



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

As always, there has been a lot of great things going on at Larchwood this week. On Tuesday, Mrs Jaycock led an important assembly on Anti-Bullying Week. The children thought carefully about what bullying means, how it can affect others, and what they can each do to make sure Larchwood remains a kind, respectful and supportive place for everyone.

Wednesday was Coding Day, and every class took part in an exciting online coding lesson. The children learned how coding helps make the technology we use every day work, and how they can create their own simple programs. There will be a follow-up lesson soon so they can build on what they've learned and develop their computing skills even further.

And of course, today is Children in Need Day! Our pupils have come to school in non-uniform, all donating £1 to support this wonderful cause. The school has been full of colour and I've run out of Headteacher stickers there were so many spots! Thank you to all our families for your generosity.

This week we also welcomed 12 visiting trainees from Anglia Ruskin University on Tuesday and Thursday who came to learn more about how our expert staff ensure that we have excellent routines, high standards of behaviour, and teaching that is adapted to meet the needs of all learners. They were hugely impressed by the dedication of our teachers and the positive attitude of our pupils. It's always wonderful when visitors comment on how polite, hard-working and enthusiastic Larchwood children are.

All of these experiences are great reminders of why children love coming to school – and why regular attendance is so important. When children are not in school, they miss out on these valuable opportunities to learn, grow and connect with others.

Last week, I spent some time looking closely at our attendance figures. Our school target is 96%, and as of last week we were meeting that target – well done, everyone! Improving attendance is a key priority for both the Government and for us this year. Last year, our attendance was just above the national average at 95.2%, but we know we can do even better.

So, what does 96% actually mean? It means a pupil should have no more than eight days off in a typical school year. When we put it in those terms, it is still a week and a half which is still significant. In contrast, persistent absence is when attendance drops below 90%, which means missing around 20 days – or four weeks – of school. That's a huge amount of lost learning time.

There are three main reasons why good attendance matters:

1. **Achievement** – children who attend regularly make better progress academically.
2. **Confidence and friendships** – being in school helps children build relationships and feel part of the community.
3. **Future success** – good habits formed now set children up well for later life.



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

Larchwood Primary School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



www.larchwoodprimary.co.uk



@LarchwoodPS



office@larchwood.essex.sch.uk

Finally, on the theme of commitment and attendance over the years, we celebrated the long service of many of our dedicated staff this week. In assembly, I awarded badges to 15 members of staff who have been at Larchwood for at least five years, two for ten years, and three for fifteen years. Even more impressive were the 25-year badges for Mrs Deed and Mrs Cooper. But the biggest applause went to Mrs Payne and Mrs Smith, two of our wonderful midday assistants, who have been part of the Larchwood family for 30 and 34 years respectively. Their loyalty and care for our pupils truly embody the spirit of our school.

What a week it's been – full of learning, kindness and celebration.

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 is 15 January 2026 and can be done [here](#).



Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Freddie Fr in 1B for demonstrating the value of responsibility and being a good role model.



Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM
Charlie.Wh	George	Mollie	Ava	Alexandra	Matthias	Sadie
3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Lukas	Markus	Emily	Nino	Mckenzie	Alexander	Matty



Reading at Home

Well done to our 6 winning classes, especially RE.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 10 November to Friday 14 November			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	5 (20%)	5 (19%)	16 (62%)	21 (81%)
RE	0 (0%)	6 (27%)	16 (73%)	22 (100%)
1B	3 (10%)	3 (10%)	24 (80%)	27 (90%)
1G	3 (10%)	4 (14%)	22 (76%)	26 (90%)
2C	5 (16%)	2 (7%)	22 (77%)	24 (84%)
2P	4 (15%)	4 (15%)	19 (70%)	23 (85%)
3LM	3 (9%)	5 (18%)	21 (73%)	26 (91%)
3T	2 (6%)	7 (25%)	20 (69%)	27 (94%)
4CH	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	32 (100%)	32 (100%)
4J	0 (0%)	6 (19%)	25 (81%)	31 (100%)
5L	0 (0%)	5 (25%)	24 (83%)	29 (100%)
5P	0 (0%)	8 (27%)	22 (73%)	30 (100%)
6R	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	29 (97%)	30 (100%)
6H	2 (7%)	1 (4%)	25 (89%)	26 (93%)
Total				93.4%



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

Larchwood Primary School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



www.larchwoodprimary.co.uk



@LarchwoodPS



office@larchwood.essex.sch.uk



Diary Dates

Friday 14 November	Children in Need
Tuesday 18 November	Year 5 boys football tournament
Friday 21 November	Parents coming in for reading morning
Tuesday 25 November	Year 3 boys football tournament
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
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 10 November 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	95.2%	81.4%	98.3%	98.3%	99.0%	95.3%	97.0%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.7%
Attendance	98.6%	95.9%	94.4%	94.3%	98.0%	96.9%	98.3%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
2C	3T	1G & 1B & 6R



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 1 September 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	96.4%	92.2%	97.1%	96.4%	98.2%	96.0%	95.8%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.9%
Attendance	97.5%	95.0%	96.5%	97.7%	95.4%	93.2%	96.2%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
2C	5L	97.5



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

Larchwood Primary School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



www.larchwoodprimary.co.uk



@LarchwoodPS



office@larchwood.essex.sch.uk



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

Larchwood Primary School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



www.larchwoodprimary.co.uk



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



office@larchwood.essex.sch.uk