



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 9

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www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

The second half kicks off now....

Welcome back to the second half of the school year. We started our week back with an assembly about how important the second half is—the foundation blocks have been built over the first half and now we're ready to crank it up a notch and watch the children soar. I really hope your child has a wonderful second half of their year and accomplishes their goals. It should be a fantastic time for us all.

Healthy Snacks for KS2

Cooking and healthy eating are vital parts of our school curriculum—and indeed as you're probably aware cooking is the school's most popular subject. It is therefore a little frustrating that some children are being allowed to bring in unhealthy snacks such as crisps and chocolate bars. We're going to be monitoring this very carefully in the coming weeks and will be removing any unhealthy snacks. We appreciate it's a long morning for KS2 until break time (I am) and so we are therefore VERY happy for children to have a HEALTHY snack.



Community Day 2014

Friday the 14th March is our annual Community Day - hoorah! Relief. Once more will be raising money for Comic Relief and an Ugandan charity - Project Le Monde (Do look at their website for more information www.projectlemonde.com). To help support the charity we'd like you to have a "Bad hair day" Just simply bring in £1 and style your hair.. well ...as crazily as you like! A Lowther tradition has also become to complement this look with "silly socks" - so why not go for that too? (no extra donation required) The full timetable for Community day will be made available nearer the time but listed below are the key events.

Key Events

- 8.15am Breakfast (in the Great Hall, places are limited so please sign up at the office)
- 9.10am Whole school warm up (on the astro - grown-ups are allowed to join in the fun!)
- 9.20am Whole school fun run around the local streets, including "wheeled" lap of honour!
- 3pm Fairtrade Tea (in the Great Hall)

3.30pm Parents and Staff social sports games (Netball on the astro and football on the field—again please sign up at the office)

As you can see after breakfast we will be having our "Lowther Fun Run" around the local roads (the police have kindly agreed to close the local streets again) Why not come and join us — it's one of my highlights of the year. The children in Reception, Y1 and 2 have to complete one circuit of the course whilst children in KS2 tackle two circuits. A change for this year is that once children have completed the run they can do a celebratory lap of honour on anything with wheels—bikes, scooters, skateboards (if they'd like to). Grown-ups ARE allowed to join in this! Amongst the other things we have planned which you may enjoy joining us for are work in the allotment, sports, arts and craft and music activities around the school. The end of Community Day sees two other events—our Fairtrade Tea (which is bound to be delicious) and parents and staff sports matches. The fairtrade tea will take place in the Great Hall from 3pm with tea/coffee and home-made fairtrade cakes. The money raised on the day will be divided between Comic Relief and Project Le Monde. It should be brilliant, please feel free to join us for some, part or all of the day.



The first half of the year was fab, now bring on part two!



Water Aid superstars

You may remember that in the last newsletter I let you know about some of the pupils in Year 2 who were organising their own fundraiser. Well they made a whopping £630 which will all go to a very worthy cause—Water Aid. We celebrated their achievement in assembly by awarding them all a well deserved certificate each. Great stuff!



Looking sharp (all the time)

Looking smart in uniform is an important part of school life. We've tried to develop our uniform over time so that it is smart, comfortable and practical. We've noticed recently there are one or two children not wearing the correct uniform—the most common things that are incorrect are footwear (should be plain and dark coloured—NO BOOTS including ankle boots) and jewellery (none should be worn, though stud earrings are allowed) We're going to be doing some spot checks over the next week or so and will let you know if there's something that your child needs to change about their uniform. Thanks in advance for being so supportive of this.



Let's make sure we keep looking super sharp!

Free Homework Club just around the corner!

Great news that your local library on Castlenau is starting weekly homework support sessions at the Library from Tuesday 4 March at 3pm. It's free so why not take advantage of a great offer?

The Lion King

We're delighted to announce that the Y4 and 5 production this year will be the Lion King. We've not done this particular show before and I know it's bound to be a cracker. The children are busily preparing and are very much looking forward to putting on a great show. Get the date in your diary now!

Monday 31/3 7pm

Tuesday 1/4 530pm



Don't Forget

- £1 for Comic Relief
- Crazy hair
- Silly socks
- Money for cakes
- Wear your trainers
- Bring in a wheeled vehicle!



We've come a long way.....

.....And we're not stopping now! So much has changed over the years I've been at Lowther. I stumbled across this whole school photo from 2003 the other day. We've loved changing and evolving over time and I wanted to express to you all that we continue to have a full and deep commitment to making changes that are in the best interests of your children and our school community. We want to continue to be innovative and develop the school in the future. Exciting times lay ahead.

Reading Success

Well done to all the children in KSI who earned their roadrunner badges at the end of last half term. I was delighted to see so many of the children proudly wearing their 100% badges. Keep up the great work children!

KS2 Open evening — coming soon

KS2 are beginning to prepare their annual night to showcase what goes on in the upper school. They'd really love parents from all different parts of the school to attend, but especially parents from Key Stage 1 as it will provide a very useful insight into life at Lowther as your child progresses through the year groups. Put it in your diary now—Tuesday 11th March 2014 at 630pm.

Target evenings—next week

This is a key event in the school calendar. It is essential that all parents attend these meetings. In Key Stage 2 we expect children to be present at the meeting—this is really important as it allows the child to really take ownership of their learning and gives them a great chance to hear how well they've done and what they need to do next to move their learning on. In Key Stage 1 it is up to families to decide if they'd like their child to be present for some or all of the meeting. I hope you all find them a really positive experience.

Do come and join us for lunch

As you probably know I have school dinners every day and thoroughly enjoy chatting with the children and sharing their news. Last year we offered parents the chance to come and have lunch with the children and so would very much like to make that offer again. The day we have planned for this is Wednesday 19th March (roast dinner day!) If you would like to come and have lunch with us please book a place via the office by Wednesday 12th — the cost is £2.50 per meal. Reception classes have lunch from 11.45, Key Stage 1 from 12pm and Key Stage 2 from 12.30. Do come and join us for a sociable and tasty meal.

Playground Changes

As I mentioned in my previous newsletter the PTA and school have clubbed together to pay for a whole series of new playground markings. We're sure the children will love having even more opportunities to play and have fun, as well as giving us even better sports facilities. The map below illustrates the changes we've made. Thanks again to the PTA for supporting this venture.

Mini netball court markings to allow the goal posts to be permanently set up

Mini sports pitch and new alphabet snake

Alphabet caterpillar for the younger children to play on

Number square and hopscotch for traditional games

4 boxes for creative and imaginative game play

Table tennis area clearly demarcated

2 x basketball key markings to allow the hoops to be permanently set up