



# NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



## Headteacher Comment:

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you have all had a really good summer break. It has been fantastic to see the children returning this week, happy and smiling and clearly really pleased to be back and with their friends and teachers.

Over the summer I set the Larchwood Summer Reading Challenge and this week I have been delighted to give out around 150 headteacher awards to children who took part in at least one of the challenges. X (formerly Twitter) has had many tweets showing children taking part and I've had lots of photographs, postcards, certificates and work handed to me. Over 40 children completed all 8 challenges and they will be getting a special award next week. If I have missed anyone out, please get them to let me or their teacher know.

The building work on site accelerated at pace over the summer. We have had a whole new electrical intake cupboard installed and new wiring and lighting in the offices as well. Work is now taking place after school until late and at weekends to replace wiring and lighting in classrooms and corridors. Similarly, the plumbing work for the water and heating distribution continued at pace and classrooms are becoming connected ready for Autumn. We hope both sets of work will be completed by Christmas.

As well as pupils already taking part in lots of learning, staff have also been learning as we had our annual safeguarding training on Thursday where we were joined by staff from Kelvedon Hatch Community Primary School and Hogarth Primary School, both in the Discovery Educational Trust (DET) along with several staff members from DET.

Also, on Thursday we were joined by our first cohort of new Reception children. They have had a brilliant few days and have slipped smoothly into the school routines.

As you will all know News and Views normally contains reading data. Reading is one of the aims of our curriculum. We don't set homework (times tables and Year 6 aside), but we do expect all children to read every day and parents to sign the reading records. The minimum requirement is at least 4 times a week. This is a non-negotiable and all children are expected to do this. Reading numbers will appear next week and I'm hopeful there will be all 12 classes (Reception don't count yet) with 100% reading at least 4 times and all classes getting extra play. Reading twice over the weekend counts as two times, so you are half way there already on Monday morning.

### Staffing Update

This term we have been joined by three new teachers, Mrs Hyde in Year 6 and Miss Markey in Year 3 and Mrs Holder in Year 2 with Mrs Pirie. All are excellent additions to our teaching team and I'm sure you will join me in welcoming them to Larchwood.

We are lucky to have three Assistant Headteachers this year, all of which have been doing the role previously. Mr Looney is responsible for Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6), behaviour and maths; Miss Beard is responsible for lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4), English and disadvantaged, Mrs Belle is



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responsible for Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2), timetabling and curriculum.

In exciting news, the Larchwood family continues to grow. Over the summer, Mrs Chalkley gave birth to baby Cameron, and on Monday Miss Morris gave birth to baby Rose. All are doing really well, if a little sleep deprived. I'm sure you will join me in sending congratulations to both expanded families

### Uniform Reminders

Everyone has looked really smart this week. As seems to be traditional, many children are wearing new shoes and uniform as they have grown so much. Please make sure all uniform is named. We already have a small collection of jumpers in lost property with no names in.

As a reminder, footwear should be black shoes only. Ankle boots or trainers are not allowed. If a pair of shoes looks like a trainer, it is a trainer.

Children are not allowed to wear earrings in school. This includes the clear, plastic sleeper studs.

### General Reminders

Just a reminder that all school dinners need to be booked in by midnight the night before and if your child is packed lunch, they need to bring this into school with them.

Children should bring everything into school with them they need for the day which includes reading books and water bottles. PE kits should already be in school as they need to stay here. They are used on set days, but could also be used on the occasional day that is not normally a PE day.

Don't forget that if you need to book your child into after school club or there are changes to the end of day pick up arrangements then please make sure you call the office by 2pm.

### Tours

Parent tours for children joining in September next year are starting later this month. If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2025 or if you know someone who does, please contact the school office to book a place on one of our tours.

## Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award



Tomiwa in 6R for demonstrating the value of responsibility at the start of the new academic year.



## Stars of the Week

RA	RT	1B	1G	2W	2P	3C
All of RA	All of RT	Millie	Elise	Freddy-Mac	Elijah	Markus
3M	4B	4T	5L	5P	6H	6R
Nelia	Agaran	Kai	Tolunay	Jake	Harley	Reuben



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# Diary Dates

Below are some of the of the important dates coming up this term. A more detailed list of diary dates will be sent out next week.

Monday 16 September	Clubs start this week
Tuesday 16 September	Year 5 Science Dome in school
Thursday 17 October	Don Rae with Reception
Tuesday 22 October	Individual school photographs
Wednesday 23 October	Flu vaccinations
Wednesday 23 October	Parent Consultations 15.30-18.00
Thursday 24 October	Parent Consultations 17.30-20.00
Friday 25 October	Break up for two-week half term
Monday 11 November	Return to school
Friday 13 December	Junior Governing Board trip to Parliament
Wednesday 18 December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 20 December	Break up



# Weekly Attendance

Well done 5L, a great start. The school target this year is 96% which I sure we will have from next week.

## Weekly Attendance – week commencing Tuesday 3 September 2024

Class	RA	RT	1B	1G	2W	2P	3C	Whole school
Attendance	-	-	94.2%	99.2%	98.3%	94.2%	95%	
Class	3M	4B	4T	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.8%
Attendance	96.4%	99.2%	95.8%	99.5%	89.7%	93.7%	94.4%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
5L	1G & 4B	2W



# Yearly Attendance

## Yearly Attendance – from 3 September 2024

Class	RA	RT	1B	1G	2C	2P	3C	Whole school
Attendance	-	-	94.2%	99.2%	98.3%	94.2%	95%	
Class	3M	4B	4T	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.8%
Attendance	96.4%	99.2%	95.8%	99.5%	89.7%	93.7%	94.4%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
5L	1G & 4B	2W



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