



Lowther

ISSUE 4: 5TH DECEMBER 2019

WWW.LOWTHER.RICHMOND.SCH.UK



Thank you all for the tremendous support and cheer you have given us all this year. Lowther is a special place because of the wonderful sense of community that you all help to create, along with the fantastic energy and enthusiasm for school we see everyday from the children. I think our community works brilliantly together, with the children the absolute stars of the show! Enjoy the special holiday, treasure those times and memories together, we look forward to seeing you all in 2020!

Talking of 2020, don't forget that we break up on Friday 20th December and come back on Monday January 6th (there is no Inset Day this year) See you then!

Term dates: Don't forget we return to school after the Christmas holidays on Monday 6th January 2020.

Children start: Monday 6th January

Half Term week: 17th - 21st February

Term ends: Friday 3rd April



Our children all wore amazing socks as part of our stand against bullying. Such a positive reaction from the children. We loved the sock selection!

Consultation on community schools' admission arrangements 2021-2022 and on the co-ordinated schemes for secondary, primary and in-year admissions

The local authority is consulting on the proposed admission arrangements for community schools, in-year admissions and the co-ordinated primary and secondary admissions schemes for the academic year 2021-2022. [The consultation](#) runs from Friday 25 October to midday Friday 13 December 2019.

CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2021-2022

Richmond Council is consulting on proposed admission arrangements for community schools, in-year admissions and the co-ordinated primary and secondary admissions schemes for 2021-2022.

The consultation is also available on the Richmond Council's website at:

<https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/afc/admissions-21-22>

There are no proposed change to the admissions criteria for community schools 2021-2022 and the only significant change to the admissions schemes is to the dates in the Pan London timetables for the co-ordinated primary and secondary schemes for the academic year 2021-2022.

If you would like a paper copy of the consultation and response form, please contact Richmond School Admissions at the address below or by telephone 020 8547 5569.

Please note the deadline for response to the consultation is **midday Friday 13 December 2019**

To let us know your views, please use the consultation response form and submit your response form either by email or by post.

Email to: richmond.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Post to: School Admissions, Achieving for Children, Guildhall 2, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1EU

Please can all parents of children in Key Stage 2 (Year 3–6) kindly not go upstairs with their child. Drop off is in the playground and children then make their own way upstairs. Of course if you need to see the class teacher then please do either make an appointment or choose a time when the teacher is not busy with the class. Many thanks for your co-operation in this practical matter.

You may have noticed, that thanks to a generous donation, we have re-lamped all of the lighting in Key Stage 1. It really does make a huge difference.



We had over 100 children apply for and take part in our annual Takeover Day. It was a lot of fun! I don't know of another school that runs this day. It's brilliant to watch the children take over the reigns for teaching lessons, doing assembly etc.

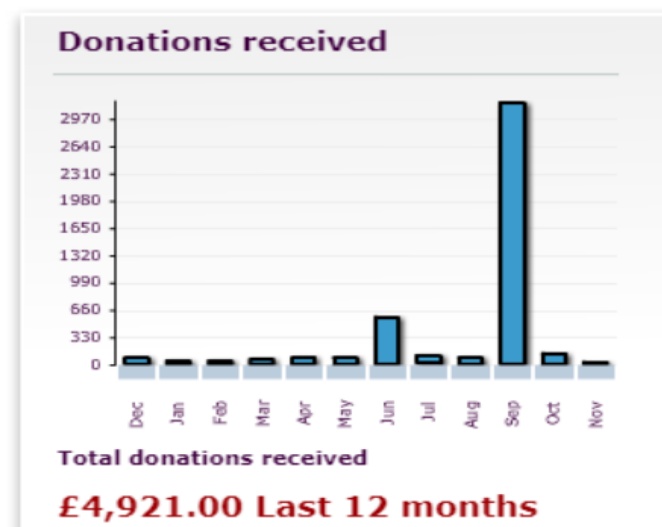
Our children in Dance Club got to visit the Royal Ballet School in Richmond recently. What a great experience and opportunity for our children – they were truly inspired!



