



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

It is hard to believe that we are already at the half-term break. The past seven weeks have absolutely flown by, and what a successful half term it has been! There have been so many highlights across the school.

First and foremost, our new children have settled into school life brilliantly. Whether it's those joining us in Reception or new pupils in other year groups, they have quickly become part of the Larchwood community. The progress that our Reception children have already made has been wonderful to see.

Sport has also been a real strength this half term. We have seen a record number of children taking part in sporting activities both in and out of school. Cross country, football and archery have been great events. We are incredibly proud that two of our pupils have been selected to represent the district at the South Essex finals in March. This week, our girls' football team entered a new tournament that we have not participated in before. The team's effort and teamwork have been excellent, and it was lovely to see them come away with their first win of the season. Their determination and improvement each week is something to be celebrated.

Another real highlight has been the quality of learning taking place across the school. The senior leadership team has spent time visiting classrooms and observing lessons, and it has been inspiring to see calm, engaged, and enthusiastic children working so hard. On Wednesday, Mrs Jaycock and I met with a panel of pupils in my office to discuss their experience of writing in school. They were very positive and insightful. Photographs of the panels are on the back page.

This half term concluded with two very successful parent consultation evenings. It was fantastic to see so many of you attending and engaging in conversations about your child's progress and learning journey. These meetings are a vital part of strengthening our home-school partnership, and we greatly value your continued support.

As we move into the two-week half-term break, I know many of you – pupils, staff, and parents alike – will appreciate the opportunity to rest and recharge. If you're looking for things to do during the break, Mrs Morgan, our Year 3 teacher and outdoor learning lead, has this suggestion:

The October holiday is a wonderful time to get outside and enjoy the beauty of autumn. A recent BBC article highlighted that spending just 20 minutes outdoors can have huge health benefits for adults, children, and even babies (you can read more [here](#)). For some local fun, Thorndon Park is running a free Spooky Trail this half term, along with lots of woodland activities – perfect for a family day out ([find out more here](#)).

Our Welly Boot Club have been embracing autumn too, making crowns and mobiles from colourful leaves and enjoying a scavenger hunt in the woods. If you have any other great ideas for autumn crafts or outdoor adventures, the Welly Boot Club would love to see your photos!



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Finally, a reminder that we are active on X (@LarchwoodPS) and Instagram (@larchwoodps). If you don't already follow us, please do – we love sharing what's happening in school and seeing what our pupils get up to during weekends and holidays.

Wishing everyone a restful, fun-filled two week half term!

Reception Tours for September 2026

If you have a child who will be starting school in 2026, or know someone who does, please do book a place on one of our weekly tours. You can do this easily by calling or emailing the school office.

Secondary School Places 2025

A reminder for our Year 6 parents that applications for secondary school places need to be made by Friday 31 October. This is done online [here](#).



Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Oliver in 5L for responsibility and for being excellent at talking about his writing.



Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM
Emily	Kayhan	Freddie.Fr	Callie	Elise	Freddie	Lois
3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Bella	Olivia	Grace	Jamie	George	Tolunay	Temulin



Reading at Home

Well done to all the classes with 100% reading and to 5P who had the most reading 5 times. Please keep reading over half term.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 6 October to Friday 10 October			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	5 (18%)	3 (11%)	19 (71%)	22 (82%)
RE	4 (16%)	8 (32%)	13 (52%)	21 (84%)
1B	2 (6%)	8 (28%)	19 (66%)	27 (94%)
1G	1 (3%)	8 (28%)	20 (69%)	28 (97%)
2C	5 (18%)	3 (10%)	20 (72%)	23 (82%)
2P	3 (12%)	6 (24%)	16 (64%)	22 (88%)
3LM	1 (4%)	4 (14%)	23 (82%)	27 (96%)
3T	3 (10%)	7 (24%)	19 (66%)	26 (90%)
4CH	0 (0%)	9 (30%)	21 (70%)	30 (100%)
4J	0 (0%)	6 (20%)	24 (80%)	30 (100%)
5L	2 (7%)	3 (10%)	25 (83%)	28 (93%)
5P	0 (0%)	4 (13%)	26 (87%)	30 (100%)
6R	0 (0%)	7 (25%)	21 (75%)	28 (100%)
6H	0 (0%)	5 (19%)	22 (81%)	27 (100%)
Total				93.2%



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Diary Dates

Monday 3 November	Return to school
Wednesday 5 November	Year 3 Scooter Workshop
Tuesday 11 November	Flu jabs
Wednesday 12 November	Coding Day
Friday 14 November	Children in Need
Friday 21 November	Parents coming in for reading morning
Tuesday 2 December	LPPA Christmas wreath making
Tuesday 2 December	Tag rugby tournament
Friday 5 December	LPPA Christmas market
Tuesday 9 December	Reception Nativity (pm)
Wednesday 10 December	Reception Nativity (pm)
Thursday 11 December	Year 1 Sing-a-long
Wednesday 17 December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day / Discos
Friday 19 December	Break up
Monday 5 January	Staff training day / non-pupil day
Tuesday 6 January	Pupils return to school



Weekly Attendance

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 6 October 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	94.6%	87.8%	96.7%	97.7%	97.2%	95.3%	96.0%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.4%
Attendance	97.1%	92.2%	94.1%	97.0%	100%	94.8%	95.3%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
5P	1G	2C



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 1 September 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	96.3%	93.5%	96.8%	96.1%	98.1%	96.1%	95.7%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	96.2%
Attendance	97.7%	95.3%	96.6%	98.3%	96.1%	93.1%	97.2%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
5L	2C	3T



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