



Lowther

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WWW.LOWTHER.RICHMOND.SCH.UK



Welcome back to the second half term of the year. We hope you had an enjoyable half term break with your children.

The children are now in full flow as the school year progresses. onwards This half term is our longest of the year, there's 8 weeks worth of learning to get stuck in to. Plus of course, it's always a privilege to be in school at this exciting time of year. Right now we've got a whole host of exciting learning opportunities and superb lessons to teach the children, it's going to be fantastic.

I've included some lovely photos on this page of the newsletter which were all taken by the children at playtime. I think they're a fitting way to document how happy playtimes are at Lowther. If you see a photo on any of our various media and would like a copy please feel free to ask me or the office team.

There's always lots of sports going on at Lowther. Miss Tittle (our sports leader), and head coach Mr Green, are looking to get Lowther playing in a wide variety of different sports and events.

The Y3 footballers won all bar one of their matches at their recent tournament—they played with enthusiasm and skill. The future looks bright for Lowther football!

Our Y56 Tag Rugby team performed very well in the borough tournament, their results record was excellent against some very strong teams, only losing one of their matches. Coach Green also commented on their excellent attitude and sportsmanship throughout.

Thanks to a generous donation look out soon for more new sports kit coming soon. I think our current kits are superb and make the children look really professional. We believe this is important. As Key Stage 1 are increasingly having the chance to play in sports events and representing the school, we are investing in a set of smaller Lowther branded kit—it'll look fabulous! We are also purchasing a set of tracksuits for children in Y3–6 to be able to wear to sports events. This will create a really smart and professional look for our teams as well as keeping them warm. Once the new kits arrive we'll be sure to share some pictures with you.



A key area for our school is to ensure attendance across the school is excellent. **The minimum expectation is 95% attendance.**

Attendance below this falls in to a category of concern.

To put this into context 5% absence would equate to 58 hours

(nearly 2 school weeks) of lost learning in a year and a whopping 348 hours during primary school. This is the equivalent of missing a whole term's worth of learning. We are delighted to announce pupil attendance and punctuality was excellent for our first half term. We look forward to this remaining superb throughout the school year. We really appreciate your support in communicating to the children that every school day counts.

The class attendance totals are indicated on the table. Please ask your child's teacher or at the office if you would like to know your child's attendance.

Oak 97.8%	Willow 96.2%
Beech 96.2%	Pine 97.4%
Maple 96.9%	Elm 95.5%
3M 96.1%	3R 97.8%
4G 96.9%	4P 96.5%
5N 97.8%	5R 96.8%
6C 97.2%	6R 95.6%
School Total 96.7%	School Target 96%



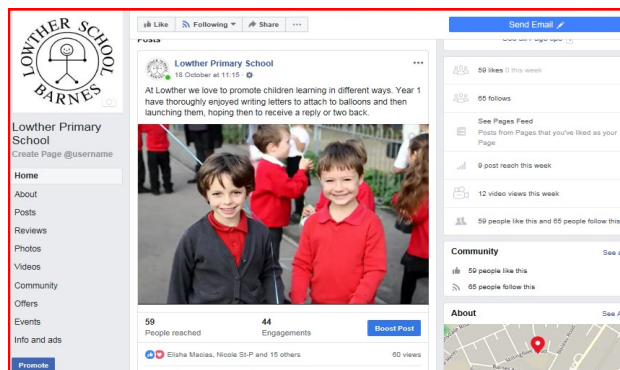
Photographs of play time all taken by the children



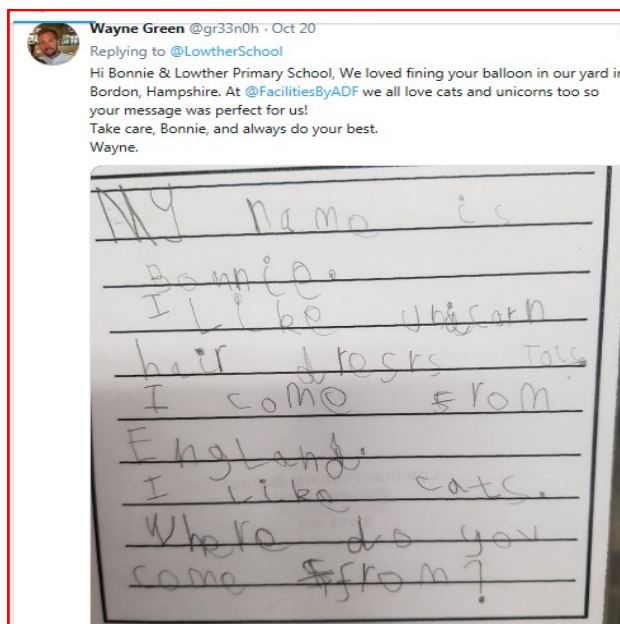
We held a super Community tea party at the end of last half term. The children made afternoon tea, including some delicious cakes and scones for elderly members of the community. It was a lovely occasion.



The Christmas Fair is just around the corner and it's sure to be a lot of fun for everyone as well as a fantastic fundraiser for the PTA. We're delighted to announce that the poster above has been chosen as the official sign for the fair. Huge congratulations to Aleeyah in Year 6 who skilfully and carefully put the winning design together. Do get involved with helping with the fair in any way if you can. It makes a massive difference.



If you haven't had a chance to view Lowther's Facebook page yet please do. There's content on the page that isn't available anywhere else. The official page looks like the screen grab above.



Year 1 had great fun writing secret messages to attach to balloons. They then launched the balloons in the hope that they would receive a reply. We have now started receiving replies, including one via Twitter (picture above). It's all about making writing fun and having a purpose for writing.

My assemblies at the start of this half term are focusing on E safety and being safe when playing games online. I've included some key pieces of advice here and will include further advice in future newsletters. I would particularly like to guide parents to the advice around gaming. Now that games are increasingly being played online and between virtual gamers this is a key area for parents to monitor and supervise. Please also take note of the age ratings. Did you know for example, that Fortnite is a category 12 game? This is mainly because of it's frequent mild violence. This means no child at Lowther should be playing this game. We hope this information is helpful for parents.

All video, computer and downloadable games are given an age rating under the PEGI system. The age ratings are 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18.



These ratings do not indicate enjoyment or intellectual level – they mean that the content is unsuitable for anyone below that age. 3 and 7 are advisory ratings, but it is a criminal offence for a retailer to supply a 12, 16 or 18-rated game to anyone below that age.

Follow the code to stay safe online



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The QR codes below can be read by most mobile phones and will take you to detailed instructions on how to set products for maximum safety. Left to right, they are for iPod Touch/iPhone/iPad; Android phones and tablets; Kindle Fire; Microsoft Xbox; Nintendo products and Sony PlayStation. If you don't know how to use QR codes, ask a young person in your family to show you.

