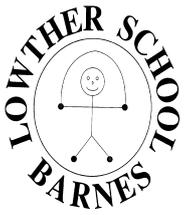


LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



It's 2017.....

Welcome back to the start of the Spring Term! Everyone here at Lowther wishes you and your family a truly super 2017. Can you believe it's now actually 2017?! It's amazing to think how schools really have changed so much over the years. Whether it be new technology, the introduction of new teaching strategies and resources or new ways of thinking, they all help to make schools better and better. Our commitment, here at Lowther, to all of you is to ensure we provide your children with the very best opportunities to learn together in exciting, creative and challenging ways. We want Lowther to be a school that inspires an enjoyment of learning and that creates life long learners.

Last term really was packed full of such great learning and excitement and 2017 is going to be equally filled with the first class, broad educational experiences we're all fully committed to providing for your children. We look forward to sharing the thrill of watching your children grow and develop academically and socially in 2017. I told the children in assembly this morning, we have the power to make 2017 the best in Lowther's history — so what are we waiting for? Let's go for it!

Prompt Pick-up Please!

Please ensure that children are collected on time at 3.15pm (or if they attend a club, at the time the club finishes). It can be quite unsettling for children to be left waiting for someone to collect them. Many thanks in advance for your help with this.

100% attendance week— next week!

It is statistically proven that excellent attendance is a crucial factor in how well a child does at school as well as being a key behaviour indicator for Ofsted inspections. Next week is our annual 100% attendance week where we want everyone to make an extra effort to ensure the children have the expected 100% attendance. There will be prizes and certificates on offer. At the moment our school attendance is at 95% (which is below our 96.5% target) so this is an area of school life we all really need to focus on. Thank you all in advance for your help with trying to increase our attendance levels. Please continue to support your children with both excellent attendance and punctuality.

Charity Fundraiser Success!

A huge well done to Molly and Kitty in Year 4 who came to me a while back with the idea of doing a charity fundraiser. I sent them on their way with the challenge that if they organised it they could do it. So that's exactly what they did! They put a massive amount of effort in to planning and organising their sale, which included a lucky dip and a host of tasty home baked cakes. They made an incredible £220 for UNICEF. Well done girls — brilliant stuff!

Thank you from all of us

On behalf of all the teachers and staff at school we'd like to say thank you for the very kind gifts and cards that were given to us by you this Christmas. It is always really appreciated and also satisfying to know that our community is thankful for our efforts, but really a smile and a thank you genuinely are the best presents! We also were grateful for the donations to charity that were made as well. Thanks again for your kindness and generosity.

Advance letter notice

Please be aware that we are currently looking at ways to make communication with parents paperless (as we've done with this newsletter). Please do sign up for Parent Mail if you haven't already as this will be one of the key communication conduits going forward.

Panto fun!

We had so much fun at the end of the last term at our annual Christmas Panto. The photos below hopefully show you just how much we all enjoyed the show!



Baby news!

Last year was a year of lots of new babies joining the Lowther School Family. Miss Heywood (our school Nursery nurse) is very pleased to share with you that she is pregnant and looking forward to having her baby in the summer.

Dads football

The Dads and teachers have some matches coming up if you'd like to get involved. This time we're playing Sheen Mount Dads and teachers on Friday the 20/1 and East Sheen on Friday 24/3. If you'd like to play then do let Dave Green or Steven Yerby (Harry and Francesca's dad) know. It's always good fun so why not get stuck in? Spectators are also very welcome.

New Web content

We're always looking to expand and update the content of our school website. There are 7 new videos on the school website for you to enjoy. We've also put up 5 new photo galleries (with a couple more due soon).

We hope you enjoy viewing them. It's worth noting that we have a feature on the website for viewing the galleries on iPad and iPhone—it's called iPad Slideshow—do look out for it as it will make your viewing easier on these devices.

We're always happy for parents to have copies of any of the photos taken at school. Just let the office know if you'd like one.

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2017 — Simply the best?

I asked the children in assembly on Monday how we could make this the best year at Lowther ever? They came up with some great ideas like, let's make sure we're always kind to people and let's hit all our targets. 2017 will be a great year, of that I have no doubt. After all, your child is going to achieve things they've never been able to do before. Maybe they'll

- Increase their reading speed
- Expand their vocabulary massively
- Learn to ride a bike
- Be able to write a computer programme
- Learn their alphabet
- Play for one of our school sports teams
- Write their very first story
- Learn how to bake delicious cakes
- Be able to recite their tables backwards

Who knows what they'll achieve?!

Our job is to ensure we give your children the very best opportunities to succeed in all different aspects. Here's to learning new and exciting things in 2017!

School diary

Don't forget our school calendar of events is online for you so you always know what's going on at Lowther!

<http://lowther.richmond.sch.uk/school-calendar.php>

Reception Admissions 2017

If your child is born between September 1st 2012 and 31st August 2013 and you are hoping to secure a place in our Reception classes for September 2017 please be aware your online application needs to be completed by Sunday 15th January 2017. Please let the office know if you need help with applying or need further details. Demand for places in Richmond schools is always high, so please don't delay your application.

Christmas Shows

Weren't the Christmas shows fantastic? A huge well done to our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes for providing such great entertainment for us all to enjoy. There are galleries of photos from all of the shows on the school website. The next big show to hit the stage will be Key Stage 2's production towards the end of the Spring Term.



School Behaviour Targets

Each week at our Monday Assembly Mr.Bracken sets the children a Behaviour Target. These are areas of school life that we'd like the children to focus on. The teachers and Mr.Bracken monitor this during the week and then let the children know whether they've achieved Gold or not the following week. We've had all sorts of targets this academic year so far. They are as follows:

- What things we should say and do more often
- To name and be responsible for school uniform
- To have lovely lunchtimes
- To ask more questions
- To line up quickly and quietly
- To use 'The 4 Bs' when stuck with our learning
- Bling Bling attack for a positive attitude
- To celebrate our successes
- To write a story where kind words are used
- To be a great storyteller
- To get in the Christmas spirit

For each of the targets Mr.Bracken sets a challenge total/target that would be classed as gold. For example for the target "To ask more questions" each class had to achieve a total of asking over 30 great questions to be awarded the gold certificate.

Data Evening for Parents on Tuesday 10th January

Our annual evening for Parents where we share the school data regarding academic results and how well the school did last year is on Tuesday 10th January from 6-7pm in the Y5 classroom. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will also be school governors in attendance too should you have any questions that you'd like to ask either myself or governors. If you're unable to attend you'll still be able to see the presentation as we'll post it to the school website.

Lowther's Got Talent 2017

Yes, it's January which means that it's time again for LGT! We're now in our sixth year of Lowther's Got Talent and I'm sure the judges will see all the acts try and pull out all the stops to try and secure their spot in the grand final.

There are 4 different categories that children can enter (Sign up sheets are on my office door).

- 1) Music and singing
- 2) Alternative
- 3) Sport and dance
- 4) Comedy, drama and magic

Performances should not be longer than 3 minutes and ideally around the 1—2 minute mark — it's much better for the performance to be short and effective than long and drawn out. Judges will be looking for originality, effort and preparation as well as talent. Auditions are

Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th January 2017.

The grand final, which of course we'd love you to come and watch, is on **Friday 27th January 2017** between 2pm and 3pm. It should be masses of fun! Good luck to every one entering!