



# NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



## Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

It has been another busy week in school, with the start of December bringing plenty of excitement as we head toward Christmas. Rehearsals for all our musical performances are now in full swing, while learning continues across the curriculum. Today is our LPPA Christmas Market, which we know many of you are looking forward to enjoying especially the winner of the Headteacher for a day competition.

Earlier in the week, Year 3 and Year 4 were lucky enough to attend a special concert organised by Essex Music Service, featuring one of their talented children's orchestras. The performance showcased the iconic film music of John Williams, and the children — along with all the adults — were captivated by well-known themes from films such as *E.T.*, *Star Wars*, and *Home Alone*. It was a truly memorable experience for everyone involved.

We are also delighted to welcome the Scholastic Book Fair, which arrived yesterday. All children will have the chance to browse the selection in school, and families invited to purchase books next week. The fair will be open under the covered walkway in the front playground at the end of each day.

Mr Looney and Mrs Johnson have written about maths and English over the last two weeks. This week Mrs Belle talks about the rest of our curriculum, before we talk about the subjects specifically.

### **All about our curriculum – Mrs Belle, Year 1 teacher, curriculum and design technology subject leader**

At Larchwood, we strongly believe that all children, despite backgrounds and starting points in life, deserve access to an education that will provide them with opportunities to succeed in life and this school ethos is demonstrated within our curriculum. We have designed a curriculum that supports our school values; fosters a love of reading and learning; and educates children about the multicultural world that we live in.

Our curriculum is organised in unique way. P.E, Music, Computing, French (from Year 3) and PSHE are taught weekly. All other foundation subjects (art, design technology, science, history and geography) are taught in blocked units of two or three weeks so for those weeks only that subject is taught. Block teaching allows children to focus on one subject area for an extended, uninterrupted period, helping them develop deeper understanding and stronger skills.

Organising learning into clear, purposeful blocks allows teachers to create richer learning experiences that build confidence and curiosity. This approach also supports smoother transitions between activities, reduces the amount of different information they are learning at once and allows children more time to practise, reflect and ask meaningful questions. For families, a block curriculum offers greater clarity about what children are learning each week, making it easier to connect school learning with conversations and activities at home.

To find out more about our curriculum, please head over to our website [here](#) where you can find out



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specifics on each subject in Subject Overviews and year groups via the Year Group Overviews.

### Photo Consent

Just a reminder regarding the letter sent home on 24 November about our switch to Legitimate Interest for digital images. This switch will occur in January and all children will be opted in, meaning we will be able to use their images on newsletters, social media etc. If you would like to opt your child out of this, please contact the school office by 19 December. This change does not apply to Reception children who are already operating under the new system.

### Reception Applications for September 2026

Just a reminder that the closing date for applications for children starting school in September 2026 via the Essex website is 15 January 2026 and can be done [here](#).



### Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Lukas in 3T for demonstrating the value of friendship and working really hard.



### Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM
Sadie	Roman.W	Bobby	Hudson	Taylor	Aubrey	Danielle
3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Henry	Dwayne	Ivan	Marcos	Parker	Harrison	Hannah



### Reading at Home

Well done to all our winning classes this week and to 5P for winning the trophy.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 1 December to Friday 5 December			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	8 (35%)	4 (15%)	13 (50%)	17 (65%)
RE	0 (0%)	7 (27%)	19 (73%)	26 (100%)
1B	4 (13%)	9 (32%)	16 (55%)	25 (87%)
1G	3 (9%)	3 (11%)	23 (80%)	26 (91%)
2C	5 (19%)	1 (4%)	22 (77%)	23 (81%)
2P	3 (11%)	5 (20%)	18 (69%)	23 (89%)
3LM	1 (4%)	4 (13%)	23 (79%)	27 (92%)
3T	3 (10%)	10 (34%)	16 (56%)	26 (90%)
4CH	1 (3%)	8 (25%)	22 (72%)	30 (97%)
4J	0 (0%)	4 (12%)	28 (88%)	32 (100%)
5L	5 (17%)	6 (20%)	19 (63%)	25 (83%)
5P	0 (0%)	3 (11%)	25 (89%)	28 (100%)
6R	0 (0%)	4 (14%)	25 (86%)	29 (100%)
6H	1 (8%)	4 (13%)	23 (79%)	27 (92%)
Total				90.5%



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[@LarchwoodPS](https://twitter.com/LarchwoodPS)



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## Diary Dates

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 1 December 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	91.9%	90.7%	98.7%	94.7%	95.5%	93.3%	98.3%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.1%
Attendance	97.9%	94.4%	94.1%	98.0%	97.3%	92.4%	95.3%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1B	3LM	5L



## Yearly Attendance

### Yearly Attendance – from 1 September 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	94.4%	92.9%	97.4%	96.3%	97.9%	95.0%	96.0%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.7%
Attendance	96.8%	95.3%	95.9%	97.4%	96.2%	92.8%	96.3%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2C	1B & 5L	3T



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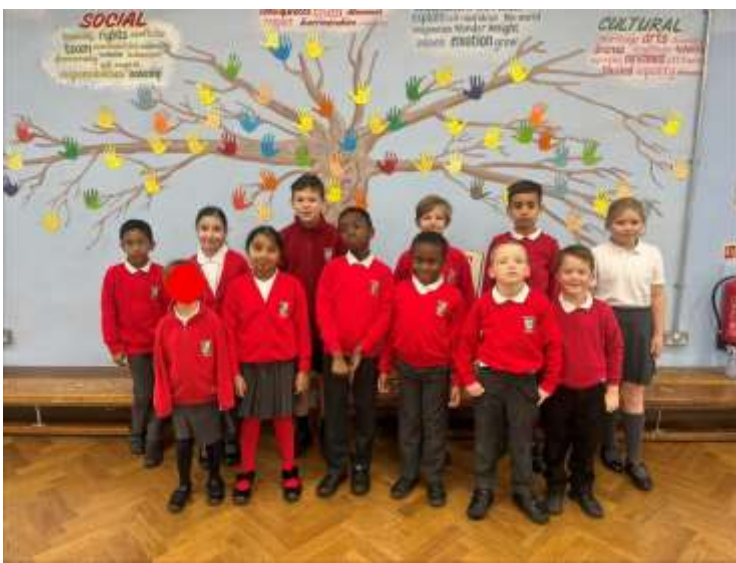


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Above are the elected pupil leaders for 2025 -26. Clockwise from top left are: Junior Governors, Eco Leaders, Digital Leaders and Sports Leaders.

Congratulations to all the elected leaders, your teachers and fellow classmates have clearly chosen great role models. I look forward to working with you throughout the year.