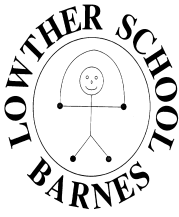


25th November 2016

ISSUE 7

LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



We're now half way through this term and I'm loving it! I'm delighted to be able to give you updates on a variety of subjects, from the fun and excitement of Takeover Day to the key targets for school improvement this year, alongside further feedback from the parent survey and what lunches are like at Lowther. I hope you find the newsletter a useful and interesting read. The next one is due two weeks today, on Friday 11th December 2016. To finish off I just wanted to make sure everyone has Friday the 2nd December in their diary. Why? Because it's the PTA's Christmas Fair date. Do try and get involved with helping if you can.



Takeover Day 2016

Hopefully the pictures say it all—Takeover Day was fantastic. A huge well done to all the children that got involved. There were some seriously good lessons going on around the school and some very well organised and skilled teachers in operation! We truly believe in giving the children the opportunity to learn in a whole host of different ways, this being just one example.

The large picture below of Mr Bracken and mini Mr Bracken has also become a bit of a Lowther Twitter sensation and has scooped the most 'likes' so far of any of our Tweets — a very healthy 27!

The school will continue to communicate to you in the quickest and easiest methods for you, whether that be Twitter, Parentmail or via the newsletter and website.

Shoebbox Appeal Update




Serious, serious thanks to all of you for the staggering effort with the shoebbox appeal. We ended up with a record 120 boxes. Yes, that's right! 120! Amazing. Thank you for your incredible support.



School Improvement Plan 2016/17




Mr. Bracken and I work with senior leaders at the school, governors and our school improvement partner to draw up the priorities the school has for further improvement this year. We use a range of different evidence sources to pull this all together, including observations, analysis of data, child and parent feedback and regular monitoring of the school's performance. The Top 4 priorities are indicated below.

Lowther SIP 2016/17 – Draft 1	
(SEF Section 2) Top 4 Priorities for School Improvement 2016-17	
4	<p>C</p> <p>Raise standards of communication, both oral and written, across the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve number of pupils across the school attaining the expected standard in Writing to be in line with National Continue to drive improvement in Phonics (ensure 80% of each FS and KS1 class is at an expected or above level.) Promote high standards of spoken language through combining strengths in drama and reading with writing and the wider curriculum Reduce the gap in attainment between Reading and Writing Target PPG children in KS2 in Writing <p>Action Plan: English (PN) Phonics (MB)</p>
5	<p>A</p> <p>Further develop our focus on high quality teaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote and develop excellent teaching through peer to peer support, team teaching, observing colleagues, networking, learning walks, staff training and sharing best practice. 100% of observed practice to be good or better Utilise CPD opportunities both internally, within the locality and the local authority that focus on developing pedagogy, increase opportunities for collaborative working with our locality schools and the AfC premium service to support great teaching <p>Action Plan: Teaching and learning (AR) Headship (MT/DB)</p>

ESTABLISH = something new
 DEVELOP = something we've already started and needs further work
 EMBED = something that is already well establish

Lowther SIP 2016/17 – Draft 1	
(SEF Section 2) Top 4 Priorities for School Improvement 2016-17	
5	<p>D</p> <p>Ensure the developing assessment system supports focused feedback and excellent pupil progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide clear and regular communication of assessment to pupils and parents, including a specific focus on pupil progress and next steps Give pupils improved opportunities to reflect on and respond to written and oral feedback about their learning and progress in class Embed the HKP target system for children (and parents) so pupils know what they need to do to improve further Further develop and refine our Target Tracker assessment system and how teachers use it <p>Action Plan: Assessment (HM) Headship (DB)</p>
7	<p>B</p> <p>Support and develop the strategic role and accountability of Phase and Faculty leaders within the leadership structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase leaders to take an active role in driving improvement through checking the quality of teaching and learning and analysing data Faculty/Phase leaders to drive improvement in specific elements for their phase e.g. English in KS1 Introduce further level of school improvement planning through the establishment of Action Planning <p>Action Plan: Headship (MT/DB)</p>

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Parent Survey Results

Thank you very much to the 82 parents that filled in the parent survey. As previously mentioned it's been really helpful for us as a school and in particular for the leadership team and for governors. The final 6 questions and the responses are indicated here. I hope you find them interesting to read.



Packed lunches—healthy or unhealthy?

