



Lowther

ISSUE 1: SEPTEMBER EDITION 2020

WWW.LOWTHER.RICHMOND.SCH.UK

Hello

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. We will be producing one newsletter each month with some of the key messages and updates for you all. We hope you find them useful. Of course, most of our communication is now done electronically via Twitter, our school website and Parentmail. Do get yourself signed up to these as they're a great way to stay connected to school. Whilst we are in different times we all remain totally dedicated to working hard to ensure all the children have a great year of learning, fun and opportunity for your awesome children.

It's been brilliant to see all of the children back at school this last few weeks. All of the team here at Lowther couldn't wait to see our awesome pupils. We've all been so impressed with how well the children have settled and the quality of the work they've done since school re-started has been really pleasing to see. It's looking like it's going to be another amazing year of learning and discovery! Mr Bracken and I have certainly been busy giving out Bling Blings and certificates already!

I'm sure we'll all work together this year to make this school year another truly fantastic one at Lowther! Thank you for your wonderful support in making this happen.



There are lots of quick notices to give you, so they are included here for easy reference.

- Please note all our term dates for school year 2020/21 are published on the school website under the "Term Dates" drop down.
- Excitingly Mrs Tucker's is now on adoption leave as she and her husband have adopted a little boy, Alfie. We wish them all the happiest of times.
- Packed lunch storage — we are looking to make some changes to the way packed lunches are stored. We know the current situation isn't ideal and we are working on a plan to improve this.
- Please remember fruit is the only break time snack allowed at Lowther.
- A polite request to ensure children don't scoot or cycle on the school grounds at any time, including before and after school Thank you.
- Thank you all for the efforts you have all been making to ensure you are keeping socially distanced whilst at school for pick up and drop off and also ensuring you leave the site promptly. It is much appreciated. We believe the new systems are working well and have allowed school to be safe whilst retaining as much of the usual school routine as possible.
- Our new Lunchtime and playtime routines are going really well. Children have lots of space to play and get to use all the different parts of our wonderful school grounds. Fantastic!



Lowther noticeboard

Welcome!

A very special welcome to our 40 new children in our Reception classes and to their families too. We're delighted you've chosen to join the Lowther School Family. The Reception class teachers and Mr Bracken and I have been hugely impressed with how well the children have started at "Big School". Our Nursery is also now up and running and it's been great to see so many new children start. Finally, a huge welcome to our new families, we're delighted that 20 new children have joined Lowther in September — we're sure you're going to love it!

The deadline for applying for a secondary school place for 2021 is October 31st. Any parents can attend the open events being run by schools (not just parents of children currently in Year 6). However, please do check with individual schools about their arrangements for this year as many are offering virtual tours and presentations due to current restrictions. If you would like to speak to me about any aspect of secondary transfer please do get in touch.

Our local secondary is Richmond Park Academy, here's a Message from them to Lowther Parents.

Sadly, due to the global pandemic, RPA are unable to host our Annual Open Evening or our regular "Tea and Tour" mornings this term. In order for you to get a feel for the RPA experience and see the school in action, we would like to invite you to attend one of our bi-weekly live "virtual tours" hosted by a member of the leadership team. You will be taken around to see our fantastic site, visit live lessons and meet some of our amazing staff and students. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions during the tour. To book a place on one of our virtual tours, please visit the Y6 Transition page of the RPA website or click [here](#).

We are also delighted to be able to host a virtual talk and Q and A for Lowther Primary parents on Thursday 8 October at 10am. We will also be posting a Virtual Open Evening on our website on 7 October.

If you have any questions, please get in touch at transition@richmondparkacademy.org

Regards,

Jack Costello

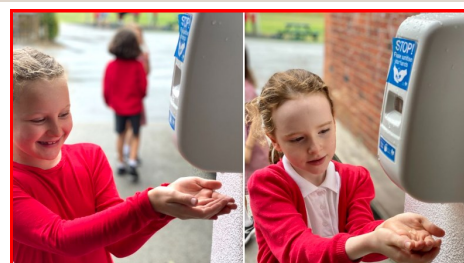
Deputy Principal & Designated Safeguarding Lead
Richmond Park Academy

These events are open to all parents not just parents of pupils in Year 6.



Fit for Sport run Lowther's after school provision. This is up and running and available for parents to use. It represents very good value child care and there are always a range of good activities for the children to engage in. To book a place use the Fit for Sport website and book directly through them in advance,

Schedule	Times	Price per session
After School Club	15:15 - 18:15	£13.70 (including light snack)
After School Club	15:15 - 16:15	£8.90 (excluding light snack)
After School Club	16:15 - 18:15	£11.00 (including light snack)



Our new hand sanitising stations are now up and running at both ends of the school.

