

23rd September 2016

ISSUE 2

# LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



The term is now in full operation! So many children from across the school have been producing some really excellent work. Mr. Bracken and I have certainly been busy dishing out our "Bling blings" Long may it continue!

We have also been delighted to award the first golden standards too. These are awarded to children who have made outstanding contributions to school life. A huge well done to Lucy (5C) and Joel (Y1 Beech) on achieving the golden standard. I know they will wear their golden badges with pride. We look forward to continue to recognize the many skills and talents of the wonderful children that come to Lowther.

## No more paper copies of the newsletter

This is the last paper copy of the whole school newsletter. All future copies will be emailed out via Parentmail (if you aren't signed up yet then please do) posted on the school website (Latest News Page) and also via Twitter. The reason for the change is that we believe the newsletter views better in colour and online and it also will save the school a considerable amount of money and resources not printing 400 copies of the same letter. In addition it will also save the office team time not having to print and then distribute the letter. We will then be able use the money we save towards buying further resources for the children. If you'd prefer to still have a paper copy of the newsletter we will be printing a few copies out and you can ask for one at the office. Thank you in advance for your support with this change. Newsletters will continue to be published every second Friday so do look out for them.

## Dates for your diary

Important school dates are online now on our new and improved online calendar—we hope that it is even more user friendly.

An important date for everyone's diary is Parent's Evening. The first ones of the year are being held on Monday 10th October and Tuesday 11th October. Look out for the sign up sheets next week after school.

## Some photographs from the start of Term...

We've had a super start to the term—the children have really been fantastic. These photographs hopefully give you just a little flavour of the awesomeness that's been going on.



We've had lots of fun at play times



We've been learning in lots of different ways including outside in the allotment



## Welcome to our new children

We've had lots of new children join us across the different classes since the start of term. We wish all of them a very happy and exciting learning journey at Lowther. I think our children are fantastic at welcoming new faces to their classroom.

## Change to school uniform policy for boys

Thank you for really tuning in to the uniform expectations. We still have a few children not quite getting it right. It's trousers and shorts only — no jogging bottoms or track suit bottoms and plain dark footwear only — no colour or patterns!

## More road safety....

You will remember in the last newsletter I pointed out some important road safety tips and requests for the whole school community. Thank you for supporting us with those. Please also bear in mind parking on yellow lines. Parking on double yellows is not permitted at any time. And there should be no parking on single yellow lines during the restricted times. The yellow zig zags at the front of the school should also not be parked on before, during or at the end of the school day. These small things matter and really help make our local roads much safer for the children.

## School Data due soon

Each year, around October, the school receives the data set of academic results from the previous school year. As well as the school results we also get the national and local picture too. Senior leaders at the school are just beginning to analyse these now and will prepare a short presentation for parent's. The date for this "Data Presentation" is Tuesday 22nd November 2016 at 6pm. We will also make all of this information available for parents via the school website too.



We thought about things we could say and do more often as our first behaviour target

### Castelnau Community Centre club

The Community Centre on Stillingfleet Road want you to know about one of their club nights. They offer a super club for younger children. It runs every Thursday from 3.15pm until 5.15pm. The club is suitable for children in Reception and Years 1,2 and 3. It only costs £3 a session (with a reduction for low income families)  
Enquire at the centre for further details.

### Meeting with RPA

Last year a large number of parents met with the head of admissions and school place planning. At that meeting we requested a follow up meeting with the new head and the chair of RPA. This has been organised for the 7th of October. Jo Austin (parent of Cara in Y5N) and Harriet Lawrence (mum of Lucas in 6P) will be the parent representatives at that meeting. If you have any particular questions you'd like them to ask please contact either one of them or myself. We will of course update all parents with the outcomes from the meeting.

### Big Steps in to Big School!

A huge Lowther welcome to our brand new Reception classes. It was so much fun to meet all of the children at the official "Big Step" assembly. They certainly looked ready to get straight in to their learning — Lowther style!



### Calling all Parents!

All parents are automatically part of the PTA. The PTA is a really super way to get involved in school life. Do think about getting involved if you can — there really is no commitment or specific expectation. Just do what you can. We want parents to be involved in school life and the work that the PTA do is invaluable in helping us build a stronger school community. The PTA also help raise money for the school. Over the years we've paid for the artificial grass, I pads, reading books, table tennis tables and so much more. The work of the PTA means that we are able to provide even more great support for the children. It really does make a difference! More people would give us a better chance of making a bigger difference.  
Please do think about how you could help and how you could get involved.

### Jobs at Lowther

Please note that the deadline for the two job vacancies we currently have now passed.  
Please enquire at the office if you'd like to be considered for future roles.



### 3D Printing Success!

Wow! Mr Agarwal and his team of computer programmers have been busy making full use of the school's 3D printer. I think the picture says it all! Impressive stuff!

### Our first few assemblies

We cover lots of topics over the course of the year in our weekly Monday assemblies. To start this year we've focused on giving ourselves the chance to reflect. We've given the children some quotes such as

"To have a friend, first you must be a friend"  
"Getting things wrong is a real sign of learning"

We've then asked the children to think about them, discuss them and express what they think they mean.

### Barnes Food Fair

Parents and the school chefs had great success at the Barnes Food fair last Saturday. Selling our homemade Jams and Chutneys they managed to raise some much appreciated extra funds for the school. Thank you to all of you that helped out.

### Clubs are now up and running

The 34 clubs that we're operating this term are now all systems go!  
Thank you for ensuring prompt payment in advance for all clubs. If you need support with payment for clubs then please do see Tania in the office and she will be able to offer advice.  
Please note without payment in advance children will not be able to attend their chosen club.