monday 12 October	Reception Don Rae dance workshop
Tuesday 13 October	Individual school photographs
Wednesday 14 October	Parent consultations 15.30 – 18.00
Thursday 15 October	Parent consultations 16.30 – 19.00
Friday 16 October	Break up for half term
Monday 2 November	Return to school
Wednesday 4 November	Year 3 Scooter Workshop
Thursday 5 November	Reception Workshop – Prime Areas of Learning
Friday 13 November	Children in Need
Friday 4 December	LPPA Christmas Market



Weekly Attendance

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 28 September 2026

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2IM	2P	3LC	Whole school
Attendance	98.6%	93.0%	92.7%	94.2%	97.3%	96.0%	87.4%	
Class	3T	4C	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	
Attendance	97.6%	92.7%	93.0%	95.9%	97.0%	90.9%	96.0%	94.4%

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
RA	3T	2IM



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 2 September 2026

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2IM	2P	3LC	Whole school
Attendance	97.3%	95.7%	95.1%	94.4%	95.7%	97.1%	91.8%	
Class	3T	4C	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	
Attendance	98.4%	94.6%	94.3%	94.2%	94.5%	96.0%	96.5%	95.3%

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
3T	RA	2P



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family: discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example, bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at B CyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices

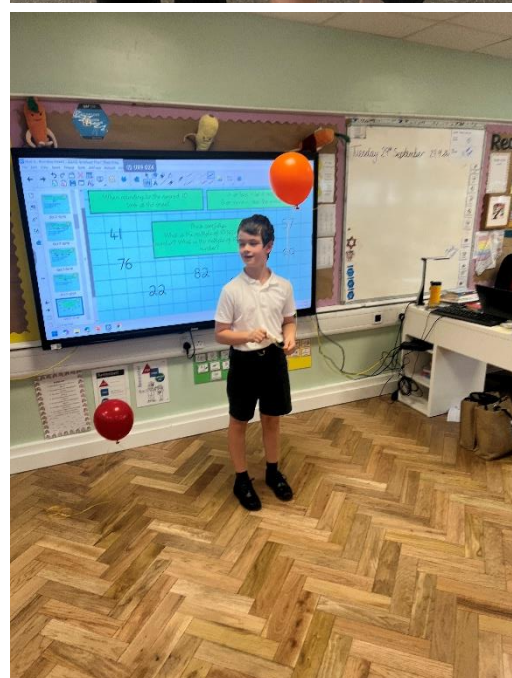
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