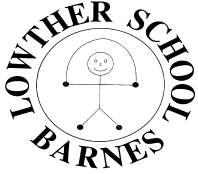


13th May 2016

ISSUE 12



LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

I hope your children are enjoying this term as much as I am. It's been marvellous going around the school seeing so much fantastic learning going on. I'm certain the next two weeks of term will be jam-packed with superb opportunities for the children to explore, read, investigate and challenge themselves. Let's keep the learning rolling!

Assessment, tests and SATs

There has been much written and discussed recently about testing in schools. I thought it would be helpful to parents to explain a little more about what happens specifically at Lowther and how we go about approaching these parts of school life with the children. Teachers assess pupils throughout the year based on their work in class—this is called teacher assessment. Tests help feed additional information in too, supporting teachers to make accurate assessments. In Year 6 there are the SATs—this is a week long series of tests in the core curriculum. Children work really hard towards these as they help indicate their attainment and progress academically. They are however just a small part of their life at Lowther and do not show their social, physical or moral development.

A key part of delivering any assessments is ensuring children are confident, relaxed and focused. Knowing that they are expected to try their best and give it a go are important aspects too. I believe we manage this at Lowther very well. As this week was Year 6 SATs week I thought you might like to see some examples of questions from this year's papers.

Spelling

Thoughtless, cousin, ferociously, previous

Grammar

- 1) Write an explanation of the word *antonym*
- 2) Insert a semi-colon in the correct place in the sentence below
There are Roman ruins near our village they are being excavated next week.
- 3) Which verb completes the sentence so that it uses the subjunctive form?

I wish I _____ able to join you, but it will not be possible

Am was were be

Maths Arithmetic

- 1) $1320 \div 12$
- 2) 15×6.1
- 3) $725 \div 29$
- 4) $1 \frac{4}{5} + 3 \frac{1}{10}$
- 5) $125.48 - 72.3$

Maths Reasoning

- 1) Circle the two numbers that equal 0.25
0.05 0.23 0.2 0.5
- 2) A packet contains 1.5Kg of oats. Every day Maria uses 50g of oats to make porridge. How many days does a packet of oats last?
- 3) $2q + 4 = 100$ Work out the value of q
- 4) $70 \div \underline{\quad} = 3.5$
- 5) Sara chooses a number less than 20. She divides it by 2 and then adds 6. She then divides this result by 3. Her answer is 4.5 What number did she start with?
- 6) 6 small bricks have the same mass as 5 large bricks. The mass of one small brick is 2.5Kg. What is the mass of one large brick?

How did you get on? The new curriculum is challenging but our children have embraced it. Our children consistently show a marvellous attitude to learning – and this has been reflected this week in the awesome effort Year 6 have put in to their SATs. The children deserve the upmost credit for their fantastic efforts this week.

Healthy and Activity Week 13th-15th June 2016

Healthy activity week is really starting to look good — do look out for the schedule which will be issued soon. There'll be lots of opportunities for parents to get involved throughout the week.

Thank you for all your great offers of help and inspiring ideas. Please keep the afternoon of Wednesday 15th free as some of the parents are organising a roller disco for the children. There will be other events going on at the same time including nutrition talks and fitness and sport experts to keep the adults busy too!

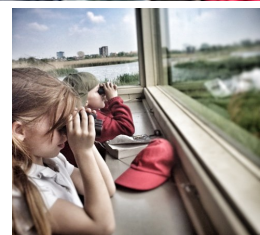
Please contact Victoria Coward with other ideas. v.coward@lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Lowther and the Wetland Centre working together

On Thursday, Year 3 classes took full advantage of Lowther's recent arrangement with The Wetlands Centre to have free access for all Lowther classes. The weather was glorious and both 3C and 3H had a great time bird watching and strolling through the Wetlands on such a beautiful day.

While there was great excitement when the otters began to show off with their splashing and diving, it must be said that our session in the Adventure Playground was a highlight for all!

We know that all the Lowther classes will be planning to tap into this wonderful natural resource, on our doorstep, over the remainder of this school year and beyond.



Staffing Update

Our staffing plan is nearly complete for next year. As Year 3 families will already know, Miss Hallam is expecting a baby over the summer. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing her congratulations. We'll announce the staffing structure for next year to parents just after the May half term.



The Daily Mile is up and running at Lowther! Each day the children from Reception to Year 6 run 1 mile around the playground. Some children walk, some jog and some run. Have a look at the website if you would like to know more about how this will benefit your child. <http://thedailymile.co.uk/>



Important — After School Routines

At Lowther we have always been happy for parents and families to take their time to leave school at the end of the school day and to enjoy socialising, playing and talking together. This is unlike many schools who insist on the school site being cleared straight away. However, we do request that families adhere to the following guidelines.

- **No ball games** at all before or after school (unless part of a club)
- We welcome parents and children catching up and chatting at the end of the school day but we request that the school site be **clear by 4.30pm**. There is a lovely park on Washington Road should you wish to continue your evening outside. Thank you for your cooperation.
- The climbing frame equipment can be used but for safety reasons the **large swing** by the allotment should not be used after school
- For safety **no scooters or bikes should be ridden** on school grounds at any time.

Thank you for supporting the school with these simple steps. We pride ourselves on being an informal and welcoming school but we do ask that these simple guidelines are followed.

Mr.T's Homework Challenge

It's the return of the whole school homework challenge—and it's a good one! It's the Summer Fair next term and we really want childrens' poster designs to advertise the Summer Fair. The theme is all things flowery. We're thinking fLOWerTHER in Bloom! The children should as usual JUST do a picture - Marsh & Parsons will do the rest in terms of adding the date and time etc. Posters should be A4 of any media that will reproduce easily. The deadline for entries is next Thursday (19/9/16) - so not long!

- All entries will receive a Bling Bling
- The top entry from each class will receive a special certificate and the winning entry will be used to advertise the school fair.

Good luck and get designing!

Some of the core principles of The Daily mile

FUN! The children have the freedom to run in the fresh air with their friends. They should know it's not a competition—many will mix running and walking.

WEATHER! We treat the weather as a benefit not a barrier—children respond to the seasons. Jackets on in the cold and damp; ditch the sweatshirts if it's warm.

TRACK! We have a track mapped out, which if the children complete 6 times they will have completed one mile.

QUICK! It all takes place in 15 minutes—from leaving the classroom to returning.

RISK! We have completed a full risk assessment

JUST GO! There's no need to warm up—straight outside and off they go

CLOTHES! No kit is required. The children go out in their school clothes.

OWN IT! They can choose to run, walk or jog—or mix all three. We encourage the children to do some running.

Club variety

We've worked really hard over the years to develop a diverse range of clubs for the children to attend. The latest addition to that is the rather fantastic "Forest School" club. The pictures say it all!



The Appiness Club present.....Save Mr Tuffney!

Lowther Appiness club has published its first app on to the Android app store – Save Mr Tuffney! Swipe Mr Tuffney away from the creatures that are trying to catch him, can you guide them on to the rocks where they will get stuck? Watch him bounce off the wall, jiggle the phone, try a different level, have fun!

Lowther clubs are supported by the PTA, press the PTA button to make a donation. The app can be found by searching for Lowther on the Android App store. More information is available on the clubs section of the website. The handwriting app installed on the schools iPad can be found by searching Lowther on either Apple or Android app stores. Called Magic Handwriting it is free to download, but if you like it please consider making a donation to the PTA by pressing the G button. Thanks to Mr Agarwal for organising this.

