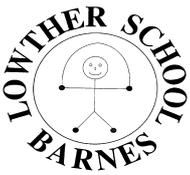


8th September 2017

ISSUE 1

LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



The return to school after the long summer break is always such an exciting one - the combination of gleaming uniforms, the eagerness and excitement of moving up a class, seeing friends again, making new ones and the buzz of a new year of learning ahead are a joy. Term is now go and I must say the children, right across the school, have got off to a superb start. We've already given out certificates and plenty of bling blings—and look forward to doing so many more times as the year progresses. We had a very good inset day of staff training but we couldn't wait to get the children back – and now it's time to get the learning on! All the teachers and I have seen children that are happy, settled and already working super hard — It really has been a fantastic start to term. The children at Lowther have a wonderful natural enthusiasm for school which rubs off on us all. It is now our job to make sure we provide your children with the very best learning opportunities and experiences. Together we can make this the best year at Lowther ever!

Staffing for this year

We have a fantastically talented teaching team this year (listed below) Many of the teachers have changed year groups and are very excited about the year ahead. We've also managed to retain a brilliant support team for your children. Our teaching assistants bring so much to our school and we're delighted to have them on board. We know how much our parents support the teachers and the team here at Lowther so a big thank you to you all for your continued fantastic support with this.

Year	Teacher	Teacher
N	Mrs Murphy	
R	Miss Barker	Miss Mould
1	Miss Tittle	Miss Mason
2	Mrs Cox (4 days) Mr Agarwal (1 day)	Mrs Tucker
3	Mr Gradidge	Mr Ripley
4	Mr Picken	Mr Nelson
5	Miss Rogan	Mrs Chalbot
6	Mr Pritchard (4 days)	Miss Coward

Safe Parking

Thank you to those of you that park carefully in the mornings and at pick up. This is so important as it concerns the children's safety. Please note there is NO parking on the zig zags during any part of the school day. Also please don't park dangerously or on road corners. Statistically it is imperative we take extra care as three out of 10 car accidents happen less than a mile from home. Thank you for helping to keep our local roads safe for the children.

You're part of the PTA!

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 — they're all a very friendly crowd and there is no commitment. Just do what you can. Last year was our most successful year of fundraising ever! Put this alongside the amazing work the PTA do meant that we were 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.



An extra special welcome to our Nursery and Reception children and Families

We are delighted to welcome our Nursery and Reception children into BIG school over the coming days. Welcome to Lowther! It's always a special time when children begin these landmark years. I'm sure I'll be giving out a lot of gold stickers as our youngest learners get stuck in to school life. An extra special welcome to families that are new to Lowther — I'm sure that you'll love being part of the Lowther School Family as much as we all do.

School Improvement and Ofsted

Senior leaders at the school and governors are busy putting the finishing touches to our School Improvement Plan for 2017-18. As you may remember, in previous years we have hosted a night for parents to share these plans. This year we will do this alongside the feedback we received from our recent Ofsted visit at the end of last term.

This meeting, for all parents, will be from 6pm – 7pm on the 26th September 2017. We'll present the findings of the Ofsted inspection first followed by our School Improvement Plan for 2017-18. In this meeting we'll also share some of the results data from the SATS and some of the other end of year assessments.

Following the meeting we'll make sure the full details of our plans to drive further improvement at Lowther are also on the school website for parents to view.





LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Super Send off!

We really appreciated everyone helping to give Mrs. Webster such a marvelous send off after 22 years of superb service to the Lowther School Family. She's still helping us mind, as she will continue to be a member of the school's governing body. She also sends on her thanks and huge appreciation for the effort everyone put in to giving her such a fantastic Lowther goodbye and good luck!



Lowther Primary School Open Days 2017



Come and find out more about life at Lowther by visiting us on one of our Open Days. Headteacher, Mark Tuffney, and Deputy Head, Dermot Bracken, will lead tours of the school and give you a chance to find out more about being part of the Lowther School Family.

Tuesday 26th September 9:30am
Tuesday 28th November 2:00pm

Book your place via the school office
(0208 748 3984)

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk



Attendance News

Attendance at Lowther is very good thanks to all of your fantastic support with ensuring children come to school every day. If your child is unwell please do phone school in morning of the absence and send a note in on your child's return to school. Many thanks.

New and improved school windows

We always try and make some improvements to the school buildings and site over the summer. This year the Local Authority has supported us with getting the KS1 and LKS2 windows and doors completely replaced. They're now double glazed and open and close far more reliably and safely. We're delighted as the historic look of the back of the main building has been preserved. We've also done some work to two outside spaces. We've begun enlarging the Nursery's outside space, this will be completed in the next week or so. We've also, thanks to a charitable funding grant, begun our improvements to the KS1 outside learning area. We've added some excellent wooden benching so that the space can be used more for structured, as well as free flow, learning. I'm sure you'll agree these are all really welcome and positive changes to our fantastic school site. .



School funding cuts

You may remember that at the end of last year I wrote to you about the severe funding cuts that schools are currently facing. Both Mrs Day (our school business manager) and I, in our 20 years in education have never seen the budget so tight. Most schools are now beginning to look at other ways to support their school financially, through necessity rather than choice. I will write to you all separately about this key issue for Lowther next week.



Some dates for your diary

We're busily putting all our school dates and events on our school calendar on the website. This is the main way we share this information so do check it out in the coming weeks and get those events locked in to your diary!

Dogs on school site

I love dogs and I know many of our families own a pooch. However, we politely request that no dogs are brought on to the actual school site or tied up within the school site. Thank you for your support with this.

Report feedback

Thank you for taking the trouble to complete the annual report feedback sheets. I have been through every sheet and read all the comments. We appreciate all the many positive praise and supportive comments and will work hard to ensure we respond to all feedback.

Your views do matter to us, so thanks again for taking the time to do this.

Important information regarding Break time snacks

At Lowther we want to continue to look at ways to improve children's health, fitness and well-being. The next step we'll be taking along this path is the changing of our policy regarding any break time snacks that the children bring in to school. This is applicable for all year groups, from Nursery through to Year 6. Please note however, that Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 get free fruit as a daily snack anyway.

We're always very happy, and indeed would recommend, children having a healthy break time snack. We now only allow fresh fruit and vegetables as a break time snack. This **DOES NOT** include fruit packaged such as Fruit Winders, Bear Yo-Yos and the like. A simple way to think of it is that if it comes in a packet it's probably not allowed. The main exception being dried fruit.

Examples of the sort of things that are great for a break time snack include

- Seedless grapes
- Satsumas, tangerines or clementines (peeled and wrapped for younger children)
- Small bananas
- Cherries
- Apples (can be cut into pieces for younger children and brushed with lemon juice to avoid browning)
- Plums
- Dried fruit such as apricots, dates or raisins
- Fruit salad (apples, satsumas, pears, pineapple chunks and grapes work well together. Avoid bananas because they go brown)
- Canned fruit transferred to a pot (use fruit stored in natural fruit juices rather than syrup)

(Please note we are a Kiwi free school)

Some vegetables that you could try as a snack could include;

- Cherry tomatoes
- Carrot sticks
- Celery sticks
- Cucumber chunks
- Baby sweet corn
- Grated carrot and raisin salad

Please note these changes are effective from Monday 11th September 2017.

If children do bring a snack that is not allowed it will be confiscated by a member of the school team and then returned to the child's parent at the end of the day.

I'm sure you'll agree these represent really positive changes for our children.

In the coming weeks we will also be announcing changes to our lunch box policy so please do look out for those. They will be communicated via the newsletter and the school website.

Examples of snacks that are ok



Examples of snacks that are not ok

