



Lowther

ISSUE 8: MAY 2020 EDITION

WWW.LOWTHER.RICHMOND.SCH.UK

Hello and welcome!

Welcome to the May edition of the Lowther newsletter. This is our second newsletter since school closed back in March 2020. I know just how hard all of you have been working at home to support the children with their learning — thank you for your fabulous support.

I wanted to make a special mention here about all of the fantastic teachers and support staff we have in our awesome team here at Lowther. Recently they compiled a summary of the provision they have set up for your children for our governors. I also shared this work with our school improvement partner — they were so impressed they requested that our teachers excellent practice be shared with the Director of Children's Services for Richmond and Kingston. I am always very proud of our whole community but none more so than at this challenging time.

Of course, we are now into the last 7 weeks of the school year and we are all fully committed to making it as positive and engaging for all of your children as we can.

Term Dates

Term dates: PLEASE note that the holiday day planned for Monday 1st June was changed due to practical reasons. This means that the school year will now end on MONDAY 20th July 2020 and not Tuesday 21st July as had previously been the case, Thank you for understanding in why we felt this change was necessary.

The final half term is 7 weeks and 1 day. We will then have a six week holiday and school (virtual or actual) starts again for children on Thursday 3rd September 2020. Of course, at this stage we don't know what this will look like or whether indeed all pupils will be back at school then. Regardless, learning will commence, either at home or at school on this date. More details to follow as we have them.

Inset days: Friday 12th June will remain as an INSET day and so will Monday 15th June. School will be closed on both of those days.



General School news

End of year routines:

New mixed class lists: Each year, around this time, teachers and leaders spend considerable time putting the classes for the next academic year together. We have started that work ready for September 2020. We consider lots of factors when deciding who is in each class. We believe this part of Lowther life has been really positive for our school and created so many additional friendships as well as study partners. Please do talk to Mr Bracken or myself if you'd like to know more about our rationale for mixing the classes each year. We expect to release the new lists later in June 2020.

Teaching team for next year: Around this time of year parents (and children) sometimes begin to wonder about who their teacher will be for next year. We work through this very carefully over the course of this term and will announce the teaching structure along with the new mixed classes in June. We have a highly dedicated, enthusiastic and skilled staff team and we'll all be working extremely hard to provide the very best education and school experience for your child. We will also share with you during w/c 15th June 2020 the different areas of school life that our teachers lead the school on.

Mr Bracken and I are looking forward to working together again next year to continue to support our drive to make Lowther the very best school.

Children's reports : We will be issuing end of year reports as usual. These will be available for parents in July 2020.

Date	Event
Friday 12th June Monday 15th June	Inset days— school is closed (on site and virtually)
Wc 15th June	Teaching team for next year and leadership roles confirmed
Wc 15th June	New class lists and class teachers released
Wc 6th July	Children's reports issued
Monday 20th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly — we still hope to do this in some form
Monday 20th July	Last Day of Term Children due back Wednesday 3rd September 2020



We've made some fantastic changes to the school site during lockdown. The photos illustrate some of the main ones.

We are lucky to have such fantastic facilities and we are committed to doing all we can to maintain our impressive site.

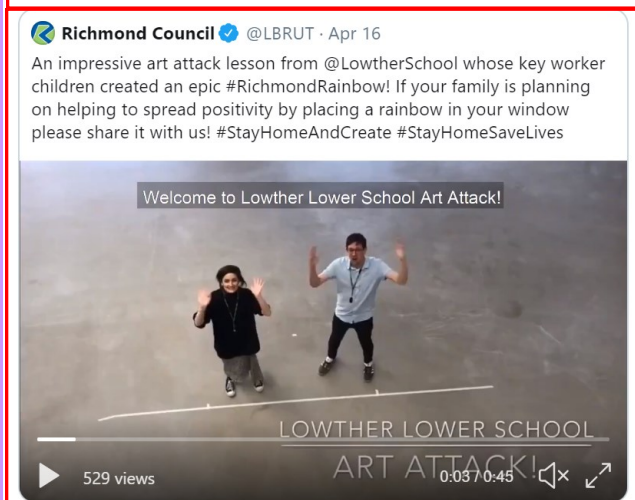


- We've cut back some of the trees at the front to give Nursery lots more light and to open up the front of the school to make it even more welcoming.
- Dave amazingly painted, all on his own, all of the Foundation Stage building so that it is beautifully crisp and white again.
- We gained council funding to allow us to have the perimeter fence to the field replaced giving us a sharp boundary to the school site
- We've had the tree outside of Elm class cut right back to allow natural light in to Year 2 Elm and both Year 3 classrooms.



