



Friday 28th January

NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Headteacher's Comment:

Last week I wrote about our curriculum intent and said I would talk about each of our aims over the coming weeks. The first aim was for children to leave Larchwood with a rich vocabulary that enables them to communicate successfully.

What does this mean, what do we do to make sure it happens and how can you as parents help? The more words a child knows, understands and uses the more successful they will be. By the time children leave Larchwood they will have been exposed to a huge range of words both at home and at school. They read them, use them in their writing and say them in their conversations.

So, what do we do to make sure children have a rich vocabulary to communicate. Right from the start of their time in Reception children are engaging in a curriculum that develops their vocabulary. Their adults model the use of words specifically to increase their vocabulary. We have a speech therapist who we employ a day a week to work with those children on their speaking to get them on track. In lessons across the school we get children to answer in full sentences and model the use of rich vocabulary in every lesson.

Each year group has had a word of the week that they discuss at the start of the week. This wouldn't necessarily be one of their everyday words. For example, this half term Year 4 have the words evolve, clarify, concept, access, contrast and require. It's meaning is discussed and it is used in context to help children understand it.

In all our subjects we have a vocabulary spine with key words we use. For example, in Year 2 they learn about the Stone Age so words they would expect to use include Neolithic, Hunters, Gatherers, archaeologist and scavenging to name a few

At home the biggest single thing you can do to help develop this rich vocabulary is talk to your children. Talk to them about their day (they will tell you they did nothing all day, but don't believe them), talk to them about things that are happening in the world, get them to ask you questions, read with them and talk to them about what you are reading. You know we constantly bang the drum for reading regularly – by doing it lots you are increasing your vocabulary.

All of this means children are able to leave Larchwood with a rich vocabulary that enables them to communicate successfully.

Attendance

We continue to have children having to isolate due to having Covid. This means that they will miss days of school, but hopefully not too many. A number of children and parents are concerned that by having to have 5 days off to isolate it will affect their attendance. The simple answer to this is that it will reduce a child's attendance, but through no fault of anyone's. We



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know which children have had to have time off for this and won't hold it against anyone. What we will do is make sure that attendance remains high outside of any Covid absences.

You will notice below that the attendance figures look different. These appear every week and I'm sure there are some parents who never look at them. If a class has a number of people off with Covid this impacts the overall attendance. So, from this week I will only publish the top 5 classes which is what I share in Friday's celebration assembly.

Parking

Once again, I feel I need to talk about the parking outside school. As Hazelwood Gardens now has roadworks, it means there is less space to park. The simple solution is walk to school or park further and walk. In the last week I have had a phone call from a local resident who was upset that a car repeatedly parks over their drive (I have the number plate), a resident who sent in a picture of a car parked on the grass verge, parents complaining as they have nearly been hit by cars pulling on to the pavement and a parent who had their wing mirror knocked off by a passing car. A minority of our community seem incapable of driving and parking responsibly. If this carries on it is only a matter of time before a wing mirror becomes a child and a car driving on the pavement hits a person. We are working with Essex highways on initiatives to improve the situation and I have asked the Junior Governing Board to discuss initiatives that can help highlight and improve the parking. Ultimately it comes down to a change in behavior from adults. We all know what we should do, we just need to do it.



Diary Dates

Tuesday 1st February – Chinese New Year lunch menu

Wednesday 2nd February – Don Rae working with Year 1 and 2

Tuesday 8th February – Year 6 to St Martin's School to watch '9-5' production

Wednesday 9th February – Parent Consultations 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Thursday 10th February – Parent Consultations 5:30pm – 8:00pm

Friday 11th February – Last day of half term



Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Katie in 6R for demonstrating the value of friendship.



Stars of the Week

RS	RT	1A	1P	2B	2G	3B
Zachary	Lyla	Archie	Mylo	Frankie	Skylar	Archie J
3C	4D	4S	5B	5L	6R	6S
Esme	Isabella	Demiee-Lee	Zainab	Zachary T	Serenity	Evangeline



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Weekly Attendance

Well done 4D, you continue to have excellent attendance.

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 24th January 2022

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Class	4D	6S	5B	1P	2B
Attendance	97.8%	96.9%	95.9%	95.8%	95.4%



Reading at Home

Well done to the 6 classes who read enough. It still needs to improve.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages from Monday 24th January to Friday 28th January (percentages are rounded) Times Read						Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
RS	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	2 (8%)	23 (88%)	25 (96%)
RT	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (12%)	23 (88%)	25 (100%)
1A	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	4 (14%)	24 (83%)	28 (97%)
1P	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	26 (91%)	27 (94%)
2B	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (11%)	25 (89%)	28 (100%)
2G	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	7 (27%)	17 (65%)	24 (92%)
3B	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	4 (16%)	19 (76%)	23 (92%)
3C	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (19%)	22 (81%)	27 (100%)
4D	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	2 (7%)	25 (90%)	27 (97%)
4S	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (10%)	3 (10%)	23 (80%)	26 (96%)
5B	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (10%)	26 (90%)	28 (100%)
5L	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (15%)	22 (85%)	26 (100%)
6R	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (12%)	23 (88%)	26 (100%)
6S	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)	24 (88%)	26 (91%)
Total							96.8%



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