



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

This week in school I have had the pleasure of seeing many classes immersed in their Design Technology projects. Year 5 have been busy in the cooking room preparing dishes from around the world – I can confirm the spring roll was delicious! Year 4 have been planning a range of sweet and savoury bread recipes, while Year 3 have been designing and now sewing their own hand puppets. We also had BBC Essex Radio in interviewing some children for a festive feature they will use in the coming weeks.

Sport has also been a highlight, with two more football events taking place. Our Year 3 team took part in their first ever tournament, winning two games and losing two – a fantastic effort for their debut with player of the match performances from Joshua and Charlie. Meanwhile, the Year 6 girls' team triumphed in their cup match against Bentley, winning 2–0 on penalties after an entertaining 2–2 draw, with Abigail player of the match.

Next week is set to be equally busy, finishing with our LPPA Christmas Market. This much-loved event is one of their biggest fundraisers and is always affordable, enjoyable, and well supported. As well as the raffle, games and stalls there will be a stall run by the junior governors and one led by some of our Year 6 girls raising money towards developing the bus. Often the busiest stall will be the one selling raffle tickets to be 'Headteacher for the Day' where the winning child gets to be in charge of the school, do my job and most importantly have fun, while I put my feet up! The LPPA are still looking for volunteers to help so if you are available, please email them at larchwoodpa@yahoo.com

Finally, a huge thank you for your generous Children in Need donations; we raised £462.

All about Maths – Mr Looney, Year 5 teacher and maths subject leader

At Larchwood, we want every child to feel confident in maths and to enjoy the challenge it brings. Our aim is to help children understand numbers, solve problems and explain their ideas clearly. We believe that all children, whatever their starting point, can succeed in maths with the right support and teaching.

To help children learn well, we teach maths in small, manageable steps. We follow the White Rose Maths scheme, which is carefully planned so that each new skill builds on what children already know. Children often use objects, pictures and practical resources to help them understand new ideas before moving on to more abstract work. Lessons focus on three key areas:

- Fluency – practising important skills so they become confident and automatic
- Reasoning – talking about their thinking and understanding *why* something works
- Problem solving – applying their skills to new situations

We also work hard to boost engagement and enjoyment, celebrating achievement through times tables certificates and fun competitions such as our 'Battle of the Bands' competition.



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All children learn together as a class, and teachers give extra help or extra challenge where needed. Our aim is simple: for every child to leave Larchwood feeling capable in maths and ready for the next stage of their education.

As we approach the end of term and Christmas, you may be thinking of giving a token gift to your child's teachers and LSA. I must stress that this has never been and never will be expected by any member of Larchwood staff. However, if you or your child/ren would like to say thank you and Happy Christmas in this way, please ensure that you refer to section 10 of the Trust's Gifts and Hospitality Policy which is available [here](#), which details the monetary values that members of staff are allowed to accept from parents / carers.

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. The closing date for applications via the Essex website is 15 January 2026 and can be done [here](#).



Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Charlie in 3LM for demonstrating great teamwork and goalkeeping skills.



Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM
Vaiya	Mikey	Chloe	Teodor	Ava	Ilham	Joshua
3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Frankie	Chloe	Rose	Ian	Spencer	Benjamin	Holly



Reading at Home

7 classes reading 4 times is a record this year. Keep it up. Well done 4CH for 100% reading 5 times.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 24 November to Friday 28 November			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	7 (29%)	6 (25%)	11 (46%)	19 (86%)
RE	0 (0%)	3 (12%)	23 (88%)	26 (100%)
1B	4 (13%)	3 (10%)	23 (77%)	26 (87%)
1G	0 (0%)	6 (2%)	23 (79%)	29 (100%)
2C	3 (11%)	6 (21%)	19 (68%)	25 (89%)
2P	3 (11%)	2 (7%)	2 (7%)	24 (88%)
3LM	0 (0%)	4 (18%)	22 (76%)	26 (94%)
3T	4 (15%)	4 (15%)	19 (70%)	23 (85%)
4CH	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	32 (100%)	32 (100%)
4J	0 (0%)	5 (16%)	26 (84%)	31 (100%)
5L	3 (11%)	5 (18%)	20 (71%)	25 (89%)
5P	0 (0%)	4 (13%)	26 (87%)	30 (100%)
6R	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	27 (93%)	29 (100%)
6H	0 (0%)	7 (24%)	22 (76%)	29 (100%)
Total				93.1%



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Diary Dates

Monday 1 December	Boys football match vs Warley
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)
Wednesday 10 December	LPPA Pop-up shop
Thursday 11 December	LPPA Pop-up shop
Thursday 11 December	Year 1 Sing-a-long
Monday 15 December	Sing-a-long for 2C, 3LM, 4CH, 5L and 6H
Tuesday 16 December	Sing-a-long for 2P, 3T, 4J, 5P and 6R
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 24 November 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	88.5%	98.1%	97.0%	96.0%	97.2%	92.3%	95.7%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	94.4%
Attendance	90.3%	96.9%	98.1%	94.3%	99.3%	88.6%	89.7%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
5P	RE & 4J	2C



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 1 September 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	94.6%	93.1%	97.3%	96.5%	98.1%	95.1%	95.8%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.8%
Attendance	96.7%	95.4%	96.1%	97.3%	96.1%	92.8%	96.4%	

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



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CHRISTMAS
Volunteers Needed

FRIDAY 5TH DEC

We are looking for volunteers for a variety of roles, to help us provide a wonderful Christmas market for the children to enjoy.

We have varying hours that need covering, any time you can spare we would be grateful for.

If this is something you, your partner, nans, granddads, aunties or uncles would like to be a part of, please email larchwoodpa@yahoo.com or get in contact with one of the LPPA team members.



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