



# NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement &amp; Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



## Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

Despite the rather wet weather this week, school has been busy and full of positive energy, with lots of great learning taking place across all year groups. It has been great to see the children engaged in their lessons and continuing to show enthusiasm and curiosity, whatever the weather outside.

Our clubs also started this week, and it was fantastic to see so many children taking part and trying something new. A massive thank you goes to all the staff who give up their time to run these clubs – they are hugely valued and make a real difference to school life. Unfortunately, the persistent rain has meant that some lunchtime and after-school sports clubs have had to be cancelled for safety reasons. Fingers crossed that the rest of the term brings drier conditions.

You may have seen a recent news article regarding screen time for under 5s, particularly children under 2. The report highlights that many children under 5 are on devices lots with many under 2s on devices every day. Schools are increasingly seeing children start school with reduced language skills, as children and adults alike spend more time looking at screens rather than talking, playing and interacting. The first three years are crucial to a child's language development, but so is their entire childhood. My advice to all parents from the minute your child is born would be to spend as much time as possible playing, talking and interacting with your children, and to keep off devices.

As a school, we have been promoting Smartphone Free Childhood, and it is encouraging to see a good number of parents sign up to support this. More details can be found [here](#).

A really good alternative to screen time is to immerse yourself in a book. Don't forget that any child taking part in the [Essex Library Winter Reading Challenge](#) will receive a Headteacher's Award.

### Keyrings on School Bags

While children may personalise their bags, our cloakroom areas are very small. If your child would like a keyring, please ensure it is limited to one small item to avoid loss or damage. Thank you.

Now for the highlight of the week – our new headteacher (for the day) Mr Melendez has been in charge all day and has been doing some great things as well as causing a bit of mischief. His comment is below along with some photographs on the last page.



## Mr Melendez's Headteacher Comment:

My day has been really good today and all the classes have been really well behaved and doing lots of learning.

It started when I went and did gate duty with Mr Bowsher this morning. It was really nice that everyone said good morning to me.

I then went and said good morning to each class and gave them biscuits and extra break (10 minutes). I was really popular. I also gave the teachers a present for all their hard work.

After break I had to do some jobs in the office and make a phone call as well as sign some certificates. I then met with two of the school governors.

In the third lesson I went and taught some Spanish with my friends in different classes. I come from Guatemala and we speak Spanish there. There are 27 different languages spoken by children in the school

After lunch, when my class chose the Funky Friday Music, all of 5L played tennis against Mr Looney and Mr Bowsher. The class got their revenge on Mr Looney several times today!

Finally, I did the celebration assembly with Mr Bowsher to give out all the awards and told the school that on Monday children can wear shoes of their choice for the day!



## Mr Bowsher's and Mr Melendez's Superstar Award

Revin in 5L for demonstrating the value of friendship and helping new pupils settle into the school.



## Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM
Sophie	Georgina	Charlie	Ralph	Sophia	Ocean	Tommy-Lei
3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Sebastain	Millie	Max	Leno	Iyla-Mai	Frankie	Jake



## Reading at Home

Well done to all the 4 and 5 x readers this week.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from <b>Monday 12 January to Friday 16 January</b>			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	4 (16%)	6 (24%)	15 (60%)	21 (84%)
RE	0 (0%)	7 (28%)	18 (72%)	25 (100%)
1B	2 (8%)	8 (28%)	18 (64%)	26 (92%)
1G	2 (7%)	4 (13%)	24 (80%)	28 (93%)
2C	4 (13%)	2 (7%)	23 (80%)	25 (87%)
2P	3 (12%)	1 (4%)	21 (84%)	22 (88%)
3LM	5 (17%)	5 (17%)	20 (67%)	25 (84%)
3T	4 (14%)	10 (36%)	14 (50%)	24 (86%)
4CH	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	30 (100%)	30 (100%)
4J	1 (3%)	6 (19%)	25 (78%)	31 (97%)
5L	2 (6%)	8 (28%)	19 (66%)	27 (94%)
5P	1 (3%)	6 (20%)	23 (77%)	29 (97%)
6R	2 (7%)	3 (11%)	23 (82%)	26 (93%)
6H	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	27 (93%)	29 (100%)
Total				92.5%





# Diary Dates

Monday 19 January	Girls Football Match vs Shenfield St Marys (home)
Tuesday 20 January	Ten Pin Bowling Event
Thursday 22 January	Attendance tea party
Friday 23 January	Digital Leaders trip to BETT exhibition
Tuesday 27 January	Tag Rugby tournament
Thursday 29 January	Year 1 Great Fire of London Workshop
Friday 6 February	Don Rae Chinese New Year - Year 1 and 2
Wednesday 11 February	Year 6 trip to St Martins to watch 'We Will Rock You'
Wednesday 11 February	Parent Consultations 15.30 – 18.00
Thursday 12 February	Parent Consultations 16.30 – 19.00
Friday 13 February	Break up for half term
Tuesday 24 February	Choir to the O2 for Young Voices
Tuesday 3 March	Year 1 'come-dine with me'
Friday 6 March	Larchwood World Book Day
Friday 6 March	Parent reading drop in morning
Friday 27 March	Break up for Easter



# Weekly Attendance

## Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 12 January 2026

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	90.7%	92.1%	95.7%	98.3%	95.7%	91.0%	99.3%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.0%
Attendance	95.6%	94.1%	97.5%	95.0%	99.3%	91.7%	95.3%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
5P & 3LM	1G	4J



# Yearly Attendance

## Yearly Attendance – from 1 September 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	93.6%	92.5%	97.1%	96.5%	97.9%	94.5%	96.3%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.6%
Attendance	96.8%	95.1%	96.2%	96.5%	96.5%	93.0%	96.6%	

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



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**Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff**

Larchwood Primary School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



[www.larchwoodprimary.co.uk](http://www.larchwoodprimary.co.uk)



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