Lowther's fantastic Breakfast club operates every day from 7:45am until school starts. No need to book in advance. £5 per session which of course includes a good breakfast.



Coats! If it is raining school staff will make a judgement call as to whether children can remain outside. If it is light rain/drizzle and the decision is made that children can play outside they **MUST** wear a coat. If they don't have a coat they will need to have play inside (we will ensure we staff this accordingly). As we head into Autumn and then Winter please ensure your child has a named coat with them at school, even if this is a simple rain jacket. Thank you. Where possible it is always our preference to try and get the children outside for play-times.

The children have come back looking very smart in their uniform. Please do name ALL of your children's uniform including jumpers, PE kit, coats and trainers/shoes. Just yesterday I found 10 pieces of unnamed school clothing. That's the best part of £100 worth of uniform! If it's named it's a very simple process for us to return the uniform to the owner.

The most common "left" items are jumpers and coats.

Please take note of some of the key areas of school uniform that we felt important to clarify.

- NO jewellery (aside from stud earrings and watches)
- Shoulder length hair must be tied back
- Trainers for class **MUST** be ALL black (not black with a white sole etc.) Trainers for PE can be any colour.
- NO boots to be worn to class.
- No jogging bottoms/tracksuit - they must be proper trousers or shorts.
- Here is a link to the uniform policy if you need any further details.

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/uniform

Thank you for your support in this matter.

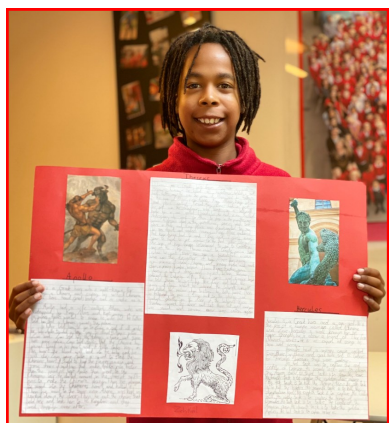
There's certainly been a lot going on in the first few weeks of school. These photographs give just a little glimpse of the awesome learning happening at Lowther every day!



Year 5 pupils focused in their cooking lessons with Chef Clare and Chef Sarah.



Pupils from Year 6 set up their own political parties and campaigned on important issues such as health and education. They then asked the younger pupils to vote for the party of their choice.



Amazing home learning by pupils in Year 5. We love how engaged our families are in supporting learning at home.



Year 2 pupils making great use of the KS1 outdoor learning area. We are blessed to have a super outdoor learning provision in Key Stage 1.



Year 6 pupils enjoying their World War 2 themed day.



Pupils in Reception acting out a bear hunt around the school, hand drawn maps in hand.



Our school looking beautiful, even on a wet miserable morning.

Have your say about Community Safety in Barnes, East Sheen, Mortlake and Barnes Common?

If so, join the local Community Conversation on 20th October 2020 at 6.30pm

Join your local ward councillors and the local Police in a virtual conversation (via Zoom) and hear what is being done to keep your local area safe, and importantly share your views about what can be done in the future.

For more information and to register:
www.richmond.gov.uk/community_conversation



The toilet block refurbishment is coming along really well. It's going to be a significant improvement. It's due to be completed in early October. We have also improved the flushing mechanisms in the loos off the Main Hall and the hand washing facilities. These loos will also be getting brand new hand driers.



Practicing for the Performance poetry competition

Budget pressures are significant for the school. Whilst there are many benefits to having smaller classes it has a crippling effect on the school budget. Across the school we are 100 children short of capacity. This means the school has an incredible £400,000 less in it's budget than if we had 30 pupils in each and every class. As such, whilst it's a difficult time for all we would like to request your help. Over the course of the year we always try to ensure we provide resources for the children which enrich learning and make it come to life. This is something that is increasingly hard as the school faces real budgetary pressures. As such, we are asking for a voluntary £10 donation from each family for this term which we can use to pay for the extra resources we use in class. This allows teachers to really be creative in the classroom and promote a wide range of learning opportunities. Of course if you'd like to donate more than £10 we'd be delighted and very appreciative. It really does make a difference. Thank you in advance for your fantastic support. You can make this donation through our Virgin moneygiving page

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School Resources Fundraiser

Why we need your help

We need your help to support Lowther to buy additional resources for in class and out of class learning. Richmond schools receive the lowest per pupil funding in London and we currently also have less funds coming in due to lower numbers of pupils in each class. Please help by donating £10 (or more) this term to our school resource fund. Our target is £2000 to be shared equally between the 4 phases of the school. Thank you!

£0.00
raised towards **£2,000.00** target

Spread the word
[virginmoneygiving.com/fund/resources](https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/resources)

To donate use this link or search for "Lowther PTA Virgin Money giving" Thank you.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/displayCharityCampaignPage.action?campaignId=14165&charityId=1008481>