



# NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



## Headteacher Comment:

Getting better at things is what school is all about. When children start their journey at Larchwood they can't read or write and their maths skills are basic. By the time they leave at the end of Year 6 they are fluent in all subjects and have developed into well rounded individuals ready for secondary school. This doesn't happen by chance though. Our teachers and support staff are highly skilled in what they do. And just like the children they are always working to be even better at their job.

Each week teachers meet to take part in training on a Tuesday evening where we develop our skills collectively and work to improve what we teach and how. All schools do this and it has an impact on what happens in the classroom. This week for example, we had a focus on music. Miss Charlesworth expertly took staff through a range of strategies we could use for teaching music composition and it was really clear how our music curriculum progresses from Reception to Year 6. Last week Miss Beard did some work on a new reading intervention we are using to improve reading fluency (how children read as well as the speed). We then see the impact in the classroom.

Over the last couple of weeks members of the senior leadership team have been observing lessons in the school. What is really clear from this is how good the learning that the children are receiving is and how the work we do impacts the children. Listening to some Year 6 children discussing Shakespeare's Macbeth and then writing powerful descriptions about the characters this week was proof of that.

As a school we don't just work on our own. We are part of a multi academy trust which now has three primary schools in it – Larchwood, Hogarth and Kelvedon Hatch. This gives us the opportunity to work closely with other schools and this week the headteachers of both schools visited Larchwood. As well as touring the school, we discussed opportunities to work together to develop teaching and learning but also to provide additional opportunities. Trust events will be happening in the future such as sporting fixtures and academic competitions, as well as the annual sunflower competition.

As I said at the start, school is all about developing and getting better at things and for all of us, pupils and staff, that is what we work hard to do each day.

### Naming Clothing

If you haven't already done so please, please, please make sure that all items of clothing are named. Each week we have a number of Larchwood jumpers and other items in lost property with no name on. Similarly, with the cold weather we are having at the moment we are finding children may leave their coats in the dinner hall and then they struggle to be reunited with them because they are not named or they have been picked up by the wrong person who has the same coat.



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## PE Kits

Whilst talking about clothing, please ensure your child has their winter PE kit with them. This means they need to have a black tracksuit and black sweatshirt so that they can continue to do PE out on the playground on the days it is a bit chilly. If it is too cold they will be doing PE in the hall, but will still need the tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt. The PE kit at this time of year is quite bulky, so also ensure they have a big enough bag for the PE kit to live in.

## Word of the Week

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Similar	Cycle	Flexible	Criteria	Clarify	Coherent	Acquire



## Mr Bowsher's and Superstar Award

Hamdaan in 1P demonstrating the value of responsibility.



## Stars of the Week

RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B
Taylor	Katie	Fearne	Bella	Jack	Dylan	Harper
3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R
Lily	Alla	Benjamin	Elsie	Ava	Alexandra	Lara



## Reading at Home

Well done 3C, winners this week. Well done to the 92% who read at least 4 times.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2024			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RM	4 (15%)	7 (26%)	16 (59%)	85%
RT	9 (33%)	8 (30%)	10 (37%)	67%
1A	2 (7%)	9 (30%)	19 (63%)	93%
1P	3 (10%)	6 (21%)	20 (69%)	90%
2C	1 (4%)	9 (32%)	18 (64%)	96%
2G	2 (8%)	9 (32%)	17 (60%)	92%
3B	4 (13%)	6 (21%)	19 (66%)	87%
3C	0 (0%)	4 (13%)	26 (87%)	100%
4LC	1 (3%)	8 (23%)	22 (74%)	97%
4T	1 (4%)	7 (26%)	19 (70%)	96%
5L	4 (14%)	7 (24%)	18 (62%)	86%
5P	1 (3%)	7 (24%)	21 (73%)	97%
6C	1 (3%)	2 (7%)	25 (90%)	97%
6R	0 (0%)	2 (8%)	23 (92%)	100%
Total				92%



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# Diary Dates

Below are some of the important dates coming up this term:

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Boys football vs St Helens
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 4 Viking Day
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices at the O2
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Early Years Maths workshop (9am)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 Mayan civilisation workshop
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Road safety day for Year 5 and Reception
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Don Rae dance workshop for Year 1 and 2
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	DET Trustee meeting at Larchwood
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations (3:30pm-6:00pm)
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations (5:30pm-8:00pm)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for half term
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Back to school
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Larchwood World Book Day
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Don Rae dance workshop Year 4
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Reports sent home
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter discos
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Break up



# Weekly Attendance

## Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Class	RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B	Whole school
Attendance	94.3%	91.3%	98.3%	97.9%	95.3%	96.3%	93.3%	
Class	3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R	95.2%
Attendance	99.7%	97.3%	90.7%	96.7%	97%	94.5%	90%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
3C	1A	1P



# Yearly Attendance

## Yearly Attendance – from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Class	RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B	Whole school
Attendance	96.9%	94.5%	95.7%	95.3%	96.5%	96.2%	95.8%	
Class	3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R	95.6%
Attendance	96.3%	95.5%	94%	95.2%	95.5%	96.9%	93.9%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
RM & 6C	2C	3C



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