We love the changes, we hope you do too!



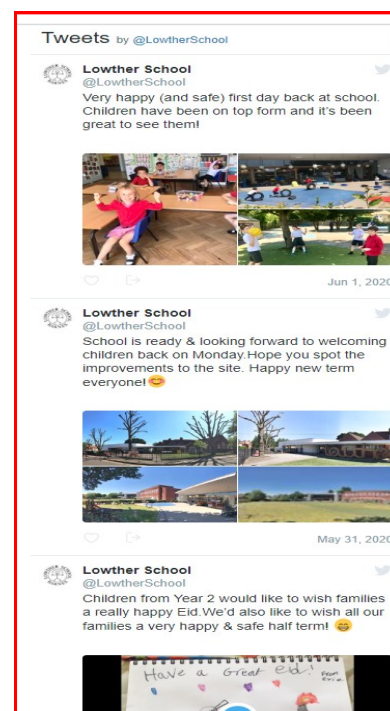
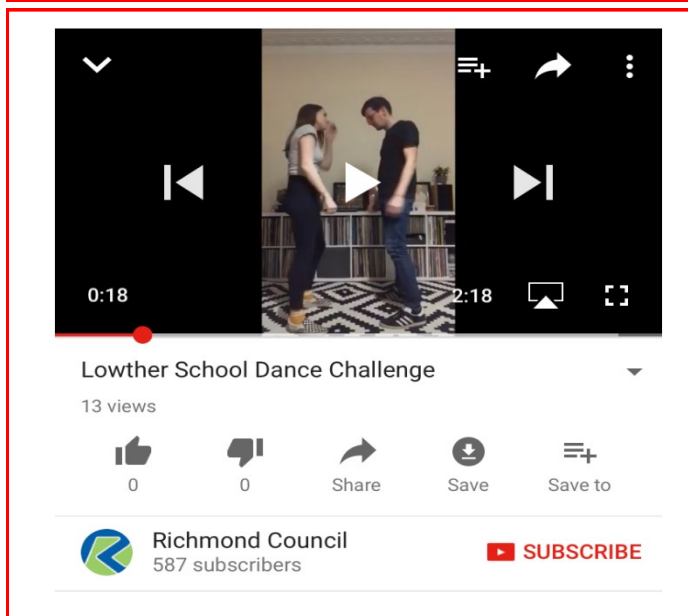


You may have noticed Richmond Council have featured Lowther in a number of their social media messages during lockdown. We've been featured on their Twitter, Facebook and YouTube platforms. I am pleased that the awesome work that goes on at our fantastic school is being seen by an even bigger audience.

Our Twitter account is one of the best ways not only you, but your wider family such as grandparents, can stay connected to the school. We tweet regularly and try to make posts interesting and engaging to view. All contain either a video or photographs. If you want to see the stream you can either sign up to Twitter or you can view them via the homepage of the school website.

We currently have 844 followers, and would love even more of the Lowther School Family to connect with us. We think you'll like it!

An example of our most recent Tweets are illustrated to the right,



Message advertising for local nurses

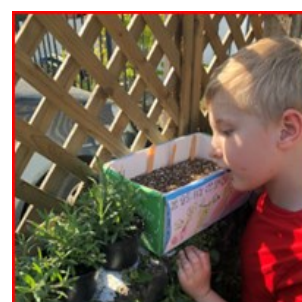
Between October and December the local immunisation team attend all primary schools in the Richmond and Kingston borough to vaccinate the children against influenza. This is a massive programme which is why we are looking to expand our team yet again. The team are looking to attract available nurses from the local community. Let us know if you're interested and we can signpost you to the contact.

Newsflash! We're back!

We are very pleased to be able to welcome the first groups of children back to school. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils can now return to school, initially, for 2 days each week. We will continue to update you with the school's plans for extending this provision and any further updates around whether pupils in Years 2,3,4 and 5 can begin to return to school. Thank you for your fabulous support in this matter.



Keeping safe: Governors and senior leaders are reading and researching extensively to ensure school will continue to be safe as children return. The trust that you all place in the school is essential and please be assured that we take every aspect of looking after your children with the upmost seriousness and care. Please do contact either Mr. Bracken or myself should you have any questions regarding the school's plans for the safe and happy return to school pupils to the site.



We've been so impressed with the range of home learning the children have done with you. These photos indicate what great experiences the children are having at home—baking, gardening and even doing magical illusions. Thank you for your amazing support and for engaging in the home learning experience so wholeheartedly