



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

Welcome back to the summer term! I hope everyone had a good two-week break and enjoyed the warm weather, which we hope is here to stay. The lighter mornings and sunnier afternoons always makes a difference, and it has been great to see the children returning refreshed and ready to learn. The school also looks really good with the completion of our pupil toilet refurbishments.

This time of year holds a special memory for me, as I started working at Larchwood at Easter 2016, so have now been here for 10 years. The time has flown by. Back then, we were quite a different school; for example, we were one-form entry apart from Reception. However, even then the school was well on its way to becoming the great place it is today. Our mission statement is to be a school of choice for the local community and, without a doubt, that is exactly what we have become. Yesterday was Primary Offer Day for Reception 2026 and, once again, we are full, having received around 150 applications for just 60 places. This is a fantastic endorsement of the school, and we look forward to welcoming all our new and returning families over the coming months.

At the end of last term, we had a number of events that are well worth celebrating. Firstly, our football team played in the Langhelt Cup Final at Brentwood School on the Friday we broke up. Having never before progressed beyond the quarter finals, this was a fantastic achievement. Sadly, it wasn't to be on the day, and we lost 3-0 to a very talented Brentwood team. However, the performance of each of the 10 boys was something we should be incredibly proud of. Their teamwork, perseverance and determination were a real credit to themselves and all those connected to them.

On the last day of term, we also celebrated attendance. There were nearly 200 children whose names went into the raffle for the Attendance Tea Party, all having achieved 98% attendance or above (nearly 100 of them had 100% attendance). As the spring term is often the most challenging due to coughs and colds, it was particularly pleasing to see so many children meeting this high standard. Thank you to you all for your continued support in ensuring children attend school regularly.

This week has already been another busy one in classes, with new books being explored, exciting topics introduced and lots of learning taking place. I have spent a considerable amount of time visiting classrooms and, in just one afternoon, even I learned something new in history, science, RE and computing—where our new 3D printer was used for the very first time. I have also been meeting with all teachers to discuss how every pupil is progressing and how we can best support them moving forward. It is clear that our staff are deeply committed to ensuring children both succeed and enjoy their time at school.

There have been plenty of additional activities taking place too. Year 4 enjoyed working with the brilliant Don Rae in a World War II-themed dance workshop, our boys and girls cricket squads began their training sessions, and up in Reception they had a fantastic visit from Mr Singh learning all about Sikhism. Yesterday our boys' second football team took part in a mini tournament against fellow Trust schools, Kelvedon Hatch and Hogarth and after 4 very close games we came second having drawn 2, won 1 and lost 1. It was fantastic to take part in something with our fellow Trust schools.



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Looking ahead, next week promises even more excitement. Year 4 have a World War II themed day on Monday. On Tuesday our girls will take part in a netball rally. Year 5 will enjoy their “come-dine-with-me” event (now that the ovens are back in action), and we will host the Attendance Tea Party on Thursday.

Most excitingly of all, Mr Horne—usually learning in Year 1—will take on the role of headteacher for the day on Thursday as part of his Bowsher Bar Golden Ticket prize. He has lots of exciting things planned including getting me playing football against his whole class!

Please keep up with the reading, spellings and TTRS at home and we look forward to a successful term.



Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Alba in 4CH for demonstrating the value of responsibility.



Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM
Roman	David	Harry	Lola	Cristano	Lukas	Jacob
3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Patrick	Jack.S	Lyla	Leighton	Jude	Eleanor	Lewis



Reading at Home

Well done to 2P, 3T, 5P and our overall winners 6R where everyone read 4 times.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 13 April to Friday 17 April			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	7 (4%)	4 (15%)	16 (59%)	20 (74%)
RE	3 (11%)	5 (19%)	19 (70%)	24 (89%)
1B	3 (10%)	3 (10%)	23 (90%)	26 (90%)
1G	1 (3%)	9 (31%)	19 (66%)	28 (97%)
2C	2 (6%)	7 (23%)	21 (71%)	28 (94%)
2P	0 (0%)	3 (11%)	22 (88%)	25 (100%)
3LM	2 (6%)	17 (57%)	25 (83%)	28 (94%)
3T	0 (0%)	17 (57%)	13 (43%)	30 (100%)
4CH	4 (12%)	8 (25%)	20 (63%)	28 (88%)
4J	1 (3%)	3 (10%)	26 (87%)	29 (97%)
5L	2 (6%)	8 (27%)	20 (67%)	28 (94%)
5P	0 (0%)	8 (30%)	19 (70%)	27 (100%)
6R	0 (0%)	3 (10%)	26 (90%)	29 (100%)
6H	1 (3%)	1 (4%)	26 (93%)	27 (97%)
Total				93.9%



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Diary Dates

Monday 20 April	Year 4 World War II day
Tuesday 21 April	Year 5 'come dine with me'
Tuesday 21 April	Girls netball rally
Thursday 23 April	Mr Horne Headteacher for the Day
Thursday 23 April	Attendance Tea Party
Tuesday 28 April	Reception 'come dine with me'
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



Weekly Attendance

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 13 April 2026

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	92.8%	96.4%	97.3%	96.6%	97.6%	94.0%	99.3%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	96.4%
Attendance	98.0%	99.3%	94.0%	95.6%	94.8%	94.1%	99.3%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
3LM & 4CH & 6R	3T	2C



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 1 September 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	93.5%	92.8%	96.6%	96.7%	97.4%	94.3%	96.3%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.9%
Attendance	96.3%	95.4%	96.3%	96.2%	96.5%	95.1%	97.4%	

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



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