



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 13

17th January 2012

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Unique Homework Challenge 4—The Time Capsule!

I have a rather unique Homework challenge planned for challenge number 4—a once in a lifetime opportunity—to make something for the Lowther Time Capsule to go under the front of the new building—that's right, it'll be dug into the ground at the front of the school.

We want the time capsule to hold things in it that represent Lowther in 2012. However, we want everything in it to be “mini” and child made!

What you need to do.

Make, write, design something no bigger than 15cm which represents Lowther today.

It could be a letter, a 3D model, a poem, a song, a drawing, a poster, anything you like.

We'll then put all the goodies in the capsule and dig it into the ground on the building site. All entries will be invited to see the capsule being “planted” and win a lovely golden bling bling too!

Get your entries in by Monday 6th February 2011 and be part of Lowther's history.

100% Attendance Week—Monday 16th January—Friday 20th January

There will be a special prize for every child that achieves 100% attendance this week.



Cool Cats

.....come to school!



Register (by Thursday) for Free School Meals to help your school

If your child is eligible for free school meals, it's worth registering them even if they're not going to have the school lunch. This is because schools receive a 'Pupil Premium' - an extra payment for each eligible child which they can spend on useful services.

Schools receive a payment for each child who is registered for free school meals - £488 for this school year and £600 next school year. This money helps them to provide extra support like extra tuition, learning assistants or after-school clubs.

Eligibility

You can apply for free school meals if you or your child receives any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of £16,190 or less
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

How to apply

If you want to register for free school meals for your child, contact the school office. You may need to provide a letter to prove that you're receiving one of these benefits - your local Jobcentre Plus should be able to help with this.

Thank you for your support with this.

Great start to the year with attendance!

Stunning that every class is above 95% - awesome!

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Willow | 95% |
| Oak | 97% |
| Pine | 97% |
| Beech | 99% |
| Maple | 97% |
| Elm | 96% |
| Year 3 | 99% |
| Year 4 | 98% |
| Year 5 | 98% |
| Year 6 | 97% |

Class of the week winners to date:

Wow! Look at Pine and Elm go! Will anyone catch them up?

| | |
|--------|---|
| Willow | 1 |
| Oak | 1 |
| Pine | 5 |
| Beech | 2 |
| Maple | 2 |
| Elm | 4 |
| Year 3 | 3 |
| Year 4 | 2 |
| Year 5 | 2 |
| Year 6 | 2 |

Behaviour Target Gold winners to date:

Great consistency across the whole school - well done children on excellent behaviour.

| | |
|--------|---|
| Willow | 5 |
| Oak | 5 |
| Pine | 7 |
| Beech | 6 |
| Maple | 8 |
| Elm | 7 |
| Year 3 | 7 |
| Year 4 | 4 |
| Year 5 | 8 |
| Year 6 | 7 |



Lowther's Got Talent 2012 — we now have over 70 children due to audition for Lowther's Got Talent. This will then be narrowed down to 15 acts for the final. With a maximum of 4 in each of the 6 categories — singing and dancing, music, magic, comedy, sports skills or something "alternative"

Auditions: Tuesday
24th January 2012 from
9.30 -11 and 1-3

Show: Friday 27th
January 2012 from 2-3



Parents and family are invited to come along to the final. Finalists will be announced on Wednesday 25th January

Attention all Dads!

As you know from previous newsletters we are working with the Fatherhood institute to review how inclusive Lowther is for Dads. We really need your help with this. Some of you have volunteered already to be involved but we need more Dads! On Monday next week the Fatherhood Institute will be at Lowther for the day. Please spare a few minutes at drop off or collection to share your views or even better put yourself forward to be part of an action research group. It won't take long and will mean we can really make Lowther super Dad friendly.

See Mr Tuffney or the office for more details. Please do get involved in some way on Monday 23rd if you can. Don't worry if you're not around on Monday the Fatherhood Institute has launched an on line survey for all the fathers of the school to complete. This can be accessed on line.

Lowther School's unique link:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e576e152guffn6eh/start>

Building News

I'm sorry to report on the inactivity on the building site. There has been an issue with the steel supplier. Alternative arrangements have been made and we should start seeing things really take shape in the coming weeks. The project is due for completion on the 17th August — allowing us 2 weeks to "move in"

Look out for the updates from Raouf in Year 6 on the website.

ICT curriculum

You may well have heard on the news about the changes planned by the government for the ICT curriculum. Here at Lowther we've been doing all sorts of ICT work — including web design, blogging, film making, music production, photographic manipulation, animation as well as things like research and presentations. This is something we hope to develop even further when we have our new ICT suite. We will then have a room of 30 PC's and another smaller group room with a further 14 PC's. Exciting times ahead!

Ofsted update

As you may well know Ofsted are due at Lowther sometime in the next year. They recently changed the framework with which they inspect schools. Any inspection will now follow 4 main categories

- the achievement of pupils at the school
- the quality of teaching in the school
- the quality of leadership in and management of the school
- the behaviour and safety of pupils at the school.

Uniform thanks

Thank you for your support with uniform — the children look really smart. Last weeks behaviour target showed a real improvement — so thank you everyone.

Chloe Brecher (who is now in Year 7 at Christ's School) has just won a young writers award for her poem she wrote about last years Lowther's Got Talent

The Talent Show

Look around, I see no one at all,
But a hundred people fill this hall,
Silence is broken, the music begins,
I can hardly wait, as I listen, she sings!

The sound gets loud, it beats like my heart,
I start to move, gently and slowly to start,
The words of the song show me the way
They guide every move I make today

I swish and sway, I take a big jump,
Higher and higher, and land with a thump,
Twisting and twirling, feeling the groove,
Look at me everyone I have something to prove!

How long has it been? I'm not sure!
As I nervously enjoy my time on this floor.
The music has stopped, now feel fear.
I wait.....I sweat and suddenly they cheer!

Chloe Brecher (age 11)

Christ's School, Richmond

DVDs are here!

The nativity DVDs are now ready — do collect yours from the office. Apologies for slight delay in getting the photo orders printed. They should be here next week.