



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Headteacher's Comment:

Last week I wrote in News and Views about how quickly the current Covid situation could change. When I wrote this, I didn't anticipate the events that would unfold in the following days, I don't think anyone could have.

Come Monday morning one of the classes was isolating for the week and plans were put in place to provide every child and adult with a PCR test. Classes were put into bubbles again so that they didn't mix, break times and lunchtimes were organised so they could stay in their bubbles and online live lessons were ready to go for the class at home.

Yet despite all of this, what was happening on a daily basis hadn't changed. Our children were coming to school to learn, they were enjoying what they were doing and continuing to produce great work. Walking around the school each day the feeling was the same – children continuing to enjoy their learning and achieving well.

One of the things that I am most proud of this week is how the whole school community has come together as one. Every single one of you has risen to the challenges asked of you. You have brought your children in to school and with the exception of those isolating we had the massive majority of children in school learning. Each of you has administered a PCR test and returned it to school so that over 400 tests were sent off and the results returned. Staff have continued to work tirelessly to make sure lessons have been prepared and are ready and continued to support children in their learning. The office staff have worked extended hours to answer queries, take calls and respond to emails. The cleaners have put in place enhanced cleaning and the middays have been supporting the bubbles at lunchtime.

The way the community has responded to the requests from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Public Health Essex and the school has been recognised by all of those organisations. I normally present my Superstar Award to an individual who has demonstrated our values so well. I can't do that this week it wouldn't be fair. Therefore, the winner of my Superstar Award this week goes to the whole school community. Thank you.

Covid Control Measures

At the request of Track and Trace, all classes will continue in their class bubbles throughout the day for at least one more week. This means that they sit together in the dinner hall, have their own playtime and lunchtime spaces and don't mix with the other classes. They also stay in their year groups in breakfast club and afterschool club. You will notice staff wearing face coverings inside as well. The enhanced cleaning remains in place. Classrooms will continue to be well

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ventilated, and we have CO2 monitors in each room that Mr Doug checks at lunchtime. I hope that continues to reassure you.

Please could you keep testing yourselves and your children with LFD tests to help pick up any asymptomatic cases.

Dates for your diary

A separate letter is going out to Reception parents regarding the nativity. Sadly, we have cancelled the end of term discos, but Micky B has said that when he's back it will be even better. Below are the events happening in the run up to Christmas. Please note a few additional dates and events.

Friday 10th December – LPPA Pop-Up Shop

Tuesday 14th December 2:30pm – Christmas Sing-a-long (front playground) – 2B, 3B, 4D, 5B, 6R

Wednesday 15th December – Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day, Reports sent home.

Wednesday 15th December 2:30pm – Christmas Sing-a-long (front playground) – 2G, 3C, 4S, 5L, 6S

Thursday 16th December 2:30pm – ** New Event** Year 1 Christmas Sing-a-long (front playground) Details to follow.

Friday 17th December – Last day of term

Mr Duff's Comment

When situations, issues, problems, concerns, whatever you want to call them, arise in life, one of the main things that gives us reassurance is having confidence in the person that is in charge of resolving them. The last week has certainly thrown us all a few curveballs, and I just want to take this opportunity to highlight the leadership of Mr Bowsher.

Last weekend saw him having to put plans in place that most headteachers will not have to deal with in their entire career. He also knew that, come Monday, the national press was likely to be interested in this story; an additional pressure. However, he was in early preparing for the day and week ahead.

He ensured that the school communicated effectively with parents and staff, and made school life as 'normal' as possible for the children. He worked collaboratively with a number of external bodies, digesting the information shared and implementing advice given. He also made time to continue his daily routine, remaining visible and accessible to all.

Spinning plates is all part of a headteacher's role, but this week the amount of plates that needed spinning rapidly increased. I can say with confidence that Mr Bowsher dealt with everything that came his way, all plates continued to spin and none were dropped. Well done!

Lastly, thank you to you all for the support you showed this week. The tin of biscuits, the cards, the emails, the conversations in the playground, plus the bottle of wine Mr Bowsher received, which I have no doubt he will enjoy this weekend. In difficult times, the support of the community goes a long way, and I want to personally say how much it is appreciated. Have a good weekend everyone.



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Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

The whole Larchwood community.



Stars of the Week

RS	RT	1A	1P	2B	2G	3B
Penny	Arnie	Ian	William	Brody	Jack	Henry
3C	4D	4S	5B	5L	6R	6S
Lola	Sage	Ario	Devon	Bradley	The whole class	Beau



Reading at Home

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages from Monday 29th November to Friday 3rd December (percentages are rounded) Times Read						Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
RS	0%	0%	4%	0%	12%	84%	96%
RT	4%	0%	0%	4%	19%	73%	93%
1A	0%	0%	0%	0%	30%	70%	100%
1P	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%	100%
2B	0%	0%	0%	4%	13%	83%	96%
2G	0%	0%	0%	7%	53%	40%	93%
3B	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	85%	100%
3C	0%	0%	0%	5%	18%	77%	95%
4D	0%	0%	0%	4%	23%	73%	96%
4S	0%	0%	0%	0%	12%	88%	100%
5B	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	88%	100%
5L	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	95%	100%
6R	0%	0%	0%	0%	-	-	-
6S	0%	0%	0%	8%	8%	84%	92%
Total							96%



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