



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

You will have seen on the news over the last couple of weeks a number of items about children, smartphones and social media. Last year we welcomed 'Smartphone Free Childhood' into school to talk with parents about the benefits of delaying giving children access to smartphones, and it is clear that this message is now being recognised more widely. The government has recently announced plans to introduce a ban on smartphones in schools. At Larchwood, smartphones are not permitted in school. A small number of Year 6 children who walk to school may bring one for safety reasons, but these must be switched off before entering the school gates and handed in immediately on arrival.

In addition, the government is proposing legislation to further restrict children's access to social media. We are all aware of the potential risks, including exposure to inappropriate content and unkind behaviour online. As a school, we are committed to teaching children how to use technology responsibly and safely. This is most effective when reinforced at home, so we strongly encourage all parents and carers to have regular conversations with their children about their online activity and to remain aware of how they are using devices.

Away from technology, it has been a real pleasure to welcome our Reception parents into school this week on two occasions. We had over 50 parents and carers attend our 'Come Dine With Me' event on Tuesday, followed by another 40 at Wednesday's sharing afternoon. Both events were a great success, and it was wonderful to see families engaging in water play, climbing, construction, colouring, crafting and gardening. I particularly enjoyed the many cups of "coffee" made for me in the mud kitchen—complete with extra worms!

Another highlight this week has been reviewing the writing produced by some of our Year 4 and 5 children. The progress they are making is very encouraging, and it clearly reflects the impact of high-quality teaching and thoughtful feedback.

Finally, a reminder that Monday is a bank holiday, so school will be closed. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday. On Thursday, the Year 6 end of the school will be closed and used as a polling station for the local elections with Year 6 relocating to another part of the school for the day. Access for voters will be via the car park, and the school will continue to operate safely as normal.

Naming Clothing

We have had a week of gloriously sunny weather this week and this has meant children taking off jumpers and cardigans. Although many of you have put your child's name in their clothing, we have started to acquire a large pile of jumpers and cardigans at lost property. Please spend a couple of minutes this weekend making sure all jumpers are named. If your child has lost one, feel free to come round to lost property.



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Summer Weather

As it continues to warm up, please send your children into school with hats to wear outside at break and lunchtime. As well as this, children should be wearing sunscreen.

Sunscreen should be applied before school and should ideally be one of the long lasting (8 hour+) types. This will then last for the whole school day and is what most of our children have.

If your child has particularly fair skin and need to have sunscreen applied later in the day they will be allowed a roll-on sunscreen in their bag if they can apply this themselves. Children will be allowed to reapply this at the start of lunchtime. If they are unable to reapply this, then an adult can come to the school office at lunchtime to reapply it – preferably at the start of lunchtime (12.30)



Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Mileta in 1B for demonstrating the value of friendship.



Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM
Emily	Noah	Bonnie	Nakai	Malik	Ilham	Michael
3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Kirill	Alba	Oliver	Bobby-Gray	George	Victoria	Joshua



Reading at Home

Well done to all the classes this week, especially 2C who all managed to read!

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 27 April to Friday 1 May			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	5 (18%)	8 (30%)	14 (52%)	22 (82%)
RE	5 (19%)	2 (8%)	19 (73%)	21 (81%)
1B	3 (10%)	4 (14%)	22 (76%)	26 (90%)
1G	6 (22%)	5 (18%)	17 (60%)	22 (78%)
2C	0 (0%)	8 (28%)	21 (72%)	29 (100%)
2P	1 (4%)	8 (32%)	16 (64%)	24 (96%)
3LM	2 (6%)	7 (24%)	20 (70%)	27 (94%)
3T	5 (18%)	3 (10%)	21 (72%)	24 (82%)
4CH	1 (3%)	10 (33%)	19 (64%)	29 (97%)
4J	1 (3%)	3 (10%)	27 (87%)	30 (97%)
5L	0 (0%)	5 (17%)	24 (83%)	29 (100%)
5P	1 (3%)	6 (21%)	22 (76%)	28 (97%)
6R	0 (0%)	6 (20%)	23 (80%)	29 (100%)
6H	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	26 (93%)	28 (100%)
Total				92.4%



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Diary Dates

Monday 4 May	Bank holiday Monday – school closed
Tuesday 5 May	Year 2 ‘come dine with me’
Wednesday 6 May	Year 2 trip to Thorndon Park
Thursday 7 May	Local elections – school still open
Monday 11 May	Start of Year 6 SATs week
Tuesday 19 May	Year 6 rearranged ‘come dine with me’
Friday 22 May	Break up for half term
Thursday 4 June	Year 5 trip to Colchester Zoo
Tuesday 9 June	Year 5 visit to St Martins to watch High School Musical
Monday 15 June	Reception, Year 1 and 2 sports day
Wednesday 17 June	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 sports day
Thursday 25 June	Year 1 Call of the Wild Trip
Friday 26 June	LPPA BBQ and bounce
Monday 29 June	Year 6 residential to Mersea Island



Weekly Attendance

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 27 April 2026

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	95.7%	95.3%	97.6%	95.6%	96.3%	92.6%	97.3%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	96.2%
Attendance	96.3%	95.5%	98.4%	97.0%	94.7%	98.6%	95.5%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
6H	4J	1B



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 1 September 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	93.6%	93.0%	96.5%	96.7%	97.4%	94.2%	96.5%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.9%
Attendance	96.3%	95.5%	96.5%	96.2%	96.3%	95.4%	97.4%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
2C & 6R	1G	1B & 3LM & 4J



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