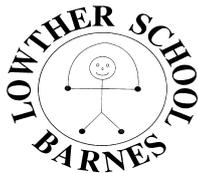


9th October 2015

ISSUE 2



Emergency contacts and changing phone numbers

Please ensure that the office has up to date contacts for your family. Many thanks in advance.

LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

The term is now go!

We've been really enjoying this term so far. The children have got off to a flyer! So many children from across the school have been producing some really excellent work. Mr Bracken and I have certainly been busy dishing out many a "Bling bling" 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 Leeza (Y6) Filip (Y6) Darcey (Y2) Jahzara (Y3) Danyaal (Y1), Jack (Y2), Kavelle (Y3) and Rulla (Y2) on achieving the golden standard. I'm sure they will wear their golden badges with pride! We've also awarded numerous certificates for a whole host of reasons. The children at Lowther really do have a wonderful attitude to learning.

Athletics superstars!

Well done to our Y3/4 athletics team who performed superbly in the recent locality competition at Vine Park. I witnessed great teamwork, enthusiasm and some serious speed! There is now an online gallery of the children in action and I've included some pictures in this newsletter. Awesome skills children!



School priorities for 2015-2016

Governors and the School's senior leadership team have now approved our school improvement priorities for 2015-16. We always like to share this with the school community and so will make this available on the school website in the coming weeks. Outlined here are the Top 5 priorities.

Whole School

Photograph

We have now had our whole school photograph for 2015 taken. Yay! Keep your eyes peeled as this will appear in the school welcome lobby soon.

Lowther SIP 2015/16	
B - Top 5 Priorities for School Improvement 2015-16	
<p>1. Further develop and embed a sharp focus on high quality teaching (E)</p> <p><i>Continue to promote and develop excellent teaching through peer to peer support, team teaching, observing colleagues, networking, learning walks, staff training and sharing best practice.</i> 100% of observed practice to be good or better, 33%+ to be outstanding Utilise CPD opportunities both internally, within the locality and the local authority that focus on developing pedagogy</p>	    
<p>2. Ensure new assessment systems support focused feedback and excellent pupil progress (D)</p> <p><i>Provide clear and regular communication of assessment systems to parents, including a specific focus on pupil progress and next steps</i> Give pupils improved opportunities to reflect on and respond to written and oral feedback about their learning and progress in class Clearer systems for children (and parents) to know what pupils need to do to improve further Further developing and refining our new assessment systems</p>	
<p>3. Ensure excellent progress alongside good or better levels of attainment (D)</p> <p><i>All year groups to show year on year improvement in attainment through accelerating progress e.g. Progress of all year groups to exceed 90% expected and 50% better than expected in all core subjects</i> Core subject targets are consistently met by all pupils</p>	
<p>4. Raise standards of communication, both oral and written, across the school (D)</p> <p><i>Improve attainment in Writing to exceed school average of expected equivalent 85% L5 25%.</i> Raise profile and standards of Phonics to ensure 80% of each FS and KS1 class is at an expected or above level. Promote high standards of spoken language through combining strengths in drama and reading with writing and the wider curriculum Provide structured support for EAL learners with early language acquisition Reduce the gap between Reading and Writing</p>	
<p>5. Support and manage the change to our flexible model of mixing classes alongside the strategic deployment of support staff (G)</p> <p><i>Phase leaders to take an active role in driving improvement through checking the quality of teaching and learning and analysing data</i> Faculty and phase leaders to widen opportunities for children to engage in cross year learning SLT to create strategic opportunities for utilising the skill sets of staff team</p>	

Parents evening (target setting)

Parents evening is just around the corner. If you haven't booked a time yet then please do so as soon as possible. We want the meeting to be as useful as possible and so we expect children from Y3-6 to come to (some or all) of 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 along to any part of the meeting or not. I hope you find the sessions helpful.

Y6 positions of responsibility 2015

I recently interviewed 25 children from Y6 who applied 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 are the school ambassadors.

LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



Free School meal entitlement

Please do enquire at the office about whether you're 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. Both Mr Bracken and I have a school meal every day and think they're excellent! Indeed so much so that we even told the BBC just over a week ago! Signing up for free school meals also 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) Sounds good to me!



Whole Food Market Success

Well done to our market entrepreneurs selling Lowther's very own jams and chutneys at the Whole foods Market. We made a healthy profit!



Super Attendance!

So far this school year we have achieved an excellent attendance rate of **96.6%** with seven classes exceeding 97% - well done! Our target this year is 96.5% (a challenging but achievable 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. Please help us to teach the children the importance of being punctual. Each classes attendances so far are outlined in the table.

Whole School Focus—Personal Responsibility

As you are now aware we're having a whole school push on pupils taking greater ownership and responsibility. This is an important piece of life long learning for children. We'll be working with the children on these different areas through assemblies, behaviour targets and through discussion in class. We really appreciate parental support in this matter. We'll look at lots of different aspects with the children, but some of the areas we'd like to focus on I've outlined below. We will go through all of these in more detail with the children over the coming weeks.

Reducing the huge amounts of lost property we have. We'd like to redouble our efforts on this by all families labelling pupils clothing (we currently have over 50 items in lost property) and by utilising the opportunity to give unlabelled clothing to charity.

Ensuring school sports equipment is looked after and returned to it's correct place, To help support this we will ensure there is sports equipment for children to use at play time. (last year just for example we 'lost' 28 basketballs!)

Reducing the amount of litter that is on school grounds. There will be some changes to the snacks that are allowed at school (from two perspectives—one about health the other about the rubbish produced) as well as providing a greater number of larger bins around the school. More details to follow.

Greater ownership of class property—every class in the school will have 5 basic rules to ensure we have a consistent approach across the school. This will be shared with children soon.

We'll also be planning further incentives and challenges for the children so that collectively as a school community we can improve these aspects of school life. Please do support us with these matters, they're something as a school we need to improve on. Thank you in advance!

Please label all your children's property including things like trainers and coats. I've even labelled my own shoes!



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



Governors at the school work to ensure there is regular communication with parents and the wider school community. Look out for future pieces in the school newsletter and also the parents meetings that governors host during the course of the year. The first of these will be in early November (exact date to follow) where we would like to have an open discussion with parents about the future of schools and some the changes that are being proposed in Education. Do come and join us if you're able to. One of the many great strengths of the Lowther School Family is the way our community wants to support school development and we as governors really want parental input into the way the school continues to evolve. Thank you for your support.

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

Class	Attendance (year to date)	Above school target of 96.5%
Willow	97.0%	Yes
Oak	96.7%	Yes
Pine	94.6%	No
Beech	96.8%	Yes
Elm	96.7%	Yes
Maple	96.4%	No
3C	97.6%	Yes (2nd)
3H	97.8%	Yes (1st)
4J	97.5%	Yes (3rd)
4G	97.3%	Yes
5P	97.3%	Yes
5N	97.0%	Yes
6P	93.4%	No
6T	96.5%	Yes
School	96.6%	Yes

Message from Sharon McNab—our school chair of governors



It's been fantastic to hear that the school term has got off to such an excellent start. Our job as governors is to support and challenge the school's work. I know Mr Tuffney, Mr Bracken and the team are working hard to ensure every child at Lowther has a fantastic learning journey. Here's to another super year at Lowther.