



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

This week we have had a number of events for parents. On Wednesday and Thursday we had our Reception parents join us for nursery rhyme workshops in the hall. These were well attended and enjoyed by children and adults alike. The great news is that there is another event on Monday when Don Rae is in running one of his dance workshops for the children.

On Wednesday evening the Larchwood Primary Parents' Association (LPPA) met for their AGM. Last year the amazing events they ran, and you all supported, brought in £24,000 in income which resulted in nearly £9,000 in profit. A brilliant achievement! The new committee was voted in (pictured below). They have a number of exciting events lined up this year starting with a parent coffee afternoon on Thursday 12 November in the hall at 14.30. This is a great opportunity to come and meet other parents and get involved in the LPPA.

For the last couple of weeks, we have been talking to the children about behaviour in the dinner hall to make sure that children show the same high standards of conduct at lunchtime as they do for the rest of our school day.

We have been talking about using knives and forks properly, sitting properly at tables so food doesn't get spilled on the floor and how to queue nicely and ask for water etc.

The children have worked so hard on this and the lunch hall is much more orderly and calm. It would be great if you could continue to practise knife and fork skills at home, especially for our younger children. Well done to the Larchwood team who have rethought the layout of the hall to help us get through more efficiently and to the children who have really risen to the challenge! Last of all thank you to our lunchtime leaders in Year 6 (some of whom are pictured below) who help the dinner hall run smoothly by serving salad, pudding and drinks.

Finally, please keep bringing in harvest donations. Don't forget that Tuesday is school photo day and Wednesday and Thursday are parent consultations so if you haven't booked a slot, please do so [here](#).

Mrs Fossey – Chair of the Local School's Committee writes:

This week the school Governors met to reflect on the achievements and progress within the school last academic year and to look ahead at priorities for this year. We were delighted to see that the overall school attendance figures for last year were above the National Average. We all know how important it is for children to be in school and learning and the improvement in these figures are as a result of the hard work of all the Larchwood staff who make school a fun and welcoming place to be as well as Mr Bowsher who has led the strategy for improving attendance.

The Governors would like to thank all the staff who give up their own time to run clubs and activities which contribute to making Larchwood enjoyable for all, as well as thanking the parents for making sure their children attend every day. Wishing you all an enjoyable half term when it comes!



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Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Lilly in 4C for demonstrating the value of responsibility by always being helpful and for her beautiful and enthusiastic singing in assembly.



Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2IM	2P	3LC
Phoebe	Alfie	Elianna	David	Nixon	Pippa	Vinny-Lee
3T	4C	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Myla	Valentina	Esther	Finley	Dwayne	All of 6H	All of 6R



Reading at Home

Five classes this week had everyone read at least 4 times. Well done everyone.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 5 September to Friday 9 October			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	4 (14%)	3 (11%)	21 (75%)	24 (86%)
RE	4 (16%)	6 (21%)	19 (66%)	25 (87%)
1B	4 (15%)	4 (15%)	18 (70%)	25 (85%)
1G	0 (0%)	6 (23%)	20 (77%)	26 (100%)
2IM	0 (0%)	7 (23%)	23 (77%)	30 (100%)
2P	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	26 (92%)	27 (96%)
3LC	4 (14%)	5 (16%)	21 (70%)	26 (86%)
3T	1 (3%)	8 (28%)	20 (69%)	28 (97%)
4C	7 (22%)	3 (10%)	20 (67%)	23 (87%)
4J	0 (0%)	7 (27%)	19 (73%)	23 (100%)
5L	3 (3%)	8 (25%)	23 (72%)	31 (97%)
5P	2 (3%)	10 (32%)	19 (62%)	29 (94%)
6R	0 (0%)	3 (11%)	25 (89%)	28 (100%)
6H	0 (0%)	9 (30%)	21 (70%)	31 (100%)
Total				93.9%



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Diary Dates

Monday 12 October	Reception Don Rae dance workshop
Tuesday 13 October	Individual school photographs
Wednesday 14 October	Parent consultations 15.30 – 18.00
Thursday 15 October	Parent consultations 16.30 – 19.00
Friday 16 October	Break up for half term
Monday 2 November	Return to school
Wednesday 4 November	Year 3 Scooter Workshop
Thursday 5 November	Reception Workshop – Prime Areas of Learning
Thursday 12 November	LPPA Coffee and Cake drop-in
Friday 13 November	Children in Need
Friday 4 December	LPPA Christmas Market
Wednesday 9 December	Reception Nativity 14.00



Weekly Attendance

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 5 October 2026

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2IM	2P	3LC	Whole school
Attendance	94.0%	96.6%	93.7%	92.0%	98.3%	98.6%	94.1%	
Class	3T	4C	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.7%
Attendance	94.0%	95.5%	96.6%	96.8%	99.6%	98.3%	91.9%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
5P	2P	2IM & 6H



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 2 September 2026

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2IM	2P	3LC	Whole school
Attendance	96.6%	95.9%	94.9%	93.9%	96.1%	97.3%	92.2%	
Class	3T	4C	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.4%
Attendance	97.6%	94.7%	94.7%	94.7%	95.4%	96.4%	95.6%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
3T	2P	RA



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might participate in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at E-CyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

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