

10th March 2017

ISSUE 13



# LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

## So much going on!

This term is proving to be a very exciting and busy one! You'll see from this newsletter some of the recent events that have happened and a host of upcoming ones too. The way our whole school community gets involved in the life of the school is, I believe, one of the many great strengths of the Lowther School Family. Thank you for your tremendous commitment.

### Jury service absence

Whilst I was able to check in at school every day, I really missed seeing the children over the 2 weeks I was on jury service. It's very, very nice to be back! Mr. Bracken and the team did an awesome job leading the school in my absence.

### Footie Success!

Well done to the combined Y4 and Y6 football team that won the recent local schools tournament at St. Paul's recently. After beating local schools in the group stages they went on to beat Colet Court 1-0 in the finals.

Mr. Green also took the combined Y5 and Y6 team to the borough wide tournament, making it as far as the quarters only to lose dramatically on penalties. They finished the tournament with an impressive record of 4 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss (only conceding 1 goal in total) Really super stuff!



### Cross Country Success!

Mr Pritchard took a team of Y5/6 runners to the borough cross country tournament. The daily mile is definitely paying off as the girls came equal 2nd and the boys team came 3rd. Super work runners! The top 6 children from each teams placing is added up to decide on the teams overall position. The results speak for themselves. Brilliant!

Girls:  
Macey-6th  
Aimee-9th  
Ella- 22nd  
Scarlett-24th  
Mia S- 29th  
Lolly- 31

Boys:  
Thomas P- 8th  
Eshan- 9th  
Dajhon- 16th  
Trostan- 17th  
Cameron- 23rd  
Harry A- 31

Team came tied 2nd.  
42 girls in the event

Team came 3rd.  
48 boys in the race



### Parent's evenings

Thank you for your attendance at the recent parent's evenings. I hope you found them a useful and positive opportunity to find out more about how well your child is doing and what else you can do to further support their learning at home. We know, and appreciate, how supportive our parent community is — long may it continue!

### You can feedback to us any time!

Don't forget Parent view is a live document and you can add your views at any time. We currently have 83 responses to this useful tool for the school to get the views of all our parents. Simply visit [parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/](http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/)

### World Book Day

Last Wednesday really was awesome. It never ceases to amaze me and make me smile massively how much the children and staff from Lowther join in with whole school events. Awesome work everyone!



### Playground Plans

We're still working on ideas for how we use the hard-earned PTA funds to make further improvements to our fantastic playground. We'll keep you posted!



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## Upcoming events

A few big dates for your diary this half term. Don't forget the school's online calendar gives you all the details and is updated regularly.

**Community Day** — all day on Friday 17th March

**Y4 Production** — Tuesday 28th March @ 630pm and Wednesday 29th March @ 5pm

**Spring Breakfast** — Friday 31st March @ 930am

**End of term** Friday 31st March @ 315pm  
We look forward to seeing you at these events.

## School Self Review

We will be conducting a whole school review in the coming weeks where we will work with the local authority school improvement team to make some judgments on how well Lowther is doing. We will communicate the findings

## Judging how well the school is doing...

There are lots of different ways we evaluate school performance. We conduct regular lesson observations, learning walks and evaluation of school practice to ensure we have a clear understanding of what the school is doing well and what we could improve further.

Earlier this term we conducted a learning walk focused on Writing. This involved groups of teachers, governors, support staff and school leaders visiting every class room in the school to look at the quality of teaching and learning in Writing. We then produce a full and detailed report of the findings. A summary of the main aspects from the walk are explained below.

The walk using the theme of "Writing" highlighted the following areas for the school:

- That we have momentum in moving writing forward and that we should continue to focus and prioritise writing,
- Pupils enjoyment and pride in their writing was very evident
- We should continue to look at ways to ensure greater consistency and support for each other across the curriculum
- Support strategies for pupils in writing need to be considered and appropriately re-sourced
- Marking is of a very good quality in writing
- Good progress has been made with improving writing across the school
- There has been super commitment and hard work from the team in driving this area of school improvement.
- There was a sense of pride from observers in what is happening across the school.

## Secondary School transfers

We are working closely with the Local Authority to address the issue of local secondary school places. Governors and myself have written to a number of key people in the Local Authority, including the Director of Children's Services.

Some facts and figures from this year's National Offer Day in Richmond. There were 1886 applicants (compared with 1809 last year), and of these 68% received their first preference offer which represents a rise from 67% last year. 86% have received one of their top three preferences and 93% have received one of their preference offers. (This is the same as last year in both cases)

146 (8%) children were not offered a place at a school that parents stated on their application and

115 (6%) have been allocated an alternative school place.

This leaves 31 without an offer at the initial allocation on National Offer Day.

Last year there were 134 (7%) children who weren't offered a preference offer on 1 March and of those, 71 (4%) were allocated a place and 63 (3%) did not have an offer on National Offer Day.

There is more work for us to do to ensure our community has fair and equal access to local secondary school places. I will continue to keep you updated with developments in this important matter for our community.

## A message from parents of children in Richmond and Kingston Schools

Dear Local Parents,

We wanted to update you on our local campaign about the serious funding pressures facing our schools locally and nationally. We must act now before our school leaders are forced to make difficult decisions that will impact our children's education.

## Facebook – stay in touch with what's happening.

We now have a local Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FF4allschools/> where we are sharing information about our campaign and posting resources you may find helpful in understanding these issues.

*Please follow our page, like it, and share it to help us build our local reach. Thank you.*

## Forthcoming parents meeting:

We are pleased to share a date and venue for our forthcoming parents meeting. This will be a chance for you to learn about the issues facing our local primary and secondary schools and to find out what you can do about it.

**Save The Date: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 8pm**

Venue: Burlington Junior School, KT3 (lots of parking near by)

Speakers: We are pleased to confirm Sean Maher, Head Teacher at Richard Challoner School, who has played a key role in campaigning on school funding locally. *(Details of other speakers will be confirmed shortly)*

Please message us through the Facebook page if you can help us promote or run our meeting. We are keen to hear from parents at all schools across the borough.

Many thanks,

Ella, Claire, Britt, Nic, Jim and all the local parents helping

# Lowther's Community Day 2017

Friday March 17<sup>th</sup>



Please bring £1 for Comic Relief and don't forget your crazy hair and silly socks. Bring your scooter/bike too!



The timetable for the day is as follows:-

8.55 am Children register in class as normal

9.10 a.m. Assembly in the school grounds to start our community day (including our whole school warm up)

9.20 - 9.50 Fun Run (and scoot) around the local roads

9.50-10 Children re-register and get ready for activities

10-11 Activities 1 -3

11- 11.10 Morning Break

11.10 - 12.10 FS/KS1 Activities 4- 6

11.10 - 12.30 KS2 Activities 4 - 7

12.10- 1 Lunchtime FS/KS1

12.30 - 1.20 Lunchtime KS2

1 - 1.10 Registration FS/KS1

1.20 - 1.30 Registration FS/KS1

1.10 - 2.10 Activities 7-9 FS/KS1

1.30 - 2.10 Activities 8 and 9 KS2

2.10 - 3.15 Children go back to class as normal

3.15 End of the school day - charity cake sale organised by Y5 children

Do come and join us for some or all of the day. We'd love to see you!