



News and Views



Headteacher: Mr S Bowsher

www.LarchwoodPrimary.co.uk

Friday 23rd October 2020

Headteacher's Comment

Normally when I write News and Views there are a number of things I say, but today we have a guest contribution from Mr Duff in his Executive Headteacher role. Much of what he says is what I want to say and that is a massive thank you and well done. Without the support of all of our community we would not have been as successful as we have been. Everyone – the teachers, LSAs, office staff, middays, Mr Duncan, Mr Doug, the cleaners, the caterers, you the parents and most importantly, the children have all played their part and have been fantastic - sorry if I have forgotten anyone.

We don't know what will happen after the two-week half term, but I've no doubt Larchwood will continue to thrive.

Have a great half term – keep safe and see you on Monday 9th November at 8:30am.

Mr Duff Calling.....

I could not let this half term come to an end without saying well done to everyone associated with Larchwood Primary School. It is fair to say that the start of this academic year was an unknown quantity to many. The majority of children nationwide had not attended school for months, lots of people were unsure what to expect and school procedures looked different.

But that did not stop Larchwood opening safely and on time. That did not stop Larchwood from ensuring our children were welcomed back in a caring and supportive manner. And that did not stop Larchwood from delivering a quality education from day one. I have said many times before, but our staff are second to none. They are dedicated and committed plus being talented and skilled within their roles. They always want the very best for your children and I cannot speak more highly of our staff. They are just fab!

Being a Senior Leader within a school during these unique and forever changing times is not easy. I'd go as far as to say, it is probably the most difficult time the vast majority would have encountered in their careers. However difficult these times might be though, Mr Bowsher has led Larchwood Primary immaculately during this first half term. Some may say this is because he has had an amazing mentor and coach for the last four years, and I wouldn't disagree with anyone that said that (and I am sure there are plenty) but joking aside, when you are sitting in the Head's chair, it suddenly becomes very real. This has not fazed Mr Bowsher in any way, and he is doing an excellent job. He is, of course, supported by our two fantastic Assistant Headteachers, Mrs Jaycock and Miss Adams, both of which could be future Headteachers if they chose to.

From my observations when visiting Larchwood recently, it is clear the children have come back ready to learn. It has been a pleasure to see them so engrossed in their lessons. They all looked smart and I was welcomed back with big smiles. I must mention our Reception cohort. When I went into their class, I could not believe how settled they were. It is becoming a little clichéd for me to say this, but they were superb. They looked so at home and comfortable in their surroundings. It was a joy to see.

For school procedures to work effectively, especially if they are slightly different to normal, you need the support of parents. Again, from what I have witnessed the 'drop off' and 'pick up' has worked very well. A steady flow of parents following the requests from the school. It was lovely to chat (from a distance) with some of you last week.

We do not know what the future holds in terms of the virus and how it will affect education and your child's schooling; there is no crystal ball. However, what I do know; for a school to be successful and to deal with anything that comes their way, you need all the stakeholders to be pushing in the same direction. That is what we have. Senior leaders, school staff, children and parents all on the same page. When you add in our Governing Board, who I know are supporting in the background, we have the perfect combo.

Thank you to everyone who has made this first half term a success. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Half term is upon us now. Enjoy the two-week break. This is where I add in that Chase High only get one week, so I will be back sooner than some, but I look forward to seeing you on your return.

To think, this time last year, Mr Bowsher, Miss Adams and I were in China visiting our international partner school. A lot has happened since then, but that relationship is still in place, as I speak to China most weeks and I have no doubt that even through these uncertain times, lots of exciting and enjoyable things will be planned and we look forward to the future with optimism.

Look after yourself and each other – Mr Duff

Reading at Home

Table shows outcomes from **Monday 19th October to Friday 23rd October 2020** (percentages are rounded)

Class	Times read at home during the week – number of children and percentages						Percentage 4 and 5 times
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
RS	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (14%)	25 (86%)	100%
RT	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	26 (87%)	94%
1P	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (17%)	23 (83%)	100%
1PR	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (17%)	23 (83%)	100%
2B	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (8%)	8 (26%)	20 (66%)	92%
2G	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	2 (7%)	24 (86%)	93%
3A	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	2 (7%)	25 (86%)	93%
3B	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (10%)	8 (28%)	18 (62%)	90%
4D	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (36%)	18 (64%)	100%
4K	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	27 (96%)	100%
5R	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	1 (4%)	24 (89%)	93%
5S	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	25 (93%)	100%
6PA	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	28 (97%)	100%
Total							97%

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 19th October 2020

Class	RS	RT	1P	1PR	2B	2G	3A	Whole school
Attendance	99.3%	100%	98.9%	94.3%	97.0%	98.0%	94.7%	
								97.1%
Class	3B	4D	4K	5R	5S	6PA		
Attendance	99.3%	95.8%	96.2%	95.2%	96.6%	97.6%		

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
RT	3B and RS	1P

Yearly Attendance – from 4th September 2020

Class	RS	RT	1P	1PR	2B	2G	3A	Whole school
Attendance	98.1%	99.2%	98.5%	96.7%	97.4%	96.5%	97.6%	
								97.4%
Class	3B	4D	4K	5R	5S	6PA		
Attendance	98.2%	96.6%	95.4%	97.1%	97.3%	97.8%		

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
RT	1P	3B

Stars of the Week

RS	RT	1P	1PR	2B	2G	3A
John	Skylar	Mia	Gruffydd	Max	Ashton	Poppy
3B	4D	4K	5R	5S	6PA	
Sage	Harry	Grace	Milo	Rubi	Louise	

Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award	Gabriel in 3B for demonstrating the value of friendship.
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