



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 2

26th September 2014

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

The term is go!

The term is now in full operation! So many children from across the school have been producing some really excellent work. Mrs Colenso 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 Celine(Y6) Katie (Y6) James (Y6) Freya (Y4B) and Camron (Y2E) on achieving the golden standard. Your pictures will be on the wall and on the website too and I hope that they wear their golden badges with pride too!

Athletics stars!

Well done to our Y4/5 athletics team who came joint 3rd in our recent locality competition. I witnessed great teamwork, enthusiasm and speed! The Y5 mixed relay win in particular was a real highlight!



Y6 positions of responsibility 2014

I recently interviewed 20 children from Y6 who wanted to take on a position of responsibility around the school. This is a long held Lowther tradition and involves the children from Y6 getting involved in and around the school. Children initially apply through a formal letter, they then have to attend an interview. We have appointed children to take on a wide range of roles from Sports Leaders to children that help me run one of my assemblies. Well done children!



Where next ?

Our children move on to a whole host of local secondary schools. The Y6 class of 2014 went to the following schools:-

Richmond Park Academy 14

Christ's 3

Chiswick 1

Ibstock 1

Burlington Danes 1

Fulham Boys 2

Abroad 1

We wish them all future happiness and success.

Super Attendance!

So far this school year we have achieved an excellent attendance rate of 97.1% with three classes exceeding 98% - well done Beech, Y6 and 3C! Our target this year is 96.5% (our highest ever target) An enormous thank you for supporting us with this fantastic result so far. Punctuality is also an incredibly important aspect of school life.

The bell is rung at 8.55am to ensure all children are in their classrooms and learning by 9.00am. Whilst we appreciate traffic's been bad with the Putney Bridge closure 119 lates already this school year is not good enough. Please help us to teach the children the importance of being punctual, Each classes attendances so far are

Free School meal entitlement

Please do enquire at the office about whether you are entitled to free school meals. It's a double win as your child gets a delicious hot, healthy lunch for free (+ no need to make sandwiches!) AND the school gets given an extra sum of money for each pupil that is eligible for a free meal. I have a school meal every day and think they're excellent! This includes if your child is in Reception or Key Stage 1 as the school receives this additional funding for each pupil entitled to a free school but ONLY if parents register for it. Please do check with the office if you're not sure if you may be entitled. It really does help the school financially (and of course you too) Result!

Parents evening (target setting)

Parents evening is just around the corner. We expect children from Y3-6 to come to the meeting with their parents. It is really powerful for children to hear first hand with their parents how well they're doing and what their next steps are. In years Reception to Year 2 parents have the option of whether the children come to the meeting or not. I hope you find the sessions helpful.

Car Parking If you come to school by car please be considerate about parking. Why not park a few hundred metres from school and walk the last bit? It makes the whole area less crowded and safer. In addition please ensure you do not block any drive ways of local residents. We love how many children now scoot/cycle/walk to school. Your help with this is much appreciated.

News from our School Governors — brought to you by Philip Mead (Chair of the communication committee)

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year. This is the first in a series of regular pieces of communication from school governors to the school community planned for this year. One of the many great strengths of the Lowther School Family is the passion, interest and buy in there is from all stake holders. As governors we welcome the way our community wants to support school development. By working together we will all ensure Lowther continues to grow and go from strength to strength.

We look forward to hearing your views and input on the progress of the school.



Contact the governors

If you'd like to contact our school governors you are always welcome to do that via the school office or by emailing governors@lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Governors are planning to have even greater interaction with families this year.



Message from Sharon McNab—our school chair of governors

I'm delighted the term has got off to such a super start. I know Mr Tuffney, Mrs Colenso and the whole team at Lowther have excellent plans for making this a really fantastic year of learning for your children. Our job as governors is to support and challenge their work. I hope your child has another wonderful year of stimulating and exciting learning at Lowther.

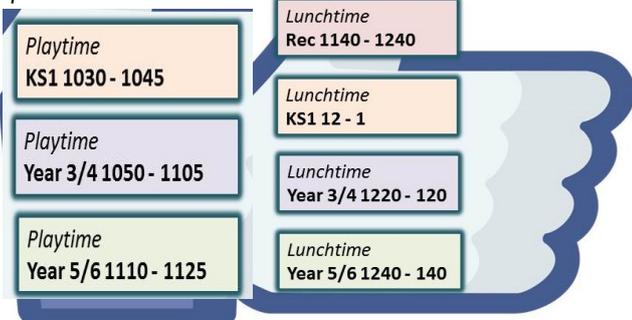
Class	Attendance (year to date)	Above school target of 96.5%
Willow	95.8%	No
Oak	97.8%	Yes
Pine	97.4%	Yes
Beech	98.1%	Yes (2nd)
Elm	96.4%	No
Maple	96.8%	Yes
3C	98.8%	Yes (1st)
3H	97.7%	Yes
4J	96.7%	Yes
4B	96.9%	Yes
5P	97.1%	Yes
5N	94.8%	No
6	98%	Yes (3rd)
School	97.2%	Yes

PTA Update

Our busy PTA is now up and running for another school year. They really do welcome all parents getting involved in any way they can. Please do get involved if you can, you will be guaranteed a very warm welcome.

