



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

One of the many wonderful things about working at Larchwood is the cultural diversity of our families. While English is the common language spoken by the majority of our community, you may be surprised to know that there are also 27 other languages spoken in our pupils' homes. This is something we are incredibly proud of and something we actively celebrate within school. We know that every child is unique and that our families come from a wide range of backgrounds, traditions and experiences including the British culture.

Being able to speak more than one language fluently is something I greatly admire. Personally, I have passable conversational French and know a small amount of Greek, but I would not describe myself as fluent in another language. The ability to speak multiple languages is a wonderful skill and one that deserves to be celebrated. It adds richness not only to individual lives, but also to our whole school community. Although some of our children may speak different languages, celebrate different customs and come from different parts of the world, there is one very important thing that they all share: they are all part of the Larchwood family and they all enjoy being here.

To celebrate this, on Friday 22nd May we will be holding a Cultural Diversity Day in school. Throughout the day, classes will take part in activities and lessons linked to different cultures from around the world, including British culture. We are also making it a non-uniform day and children are invited to come to school wearing traditional clothing or clothing that represents their culture and identity in whichever way feels meaningful to them.

This week in school has certainly been all about Year 2. On Tuesday, they hosted their "Come dine with me" event, which was attended by nearly 50 parents and carers. It was fantastic to see so many families joining us and enjoying the experience alongside the children. Then, on Wednesday, Year 2 visited Thorndon Park as part of their learning about habitats and minibeasts. Although the weather was a little chilly at times, the children had a brilliant day exploring the outdoors and enhancing their classroom learning through real-life experiences.

Events such as these are an important part of life at Larchwood. Our mission statement speaks about wanting children to enjoy their primary years, and opportunities like these help to make school memorable, exciting and engaging. Alongside the excellent teaching and learning that takes place every day, these wider experiences all contribute to why our attendance continues to remain above the national average.

Next week, our Year 6 pupils will undertake their national SATs assessments. As a year group, they have worked incredibly hard throughout their time at primary school and should feel very proud of everything they have achieved. These tests are taken by Year 6 children across the country, but regardless of the outcomes, we already know how much effort they have put in. We are extremely proud of them all. Have a restful weekend, Year 6, and we look forward to seeing you bright and early on Monday morning.



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Naming Clothing

Just a reminder to please make sure all clothing, particularly jumpers and cardigans are named. We continue to have a large pile of jumpers and cardigans at lost property. Please spend a couple of minutes this weekend making sure all jumpers are named. If your child has lost one, feel free to come round to lost property.



Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Jude in 5P for demonstrating friendship and responsibility as a playleader to our younger children.



Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM
Bonnie	Dominic	Samuel	Om	Brodey	All of 2P	Archie
3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Indie	Isabella	Finley	Gracie	Ava	Albie	Calum



Reading at Home

Well done to the whole of Year 4, 5 and 6 – great reading.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Tuesday 5 April to Friday 8 May			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	9 (33%)	8 (30%)	10 (37%)	18 (67%)
RE	5 (15%)	7 (26%)	15 (56%)	22 (82%)
1B	8 (27%)	10 (35%)	11 (38%)	22 (73%)
1G	6 (20%)	15 (52%)	8 (28%)	23 (80%)
2C	5 (16%)	12 (40%)	13 (44%)	25 (84%)
2P	6 (24%)	15 (56%)	4 (20%)	19 (76%)
3LM	9 (30%)	13 (43%)	8 (27%)	21 (70%)
3T	8 (26%)	9 (30%)	13 (44%)	22 (74%)
4CH	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	31 (100%)	31 (100%)
4J	0 (0%)	15 (48%)	16 (52%)	31 (100%)
5L	0 (0%)	10 (33%)	20 (67%)	30 (100%)
5P	0 (0%)	6 (21%)	23 (79%)	29 (100%)
6R	0 (0%)	10 (34%)	19 (66%)	29 (100%)
6H	0 (0%)	8 (30%)	19 (70%)	27 (100%)
Total				86.1%



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Diary Dates

Monday 11 May	Start of Year 6 SATs week
Tuesday 19 May	Year 6 rearranged 'come dine with me'
Friday 22 May	Cultural Diversity Day
Friday 22 May	Drumming workshops
Friday 22 May	LPPA ice cream sale
Friday 22 May	Break up for half term
Tuesday 2 June	Girls cricket tournament
Thursday 4 June	Year 5 trip to Colchester Zoo
Tuesday 9 June	Year 5 visit to St Martins to watch High School Musical
Tuesday 23 June	Year 3 Roman Day
Monday 15 June	Reception, Year 1 and 2 sports day
Wednesday 17 June	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 sports day
Thursday 25 June	Year 1 Call of the Wild Trip
Friday 26 June	LPPA BBQ and bounce
Monday 29 June	Year 6 residential to Mersea Island



Weekly Attendance

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Tuesday 5 May 2026

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	94.2%	93.7%	94.5%	95.0%	98.3%	91.6%	99.5%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	96.3%
Attendance	97.9%	96.0%	96.8%	97.5%	96.7%	98.2%	98.7%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
3LM	6R	2C



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 1 September 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	93.6%	93.0%	96.5%	96.7%	97.4%	94.1%	96.6%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.9%
Attendance	96.4%	95.5%	96.5%	96.3%	96.3%	95.5%	97.4%	

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



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