Cooking, diet and healthy eating are an important part of life at Lowther. From time to time we check out what the children are having for their lunch - both school dinners and packed lunches. On Takeover Day (mini—Mr.T (Johnny from Year 2) and I inspected 10 lunch boxes chosen at random. What we found was pretty interesting.....

2 were very healthy

3 were unhealthy

5 were broadly healthy with just a few unhealthy pieces included.

In the best lunch boxes we saw yoghurts, apples, water, fruit salad, brown bread sandwiches, grapes, orange pieces. Fantastic!

And in the worst ones we saw crisps, penguin bars, chocolate spread sandwiches, orange squash and chocolate mini rolls.

Thank you for supporting us with ensuring the children have a healthy lunch and healthy break time snacks. Not what we'd want or expect.



What do you think of these lunches? Are they healthy? Are they unhealthy? What things should be in there, what items shouldn't?

We want to do more as a school to ensure children eat a full and healthy lunch so we'll be monitoring this more closely in the coming weeks.

Come and have lunch with us

A few times each year we like to invite parents to come and have lunch with us—to sample the school dinners and to enjoy having lunch with their children. The next planned date for this is Thursday 12th January 2016 from 12pm — 1pm. If you'd like to come along you'll just need to let the office know and pay the £2.50 for the meal. We'd love you to come and join us.

PTA Christmas fair 2016

It's on! Friday 2nd December the PTA will be holding our annual Christmas Fair. It's not too late to get involved—so please do if you can. Whether that be helping set the fair up, or pack away, running a stall or preparing resources for the fair your help would be very much appreciated.

It should be a really super afternoon!

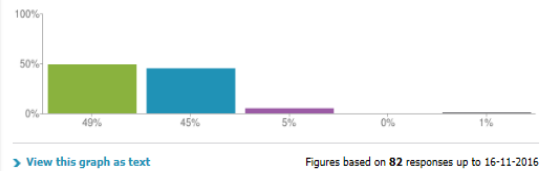
Mannequin Challenge—Lowther style!



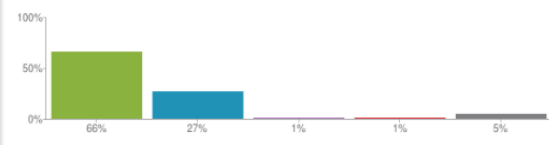
After a serious dance work out Y6 requested to have a go at the mannequin challenge. You'll be able to see the results of their efforts on the school website very soon.

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

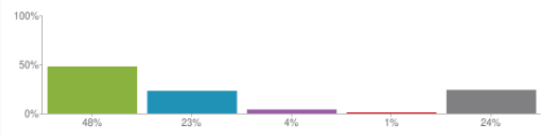
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age



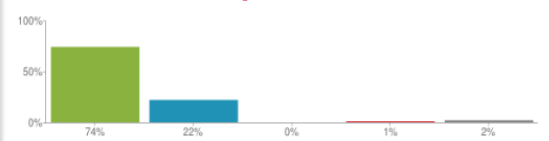
7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved



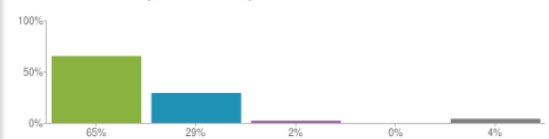
8. This school deals effectively with bullying



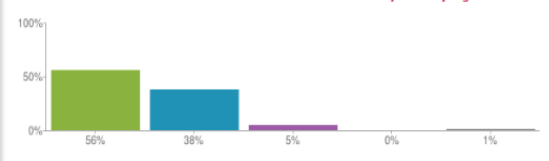
9. This school is well led and managed



10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise



11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress



12. Would you recommend this school to another parent?



Assembly Themes

Adam from Holy Trinity Church in Barnes has led our last two whole school assemblies. The first was about "Remembering" and the second was "Story telling"

The next series of assemblies I'll be running will be linked to one of our school improvement priorities this year - writing and oral communication. So a selection of different adults will be telling stories to the children (no book required) If this is something you'd like to get involved in then please do let me know.

Advance notice - Book Sale starts 7th December at 9.00am.

We're having a book sale! The books on offer would make great Christmas and birthday presents for girls and boys. There are picture books, chapter books, information books and sticker books on offer. All are new, and all are at the bargain price of £2

Following the last book sale we bought guided reading books for the different classes around the school.