

11th September 2015

LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Year

And it's all systems go! Term has now well and truly started and school is in full swing. The children have come back to school so well. All the teachers and I have seen children that are happy, settled and already working super hard—it really has been a cracking start to term. Seeing the smiling faces of the children looking so smart in their uniform as they came back to school last week was really wonderful. The good news is they've all carried on with the awesomeness every day since! The children at Lowther have a wonderful natural enthusiasm for school which rubs off on us all. It is now our job to make sure we provide your children with the very best learning opportunities and experiences. So we're all ready to strap ourselves in for another year of amazing learning....let's get rolling!



Arrangements for Start/End of the School Day in/ exit out 2015-2016

Main entrance

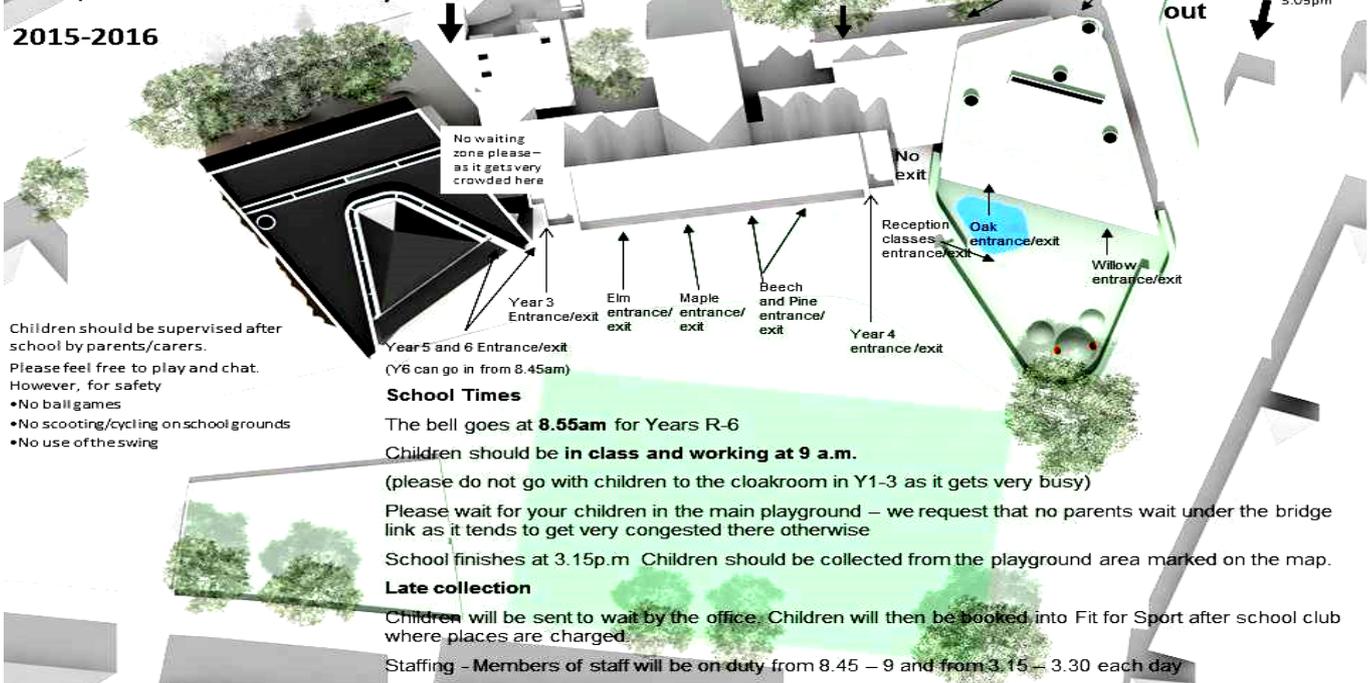
Gates are shut at 9.05am and are opened from 3.05pm

Lobby entrance

Only if you need to see the office team)

Main entrance in/ exit out

Gates are shut at 9.05am and are opened from 3.05pm



Children should be supervised after school by parents/carers.

Please feel free to play and chat.

