



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher: Mr S Bowsher



Headteacher's Comment:

Today marks the last day that children will be in school before we break up for Christmas. It has been a long and successful term. The school has been running as normally as possible since September and our children have loved being here and the progress in their learning is evident in all classes.

In terms of the pandemic, I think we were one of the last schools in Brentwood that has had to send a bubble home due to a confirmed case. It is a shame that we didn't make it until Christmas, but the pandemic is unpredictable. The sadness that the children showed when leaving was shared by everybody, staff included, but it also showed how much the children love being at Larchwood. They will be back in January.

We don't yet know how the pandemic will pan out after Christmas, but the vaccine is being rolled out and with community testing taking place in Brentwood since last weekend for Secondary aged children and their families, cases should start to reduce. Sending children home to learn is not ideal, but has to happen. Sometime in January the government are planning to roll out weekly COVID testing to secondary schools (which will not be compulsory) and this will mean cases are identified quickly, but will also mean children won't have to isolate in whole year groups like they do now. This is planned to be rolled out to Primary schools in the future. More good news.

Tomorrow children will be doing some home learning which they will be taking home with them tonight. This can either be brought back into school on January 5th or it can be emailed via the children's Microsoft Teams account.

On Monday 4th January, all work will be set via Microsoft Teams for each class. This will be uploaded by 8:30am on that day, but may well appear there sooner. All of our children have a Teams account and know how to access it. If you know you are going to have a problem accessing the work, please contact the school office tomorrow so that alternative work can be prepared. The work on this day is not optional and our expectation is that children will do it. There is flexibility around when it is done in the day as we fully appreciate that some parents will need to be working and our younger children will need support accessing it.

In an earlier News and Views, I shared some of the positive things that have been happening at school. Out of the adversity of the pandemic has come many, many positives. One of the biggest of these is the support from our community. It is so appreciated. Thank you as well from all the staff for the generous gifts. These are never expected, but greatly appreciated.

Have a great Christmas, stay safe and we will see you all back from 8:30am on Tuesday 5th January.

**DISCOVERY**
EDUCATIONAL TRUST**Executive Headteacher: Mr R Duff**

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