In addition look out for exciting developments with fund raising and what we're planning to use the money you've all helped the PTA raise. We think the children will love it!

Our new lunch and play schedule to ensure the children have as much space to play as possible.

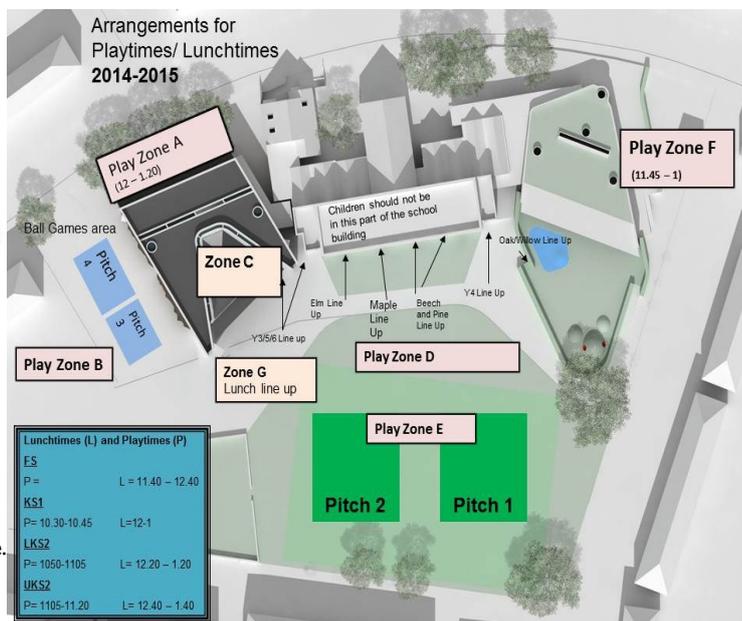


Changes to playtimes and lunchtimes

We've made some changes to the way play and lunch times operate.

This is on our school improvement plan (which we'll be publishing on the website soon) The idea is that we ensure children have as

much space as possible to play and are able to get the best use out of the school's playground resources. Some of the changes include a more staggered start and end to play and lunch, every class now getting a football pitch every day, the promotion of small sided games, 4 pitches rather than 2, new rotas, clearer zoning of the playground and in addition we have more things planned for later in the year too. To help support these and future changes Miss Jones has now taken on the leadership of the school lunch staff team.



Primary Schools in Richmond really are TOP!

Once more the 42 state primary schools in Richmond (64 in Richmond and Kingston) have performed incredibly well academically. Richmond is the number one achieving borough nationally practically across the board for all subjects (based on Key Stage 2 results) We really are fortunate to be in an area, and working in partnership with, local schools that are such excellent schools. We are very proud to be part of such a great borough. Indeed our academic results show that we more than hold our own against any other primary school not just in the borough but also in the country. As pretty much the most diverse school in the borough we're delighted our pupils show such great strengths in the progress they make with their learning. Richmond has consistently performed way above the national average and that trend is continuing. During October the school will be sent information which shows in more detail our academic performance and I will share that with you in due course. Of course academic results based on tests do not give the full picture of the education provided by any school. At Lowther we pride ourselves on providing a broad education where learning is engaging and exciting and that we work closely with families to help develop really well rounded, socialable and confident young people. Here's to many more years of great success.

Within the top achieving borough nationally we've managed some headlines ourselves. Some of which are outlined below.

Phase/Subject	Highlight
Maths KSI	At Level 3 the school achieved 20% more children gaining this level than the national average and 5% more than the Richmond average. Overall for Level 3 Maths the school was 15th out of 64 schools in Richmond and Kingston (9th in Richmond)
Writing KSI	At Level 2+ we were 7% above the national average and also above the Richmond average At Level 3 20% more pupils at Lowther achieved this than the national average (and 12% above the Richmond average) We were 7th out of 64 schools (and 6th in Richmond)
Reading KS2	We were joint first in the 2 boroughs for the number of pupils (100%) making expected progress in Reading. The school came 5th in Richmond and Kingston (4th in Richmond) for the number of pupils exceeding expected progress in Reading.
Maths KS2	We exceeded the borough average by 10% of the number of pupils making expected progress in Maths We had 100% making expected progress in Maths compared to 92% in the borough (ranking us at joint first) We were 14th out of 64 schools (10th in Richmond) with 55% of children exceeded expected progress in Maths compared to an average of 34% in the borough
Phonics KSI	Consistent year on year improvement, including very strong results in the way we support children to catch up in Phonics.