However, for safety

- No ball games
- No scooting/cycling on school grounds
- No use of the swing

School Times

The bell goes at **8.55am** for Years R-6

Children should be **in class and working at 9 a.m.**

(please do not go with children to the cloakroom in Y1-3 as it gets very busy)

Please wait for your children in the main playground – we request that no parents wait under the bridge link as it tends to get very congested there otherwise

School finishes at 3.15p.m Children should be collected from the playground area marked on the map.

Late collection

Children will be sent to wait by the office. Children will then be booked into Fit for Sport after school club where places are charged.

Staffing - Members of staff will be on duty from 8.45 – 9 and from 3.15 – 3.30 each day

Mr Bracken's First Week at Lowther

Having popped in to Lowther towards the end of the last school year, I spent the summer holidays in a state of excitement at the prospect of joining as the new Deputy Head.

Well, I was blown away by the amazing start that all at Lowther have made to the school year 2015/2016. While the sun was shining brightly, it couldn't compete with the beaming smiles of the Lowther children, whose excitement at being back was clearly evident.

Mr Tuffney's awesome morning assembly set us all up for a super positive start. I marvelled at the levels of engagement and the positivity that radiated from the children (and adults) as we gathered together in the New Hall.

Starting in a new school can be a slightly daunting experience, with so many new faces and names to learn, but seeing the children embrace their new classes with such confidence and delight, inspired me to feel right at home right from my very first day.



Parentmail and Twitter

Parentmail is the easiest and quickest way for you to stay in touch with important events at school. Most families have signed up but if you haven't please do so. You can pick up an application form from the school office.

Twitter is another super way to see pictures and hear all the news from school. You don't need to sign up to Twitter, you can access the feed via the latest news section on the school website

School priorities for 2015-2016

Each year the senior leaders alongside governors review the school year and decide on the priorities for the coming year. We have now done this piece of work—it includes lots of different aspects of school life and really focuses on the key stepping stones to keep driving Lowther forward. We will ensure that this document is published on the school website so that the whole school community can share in supporting the school's continual drive to improve further.

Our number 1 priority this year is focused on classroom practice—the absolute key part of school life **“Further develop and embed a sharp focus on high quality teaching”**

The team here at Lowther are awesome. They are all fully committed to supporting the school's improvement and to developing their own practice. I know it's going to be a great year of wonderful teaching and learning.

An extra special welcome to our Nursery and Reception children and Families

It's always a thrill to see our youngest children start their school adventure. We are delighted to welcome our Nursery and Reception children into BIG school this week. It's always a special time when children begin these landmark years. I'm sure I'll be giving out a lot of gold stickers in the coming week. An extra special welcome to families that are new to Lowther—we hope you love being part of the Lowther School Family as much as we all do.

Two Form Entry Lowther - Officially!

We're now two form entry...across the whole school! Thank you all so much for the way you've supported the school as it has grown and evolved over the last 7 years. It has been a genuine privilege to witness the development of the Lowther School Family, Here's to more great times as a two-form entry primary school!

Some dates for your diary

September

14th - 2.30pm Yrs 3 & 4

Curriculum Forecast

15th 2.30pm KSI Curriculum Forecast

17th - 2.30pm Years 5 and 6 Curriculum Forecast

19th Barnes Food Fair

22nd - Yr 4 Wetlands

24th - 9.30am & 2pm

Open Day for prospective parents.

24th - Yr 5 Farm visit

25th - Yr 1 Natural History Museum

29th - Yr 5 Theatre Exchange workshop

30th - Yr 3 Theatre Exchange workshop

October

1st - Yr 4 Parents Kingswood Meeting 6pm

7th - Yr 2 Elm Museum of London

7th - KS2 Primary Proms at the Royal Albert Hall

12th & 13th - Parents Evenings

13th - Yr 6P Richmond Museum

14th - Yr 6T Richmond Museum

16th - Yr 2 Museum of London

20th - Yr 3 Natural History Museum

22nd 9.30 am Harvest Assembly

26th to 30th Half Term

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Clubs update

As you are now aware we've just issued our initial clubs list, featuring at the last count 29 different clubs and activities for children at Lowther. We are delighted that this is the most clubs we've ever been able to offer.

