

14th July 2017

ISSUE 18

LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



What a year!

I can't begin to tell you how much I've enjoyed this year! Your children have been totally amazing! Thank you all as well for your fantastic support over the course of the year. We're very lucky to have such a supportive community and one that truly lives the Lowther ethos. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful summer, enjoying some great family time as well as having a break from the school routine. See you in September—it's going to be awesome!

Grounds Afternoon Fun!

I thoroughly enjoyed Grounds Afternoon and hope that you did too. I thought the children from Reception through to Year 5 did a really marvellous job. Thanks for coming along to watch and support the children. The photos are online in the Gallery section now!



Leavers Assemblies next week

We have two leavers assemblies this week. One for staff and one for our Year 6 pupils. The staff leavers assembly is at 2pm on Thursday. We'll be saying goodbye to four members of staff, Mrs Innes, Miss Treble, Mrs Puddephatt and of course Mrs Webster. You're very welcome to come along.

Our Y6 leavers assembly is at 1.45pm on Thursday where we'll give them a great send off to secondary school. Again you are very welcome to join us.



Music Concert Success!

Well done to all the children (and adults) who sang and played fantastically well at our Music concert. It was a super evening of music of all styles and featured so much great talent. Thank you also to those of you that came along to support the event. We're definitely planning to repeat the concert next year. To get a flavour of the event check out a couple of videos we've posted to our Twitter feed (access it via the school homepage)



Summer holidays

Yes, they're nearly here! The summer holidays are just around the corner and we hope you enjoy some quality family time together and come back refreshed and excited for the new year ahead. I know it's going to be a great summer! Have fun!



Ofsted Inspection Update

We have now had our feedback from our 1 day Ofsted inspection. You can read the letter I was sent which explains the findings online by using the following link www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/performance.php

It was a very different inspection to a full inspection. The one day inspection for good schools focuses on 3 areas—has the school addressed previous action points, is safeguarding effective, is the school addressing current improvement priorities effectively. The findings are presented on a 3 sided letter (available on the school website)

The key aspects included in the letter, for Parents to be aware of are

- The school was judged to continue to be a good school under the new tougher framework
- Safeguarding was deemed effective
- The school has tackled previous Ofsted priorities effectively
- The school had a good understanding of its current key priorities

The next steps for the school were outlined as

- 1) Rates of attendance need to improve for disadvantaged pupils and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- 2) Pupils' attainment at the end of key stage 1 and levels of progress in writing at the end of key stage 2 improve, so they are at least in line with national standards
- 3) Leaders and governors ensure that policies are updated and provided to parents in a timely manner.

We will do a full presentation to parents of the findings in the new school year when we also will share the school's academic data for 2016-17. This meeting for parents will be on Tuesday 26th September at 6pm in the main hall.

School events photography

Just to remind all of you that we're very happy for parents to take photos of their own children at school events. However we must ask that you please don't put any photos on social media of children at school other than your own.

Y6 Superstars!

As you can tell from the photos the Year 6s have been having a great time. Their trip to the Isle of Wight was fantastic and they put on a really super production recently too. They're certainly looking ready to take their next step to secondary school.



Pupil Reports

We hope you found your child's end of year report useful and interesting. Teachers are very happy to talk to you about any aspect of your child's report. Across the school the children have done superbly well this year. Please do take the time to fill in the feedback form enclosed with the report. Thank you in advance.

Lowther's Fantastic Teachers

We have a brilliant team of teachers here at Lowther and the staff team is looking first class for next year. We have a fantastic balance of experience, skills and all our teachers share a real passion for the Lowther School Family.

School Funding Cuts

I'm sure you've heard about the severe funding cuts that are affecting schools. Lowther is no different. Our budget has received significant cuts to it and as a result our financial situation is a tighter than it's ever been in my time at the school. This year we're £21,000 worse off than last year, not including any inflation. This is a situation that is affecting pretty much all schools.

In the new year governors will be writing to all parents to explain the situation in more detail. The letter will ask parents and the school community to think carefully about how we can all pull together to support the school in different ways.

In the letter governors will talk about the pressures the financial situation is putting on the quality of education provided to your children. As a school we have so far managed to cope well by utilising efficiencies and cost savings where they are least likely to have a damaging impact. However, given the current trajectory, further cuts will be necessary. The purpose of the letter is not to alarm you but for governors to fulfil their obligation to inform you of the pressures that the school is under. They will be clear in their assertion that they will do all that they can to assist the leadership team in finding ways to work within whatever budgets we have to ensure that Lowther School can continue to offer an excellent primary school education to your child. Moreover, they would also like to ask you to consider if there are any ways in which you can help.

We do not think it is either right or possible to ask parents to replace essential government funding. However, there are ways in which you can contribute to the school, in particular through the PTA Governors Fund.

Do look out for this important letter in the new year. As a school community we work so brilliantly together, I have total faith that we will continue to work together to address this significant matter for the school. Thank you for your fantastic support.

Academic Results 2017

The table below shows the attainment of our pupils in Year 6 in their "SATs" We will explain all the data from this year more clearly to parents at our annual data evening. However, as you can see from the table, the children have performed very well academically and made super progress. Well done children!

Year 6 Results 2017	Estimated National 2017	LOWTHER 2017
RWM Expected Standard	53%	66%
Reading Expected Standard	66%	91%
Reading High score	25%	36%
Writing Expected Standard (TA)	74%	71%
Writing High score	18%	16%
Grammar, punctuation and Spelling Expected Standard	72%	91%
Grammar, punctuation and Spelling High score	28%	40%
Maths Expected Standard	70%	93%
Maths High Score	23%	29%
Science Expected Standard (TA)	81%	85%

Lowther Teaching Team 2017/18

Foundation Stage	Nursery Mrs Murphy 	Willow Miss Barker 	Oak Miss Mould 	SENCOs Miss Fitch/Mrs Said  	PPA teacher Miss Hallam 
Key Stage 1	Y1 Beech Miss Mason 	Y1 Pine Miss Tittle 	Y2 Elm Mrs Cox Mr Agarwal  	Y2 Maple Mrs Tucker 	
Lower Key Stage 2	Y3G Mr Gradidge 	Y3R Mr Ripley 	Y4P Mr Picken 	Y4N Mr Nelson 	
Upper Key Stage 2	Y5C Mrs Chalbot 	Y5R Miss Rogan 	Y6C Miss Coward 	Y6P Mr Pritchard 	

Secondary school news

To see where our current Y6 are moving on to this year please see the table below. We wish them lots of future success and happiness. For parents of pupils in Y5, it is worth noting that the initial allocation of secondary places that will happen in March 2018 usually changes considerably, with places being allocated all the way through the summer. Don't forget also that applications need to be in by the end of October 2017. More news on that in the new school year.

Secondary School	Number of pupils transferring from Lowther
Richmond Park Academy	19
Christ's	7
Grey Court	1
Chiswick	1
West London Free School	4
Tiffin	1
St Cecilians	1
Ark Academy	1
Chelsea Academy	2
Putney High	1
Fulham Boys	1
Ashcroft	2
Richmond-upon-Thames School	2
Abroad	2