<https://www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/fundraising.php>

I'd like to draw your attention to our fundraising page. We're always extremely grateful for any amount - however small or large. It is much appreciated. Any donations will be completely an-nonymous. Nobody within either the school team, governing body or the PTA will have any access to donor details. The payment can easily be made via Virgin money giving—there is a link at the top of this page, or simply browse our school website for simple instructions on how you can donate to the school. If you are a UK tax payer, your donation will be more valuable to the school if you agree to gift aid (this adds an extra 25% to your donation at no additional cost to you)

What parents have done to support the school over recent years has been so impressive. , We remain convinced that the school can continue to offer a fantastic education to your child in the coming years. We hope that you agree and that you will support us and the school in a time of challenging financial circumstances. Thank you for the £4,921 that's been donated over the last year (not through PTA events) That's brilliant. We hope to raise even more in the next 12 months.



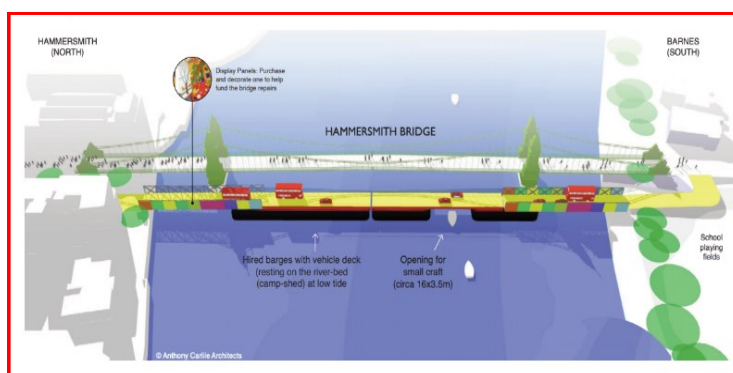
If you're interested in knowing more about the possibility of a temporary bridge whilst Hammersmith Bridge is under way please visit

<https://www.zacgoldsmith.com/hammersmithbridgeconsultation> where Zac Goldsmith is trying to lobby to find a solution to the current situation, which for many residents of Barnes, Sheen, Mortlake, Chiswick etc. has proved very frustrating. As a school our geographical location is such that the Bridge has always been an important transport connection.

Illustrated to the right are some pictures of the possible solution.

Snacks of Trips: For some of our trips snacks are allowed on trips. Please check with your child's class teacher for the trip they're going on. The time children are allowed to eat their snack will vary from trip to trip according to how practical it is as well as the time schedule etc.

Water bottles: If you provide your child with a re-usable water bottle please ensure it is NOT glass as this creates a safety risk. Many thanks.





We are all looking forward to the Christmas Fair. Please do come along and support your school. Not only is this a fun event but it is also a super fundraiser for our school. The fair starts at 3;15pm on Friday 6th December. The PTA have worked really hard to not only have things to buy at the fair but lots of things for children and adults to do and play too. It should be a whole heap of fun! See you there!

We try to include regular features in our newsletters, websites and in the assemblies I hold for children, as well as in their computing sessions, about staying safe online. In this month's newsletter I include a feature on WhatsApp that lots of the local primaries and secondaries have shared with their parents. I hope you find it useful.

WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, with more than 1.5 billion people in more than 180 countries using it to send and receive text, photos, videos and documents, as well as make voice and video calls through an Internet or Wi-Fi connection. The free app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient in one-to-one chats, or all members if it is a group chat. Not even WhatsApp can read them.

AGE RESTRICTION
16+

What parents need to know about WhatsApp

AGE LIMIT CHANGE
Since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, including the UK. Prior to this, the minimum age was 13, which still applies for the rest of the world. WhatsApp has not yet stated whether it will take action against anyone aged between 13 and 16 who already hold accounts under the old terms and conditions, such as closing their account or seeking parental permission.

SCAM MESSAGES
Occasionally on WhatsApp, people receive spam messages from unauthorised third parties or from fraudsters pretending to offer prizes to 'lucky people' encouraging recipients to click on a link to win a prize. A common scam involves messages warning recipients that their WhatsApp subscription has run out with the hope that people are duped into providing their payment details. Other scam messages include instructions to forward the message in return for a reward or gift from WhatsApp or another person.

FAKE NEWS AND HOAXES
WhatsApp has been linked to enabling the spread of dangerous viral rumours. In India, for example, a number of attacks appear to have been sparked by false rumours shared on WhatsApp.