As you will also know we have made the decision to make a small charge of £3 for the club provision. This is for a number of reasons, including ensuring we can fund new resources, making sure we have the breadth of opportunities for pupils as well as covering any other associated costs. We believe that our clubs are a bargain and judging by the enthusiasm children have for joining them we know families really value them too. We're expecting other new and exciting clubs to become available during the course of the year. Tania will make sure parents and children are kept fully up to speed with all the latest club developments.

We do request that you make the considerable administration of organising clubs as easy as possible by ensuring prompt payment of the correct amount. Most clubs are starting w/c 14th September 2015. It should be awesome!

Additional club news.....

The French club is starting on 15th September and we still have places available. If you are interested in your child joining our French club please email Liliane at info@lescocconelles.co.uk or visit the website www.lescocconelles.co.uk. The lessons are open for children from Reception to year 6 class

Dads and Teachers Football

Calling all dads (and teachers!) Dave Green has put Lowther forward for the men's mini league of local schools to play some football matches against each other. The first match is against Mary Magdalen's parents and teachers on Friday 18th September. If you're interested in playing then or in the future let Dave know. Lots of the teachers have expressed an interest including myself, Mr Bracken, Mr Pritchard, Mr Agarwal, Mr Nelson, Mr Daniels and Mr Gradidge. It should be great fun, get yourself involved!

PTA — join in!

All parents are automatically part of the PTA. The PTA is a really super way to get involved in school life. Do think about getting involved if you can —they're all a very friendly crowd and there is no commitment. Just do what you can. Last year was our most successful year of fund-raising ever! Put this alongside the amazing work the PTA do meant that we were able to provide even more great support for the children. It really does make a difference! More people would give us a better chance of making a bigger difference.

Staffing changes — a brief summary

We've had quite a lot of staff move around the school. We believe this to be really healthy and a positive way of supporting professional development.

Miss Barker is now in Year 1, Mrs Bracegirdle in Y2 and Miss Treble in Y6. We also have welcomed Mr Gradidge to Year 4.

All the senior staff at the school will continue to be actively teaching in the classroom. We believe this to be an important part of sharing and modelling good practice.

If you haven't had a chance to catch up with your child's new teacher yet we very much hope you'll have the opportunity to do so in the coming weeks. The relationship between home and school is vital for ensuring pupils make excellent progress with their social and academic learning. Thank you for all you do to make this partnership so successful.



Attendance News

Attendance at Lowther is very good thanks to all of your fantastic support with ensuring children come to school every day. If your child is unwell please do phone school in morning of the absence and send a note in on your child's return to school. Many thanks.



New and improved school hall

We always try and make some improvements to the school building over the summer. This year we had the KSI corridor repainted, the main hall floor re-laid and the old hall completely renovated. We think the spaces look fantastic.



Shoe box of food for Calais Refugees – WILL YOU HELP?

One of our mums Tamsin Gatewood (Luca is in Yr 1 Pine and Matilda is in 4G) will be going over to 'The Jungle' refugee camp in Calais for 3 days from Fri 25th to Sunday the 27th of September. 'The Jungle' is the name that has been given to a godforsaken stretch of sandy, windy scrubland in Calais which is currently home to over 3,000 refugees mainly men and young boys. They are living in squalid, revolting conditions with no electricity, no shelter and the only way they have survived so far is through the generosity of a handful of small charities run mainly by retired French people and some volunteers. Tamsin and 2 friends will be working with these charities to give out clothing and food donations and assist with the horrible sanitation issues they are currently facing. They will also be taking over shoeboxes of food donations to the refugees. If you would like to help please fill a shoebox with the 7 simple items below and return it to the table in the foyer at school by Wed 23rd of September. There are more details in the foyer if you have any questions otherwise feel free to contact Tamsin directly on 07742 823 825

1 x tin lentils, 1 x small tin fruit (no sugar free or lite), 1 x container with screw top of long life full cream milk, 1 x juice box, 1 x cereal bar (highest calorie count you can find!), 1 x chocolate bar, a short note or picture for the person receiving your box :)