



Friday 12th February 2021

NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Headteacher's Comment:

A huge well done to everyone connected with the school for making it successfully to half-term. It has been a half-term like no other and we have had a number of those lately.

So much has changed since Christmas, but so many of these things have had a positive impact. The school's remote learning provision continues to thrive. The work completion levels are really high so well done to all those children who are doing this. The snow this week meant we were unable to open the school site for one day, however by having learning online, the disruption to children's learning was minimal whilst children still got to go outside to enjoy sledging and snowman making.

This week also saw two other new developments. Firstly, our new website went live. The feedback from this has been hugely positive. Thanks must go to Mrs Whitehead, the office manager and Trudy Nash, one of our former governors and now a trustee of the Discovery Educational Trust, for driving its development.

The other new development was using School Cloud for parent's consultations. It is not the same as seeing you in person in the hall, but it worked really well. It was so nice to see parents and children together. When we can have you back in for face-to-face meetings, we will, but this system is very useful for now and I'm sure will be in the future.

Looking forward to next half-term, we don't know what it will entail. At the end of half term the government are due to decide what happens from 8th March. We all sincerely hope that children will return to school, however this will be driven by the science. If virus cases are low enough we will be reopening. Brentwood has one of the lowest number of cases in the East of England so that is a good start. If the government says we can reopen we will be. There will be two more weeks of remote learning after half term at least and then we will see what happens.

To start the half-term off in style we have organised two events. Don Rae who leads dance workshops in school with each year group will be doing individual class workshops via Teams with each class in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 based on Chinese New Year. Chinese New Year is actually today and it is year of the ox for those of you wondering. The children and staff love Don's workshops and I've no doubt what he will be doing remotely will also be fantastic.

I'm sure the older children will be disappointed to miss out on Don this time, but we have arranged another amazing event for them. In association with the Chicken and Frog bookshop we have got a live author visit from Liz Pichon. She is the author and illustrator of the Tom Gates series of books, many of which our children read, and has sold over 8 million copies worldwide. In other words, she is pretty famous!



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Executive Headteacher: Mr R Duff

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Both of these are going to be a great way to start the second half of the spring term and I know staff are looking forward to joining both sessions.

Governor Election

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to vote in the governor election. Both candidates would have been excellent additions to the Local School Committee. I can confirm that the successfully elected candidate is Mercedes Romero-Fernández.

Wellbeing

I have been hugely impressed with the wellbeing activities being done this week. The pictures of den building I have seen have been great. I just hope those children who slept in their dens got a good night's sleep and weren't too excited.

This weekend Miss Rimmer is asking children to do something kind for other people. This could be as simple as making a drink for someone, complimenting them on something or writing a letter to someone.

One of the things I've been trying to do lately is contact friends and family who I may not normally speak to or may only speak to at a set time. Each week during lockdown I have called a couple of children and their families to say well done for the work they are doing on remote learning. I could probably call most of you, but time is limited. What I do know is that by saying something kind the children like it and so do I. That is the thing with kindness, it can mean both the giver and receiver of it feel good. This weekend, if your children do something kind, please tweet us (@LarchwoodPS) as it would be great to see.

Next week Miss Rimmer isn't setting a wellbeing task, but I will. It is to have a well-deserved rest from schooling, whether it is remote learning or in school learning. Everyone, parents, pupils and staff deserve a good rest. We will see you back in school or online on Monday 22nd February. Have a good week.



Stars of the Week

RS	RT	1P	1PR	2B	2G	3A
Isobel Ian	Zachery	Joshua James	Ralphie	Ethan	Vita	Joel Callum
3B	4D	4K	5R	5S	6PA	
Brooke	Brandon Amelia	Brogan	Ruby Oliver	Hugo	Violet	