THE 'ONLY ADMIN' FEATURE AND CYBERBULLYING
Cyberbullying is the act of sending threatening or taunting text messages, voice messages, pictures and videos, with the aim to hurt and humiliate the receiver. The group chat and group video call features are great for multiple people to chat simultaneously, but there is the potential for people to hurt others with their comments or jokes. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin of a group chat greater control over who can send messages. Whilst this can be good for one-way announcements, the group admin has the power to block somebody from responding to an offensive message in a chat, which could result in a child being upset and unable to reply.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS
To start a chat in WhatsApp, you need to know the mobile number of the contact you want to speak to and they also need to have the app downloaded. WhatsApp can find contacts by accessing the address book of a device and recognising which of those contacts are using WhatsApp. If your child has shared their mobile number with somebody they don't know, they can use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

LIVE LOCATION SHARING
WhatsApp's 'Live Location' feature enables users to share their current location in real time to their contacts in a chat, allowing friends to show their movements. The feature, which can be found by pressing the 'attach' button, is described by WhatsApp as a 'simple and secure way to let people know where you are.' Location-sharing is already a common feature on other social apps, including Snapchat's Snap Map and Facebook Messenger and can be a useful way for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. However, if your child is in a group chat with people they do not know, they will be exposing their location.

NOS National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE
Even though somebody would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra security measure we suggest altering their profile settings to control who can see their profile photo and status. The options to choose from are 'Everyone', 'My Contacts' and 'Nobody'. We suggest selecting 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to ensure their profile is protected.

REPORT SCAM MESSAGES
Advise your child not to tap, share or forward any message that looks suspicious or sounds too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report the number as spam directly inside the chat. They can also report a contact or a group as spam using the following steps: 1) Open the chat. 2) Tap on the contact or group name to open their profile information. 3) Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Report Spam'.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES
If your child has sent a message to the wrong chat or if a message they sent has contained a mistake, they can delete it. To do this, simply tap and hold on the message, choose 'Delete' and then 'Delete for everyone'. The app allows seven minutes to delete the message after it has been sent, but it is important to remember that recipients may have seen and screenshot a message before it was deleted.

EXPLAIN HOW TO BLOCK PEOPLE
If your child has received spam or offensive messages, calls or attachments from a contact, they should block them. Messages and status updates sent by a blocked contact will not show up on the phone and will stay undelivered. Blocking someone will not remove this contact from the contact list - they will need to be removed from the phone's address book. To block a contact, your child needs to open the person's chat stream and tap on the settings.

LEAVE A GROUP
If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave again, they cannot be added again.

SET TIME LIMITS
A 2017 study found that by the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat. Although it is inevitable that your child will use technology, you can still set boundaries. This is not easy, especially since teens use their devices for both schoolwork and free time, often simultaneously.

USING LIVE LOCATION SAFELY
If your child needs to use the 'Live Location' feature to share with you or a friend, advise them to only share it for the amount of time they need to. WhatsApp gives the options of either 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can choose to stop sharing at any time.

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. Games that are rated 3 or 7 DO NOT have any legal guidelines, they are merely to advise parents on the suitability of the game for children of different ages. However 12, 16 and 18 rated games do have LEGAL guidelines and it is a criminal offence for a retailer to knowingly sell a game to a child under age.

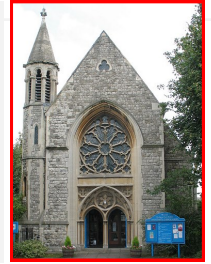
I have mentioned in previous letters about the super popular game Fortnite. Did you know that Fortnite is a category 12 game? This is mainly because of its frequent mild violence. This means no child at Lowther should be playing this game. We hear children talking about this game and it is important that parents ensure children are not being allowed to play games that have an age restriction that is older than they are. 12, 16 and 18 rated games are LEGAL minimum age ratings, NOT guidelines. Please support your child with appropriate use of technology. Thank you with your support of this important matter.

As a team we are always very appreciative of any gifts at Christmas but really the best gifts are the children's smiles and a well written card always goes down a treat too. If you really feel that you would like to give a gift how about making a donation to one of the charities that the school regularly supports. Perhaps you'd like to make a donation to the school instead? You can do this quickly and easily via Virgin Money giving. The full details are on the school website. Thank you in advance for your support.

Our annual Christmas service takes place in the final week of term at Holy Trinity Church on Castelnau.

The service starts at 9:45am on Wednesday 18th December and parents are welcome to join us any time from 9am.

The church service is always a great way to finish the calendar year at school. The children have a lovely selection of songs, music and readings for you. We look forward to seeing you there.



The sports season has been well and truly started.

Our teams always give 110% and wear the (Very smart looking) Lowther shirt with pride.

