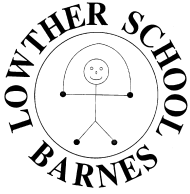


12th January 2018

ISSUE 9



LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year to the whole Lowther School Family

It's here, 2018! Everyone here at Lowther wishes you and your family a truly wonderful year ahead. 2017 was a hugely successful year for our school and rest assured we'll be working hard to make further improvements to our fantastic school this year. Our commitment, here at Lowther, to all of you is to ensure we provide your children with the very best opportunities to learn together in exciting, creative and challenging ways. We want Lowther to be a school that inspires an enjoyment of learning and that creates a positive disposition to learning for life. The new year always fills me with excitement as it's the start of more opportunities for all of us to learn and develop. It's exciting to think that your child is going to learn to do

things they've never been able to do before. 2018 could be the year that they

- Read their first chapter book
- Learn new and exciting vocabulary
- Be able to programme a computer

- Learn to write the alphabet
- Be able to recall all of their timestables
- Play for one of our school sports teams for the very first time
- Cook the dinner for the whole family
- Produce their best ever piece of art work.

Secondary Schools

The first round of offers for secondary schools comes out at the end of March. Please don't worry if your child isn't offered one of their top preferences in this first round. Experience has shown that places tend to be become available a little bit later down the line. Do come and talk to me if you need any further advice on this matter.

Talking of secondary schools, our local secondary, Richmond Park Academy, had a full Ofsted inspection at the end of December 2017. To read their good report you can use this link.

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/136208>

What a fantastic thought eh? I for one, cannot wait to see your children fly to new heights this year.

Governors update from Sharon McNab — our Chair of Governors

It was a fantastic year for the school in 2017. As governors we were very pleased with the school's Ofsted inspection. We're working closely with Mr. Tuffney and Mr. Bracken to ensure the points for actions are followed up in depth and with rigour.

The work of governors is to support and challenge the school to continue to improve. We're confident that 2018 will see the school maintain its quest to grow and go from strength to strength.

The school website

I hope that you take the opportunity to use the school website regularly. It's a really simple way to keep fully up to speed with what's going on at school. This includes our regularly updated Twitter Feed—which you don't need to sign up to in order to view, it's embedded into the site.

In addition there are of course new galleries (for example, of all the Christmas shows), videos and other content added regularly too. Keep checking for new content.

Reception Admissions 2018

If your child is born between September 1st 2013 and 31st August 2014 and you are hoping to secure a place in our Reception classes for September 2018 please be aware your online application needs to be completed by Monday 15th January 2018. Please let the office know if you need help with applying or need further details. Demand for places in Richmond schools is always high, so please don't delay your application.

Lowther's Got Talent 2018

Every year it sneaks up on us! Yes, it's January which means that it's time again for LGT! We're now in our seventh year of Lowther's Got Talent and I'm sure the judges will see all the acts try and pull out all the stops to try and secure their spot in the grand final.

There are 4 different categories that children can enter (Sign up sheets are on my office door).

- 1) Music and singing
- 2) Alternative
- 3) Sport and dance
- 4) Comedy, drama and magic

Performances should not be longer than 3 minutes and ideally around the 1—2 minute mark — it's much better for the performance to be short and effective than long and drawn out. Judges will be looking for originality, effort and preparation as well as talent.

Auditions are **Tuesday 16th January 2018**.

The grand final, which of course we'd love you to come and watch, is on **Friday 26th January 2018** between 130pm and 3pm. It should be masses of fun! Good luck to every one entering!

100% attendance week — wc 22nd January

It is statistically proven that excellent attendance is a crucial factor in how well a child does at school as well as being a key behaviour indicator for Ofsted inspections. Starting on Monday 22nd January, we have our annual 100% attendance week where we want everyone to make an extra effort to ensure the children have the expected 100% attendance. There will be prizes and certificates on offer. At the moment our school attendance is at 95% (which is below our 96.5% target) so this is an area of school life we all really need to focus on. Thank you all in advance for your help with trying to increase our attendance levels. Please continue to support your children with both excellent attendance and punctuality (which has been great recently, and hugely improved, thank you!)

Beautiful sunset at our beautiful school 🌅



Thank you from all of us

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas time and enjoyed the festivities and spending time with your families. On behalf of all the teachers and staff at school we'd like to say a huge thank you for the very kind gifts and cards that were given to us by you this Christmas. It is always really appreciated and also satisfying to know that our community is thankful for our efforts, but really a smile and a thank you genuinely are the best presents! Thanks again for your kindness and generosity.