



Headteacher's Comment:

Happy New Year to you all. It has been fantastic to see everyone back this week and learning continues in earnest. Already this term Year 3 have been on a local walk as part of their English topic.

I know lots of people try to set New Year's resolutions in January – I'm always saying I want to get fitter – so here are some suggestions for the whole school.

- All children will achieve their potential and enjoy their time at Larchwood (our school motto is of course Achievement and Enjoyment).
- All of our community (children, staff and parents) will continually demonstrate the school values (Friendship, Fairness, Responsibility, Respect, Honesty and Perseverance).
- Every child will read at least 4 times a week so every class gets a certificate for their door.

I shared these with children in assembly this afternoon. I'll let you choose any others, I'm sure we could all come up with ones around parking or being on time, but if we achieve these three then we know we are doing well. These are things that nearly everyone does every day anyway so by continuing to do these Larchwood will continue to thrive.

Covid Update

I am hopeful that as the year goes on Covid will be causing us all less and less disruption to our lives. I have a positive outlook on this despite positive not always being a good word when we are talking about Covid.

You will no doubt have read about the disruption that the high Omicron cases are causing in schools with pupils and staff. We have continued to operate as normal this week and hopefully this will continue for the term, but there is no predicting what will happen. We know children and adults are continuing to catch the virus and this does have an impact on school attendance. Despite this nearly 100 children had 100% attendance last term.

Any children who are off with Covid will have work set for them via Tapestry (Reception) or Teams (Years 1-6) and they are expected to do this if they are well enough.

I sent a letter out before the start of term regarding LFD testing to end isolation after 7 days if your child is off school with Covid. The guidance for this changed at the start of the week. The



difference being that after 2 negative tests on day 6 and day 7, 24 hours apart, children can return to school immediately on day 7, not wait for day 8. Day 1 starts the day after the first positive LFD test or the PCR test or when symptoms started, whichever is earlier. If children are still positive on day 6, then tests can be taken on day 7 and 8 and return to school on day 8 if the tests are negative. If you are unsure, please speak to the office.

Guidance on booking PCR tests is due to change next Tuesday for asymptomatic positive LFD tests. From 11th, anyone testing positive on a LFD test who has no symptoms needs to isolate straight away and doesn't need to get a confirmatory PCR test. Anyone who develops symptoms before doing a LFD test will still need to book a PCR test.

Clubs

Clubs will start up next week. You should have received a text message today letting you know which clubs your child has got into. Once again, thank you to all the staff who are giving up their time to offer these clubs, the majority of which are free to the children.

Admissions

The deadline for applying for a place for a child to start in Reception 2022 is January 15th. If you haven't yet applied for a place or someone you know hasn't make sure you do so via the Essex Admission Website here:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

I know we will be having a number of younger siblings joining us in September.

There are no reading and attendance figures this week as it has not been a full week.

Have a great weekend and remember the resolutions I set. You never know you may see me out on my bike.



Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Stephanie in 6S – for demonstrating the value of respect.



Stars of the Week

RS	RT	1A	1P	2B	2G	3B
Freya	Niam	Sophie	George	James	Mason	Gabriel
3C	4D	4S	5B	5L	6R	6S
Harry.G	Hudson	Chloe	Zainab	Radu	Kieron	Oliver



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Executive Headteacher: 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