We've had great wins in girls and boys football against some of the other local schools as well as some super performances in local tournaments. There are lots more sports matches on the horizon. We always love it if parents (and children) come and cheer the team on. It'd be great to have plenty of support!



Our Y3/4 basketball squad played really well and made it through to the semi-finals only to narrowly lose out. Our Y5/6 squad came agonisingly close to 1st as they only lost by one basket to the eventual winners. They also score 96 points and only conceded 48 in their 5 matches.

Thank you for your support and backing with promoting good attendance. We are very pleased with this term's attendance. The very minimum attendance percentage we expect at Lowther is 96%. Three year groups this term did not meet that expectation. In fact only a small number of children across the whole school have a percentage lower than that. We want to ensure ALL children have at least 96% attendance. Please help us achieve that in 2020.

MINIMUM EXPECTED SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS 96% FOR ALL PUPILS

Recep-	94.6%	Year 4	95.6%
Year 1	96.0%	Year 5	97.5%
Year 2	96.7%	Year 6	95.9%
Year 3	96.7%	School	96.1%

Overall School Attendance for Term 1 = 96.1%

There's always lots going on at Lowther. Here is a summary of all the events coming up in the next few weeks before we break up for Christmas.

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?	ATTENDING
Thurs 5th	Nursery Odd Sock Day	Nursery	Children
Thurs 5th	Mufti Day		Rec-Yr6 & Staff
Thurs 5th	Nursery making Day	Nursery	Children & Parents
Thurs 5th	Santa's Grotto Set up	History Hall	PTA
Fri 6th	Xmas Jumper Day		Nurs to Y6
Fri 6th 9-2pm	Santa's Grotto visits	History Hall	Rec-Yr6
Fri 6th	Christmas Fair	Whole School	Children & Parents
Mon 9th	Lowther Enterprise		Year 6 MT & DB
Mon 9th at 2pm	Rec Dress rehearsal	History hall	Children
Tues 10th	Yr1 Wetlands		Children
Tues 10th at 9.45	Yr2 Dress rehearsal	History Hall	Children
Tues 10th at 2pm	Rec Nativity	History Hall	Children & Parents
Tues 10th	Staff Meeting		Staff
Weds 11th at 9.30	Reception Nativity	History Hall	Children & Parents
Weds 11th at 11am	Yr1 Dress rehearsal	History Hall	Children
Thur 12th at 9.30	Yr2 Nativity	History Hall	Children & Parents
Friday 13th at 9.30	Yr1 Nativity	History Hall	Children & Parents
Fri 13th at 1pm	KS1 Singing at CCP	Community Centre	Children
Mon 16th	Yr2 London Zoo		Children
Mon 16th at 9.30	Swedish School singing	History Hall	Nursery & Reception
Mon 16th	Dino Dome	History Hall	Rec & Yr3
Tues 17th	Yr4 Cinderella	Lyric	Children
Weds 18th at 9.45	Church Service	Holy Trinity	Whole School
Weds 18th	Christmas Lunch	Main Hall	Rec – Yr6
Weds 18th at 11 & 2.45	AM Nursery singing	History Hall	Nursery parents
Thurs 19th at 10am & 1.15	Nursery Party	History Hall	Children
Thurs 19th at 11am	KS1 Party	History Hall	Children
Thurs 19th at 2.30	Yr1 Parents Tea Party	Main Hall	Children & Parents
Friday 20th	Last Day of Term		
Friday 20th	No Staff Meeting		Staff
Friday 20th at 8.30	Carol Singing	Outside Main Hall	Staff
Friday 20th at 9.30	UKS2 Quiz	History Hall	Children
Friday 20th at 11.30	UKS2 Disco	History Hall	Children

There are lots of Christmas shows for you to come and enjoy over the next couple of weeks.

If you are coming with young children we politely request that should they become unsettled you take them out of the hall quickly and quietly. We also request that you keep filming and photography to a minimum as it can distract the children and also spoil others enjoyment of the show. Please be aware of people around you, especially when using phones or I pads to take pictures. Please note no pictures of children other than your own should be posted to any social media. The audience should remain seated for the duration of the show — with the exception of the encore at the end of course!) We will take lots of good photos and share via the school website.

If you are UNABLE to attend your class' show please speak to the class teacher regarding coming to the dress rehearsal instead. We'll do our best to ensure you get to see the show. It should be a lot of fun!