



# Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 17

19th June 2013

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

## Let's make the last half term a special one

We've already had the excitement of the Summer fair, the wow factor of Art House, the adrenaline of the football tournament, the concentration of assessments and all the buzz of learning that's happening in our classroom. I know the children will continue to work their absolute hardest whilst enjoying the wider aspects of school life that are so prevalent this half term. Roll on sports day, roll on school journey to the Isle of Wight, bring on the getting ready for moving up, let's make this term a truly special one.

## Whole class photos

Matthew (our school photographer) has now put together the rather excellent whole class photos for you. They're on display in the welcome lobby. Do go and check them out. The deadline for ordering your copy is Monday 24th June 2013.



## No term time holidays please

I have recently received a number of holiday requests for term time. Please note that these will be classed as NOT authorised. I would also remind parents of Ofsted's views of attendance outlined in previous newsletters. Thank you for supporting us with such an important life skill.

## Internet safety

I recently ran a series of assemblies about staying safe online. It is so important for young people to learn essential safety facts that they can then use at home and at school. Our guidelines for safe use of technology have been written by the school council with a final proof reading by governors and senior leaders. We hope they are something that you'll use as your guidelines for home use as well as when the children are at school. These guidelines are available for all to read in different places around our school website and are now our wallpaper on all our school PCs.

<h3>Staying safe online</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use Skipper's safety button for top tips on how to stay safe</li> <li>Always ask before using the internet</li> <li>If you're uncomfortable about anything ask your parents or a teacher</li> <li>Only use the internet when there is a grown-up with you</li> <li>Always ask if you get lost on the internet</li> </ul>	<h3>Safety with others online</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you are online and someone says or does something you don't like or that is rude, tell your parent or a grown-up you trust</li> <li>Have an online nickname instead of your real name e.g. Super Fossilhunter</li> <li>Use a cartoon or something similar as an avatar</li> <li>When online, be polite to people</li> <li>Never arrange to meet anyone you've only met online</li> </ul>
<b>Lowther Primary School E-Safety Guidelines</b> <small>Written by The School Council - June 2013</small>	
<h3>Staying safe using Email and social media</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Always keep personal information private - this means things like your name, address, phone number, photos and passwords</li> <li>Only e-mail people a grown-up has approved</li> <li>Never open an email from someone you don't know</li> <li>Do not use internet chat rooms</li> </ul>	<h3>Website safety</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediately close any web page you're not sure about</li> <li>Only use child-friendly websites. Don't use sites like Youtube without checking with a grown-up first</li> </ul>

Skipper says "Surf safely and have fun online."

## The Wiz

Year 6 have been extremely busy rehearsing their upcoming performance. Full details of the Y6 show "The Wiz" are as follows.

Date: Wednesday 3rd July 2013

Time: 7pm

Ticket options: Adults £3, Children £1, VIP tickets £5. Tickets will be available next week.



## The LAFTAs— Tuesday 23rd July 2013

At Lowther we all fully believe in celebrating success. That may take the form of outstanding achievement or it may show itself through sensational progress. At school we have numerous rewards for children that show a great attitude to school — certificates, stickers, stars, bling blings, medals, competitions, extra play, the golden standard, positions of responsibility, class of the week, attendance prizes — the list goes on. Last year we decided to expand this further and so hence the LAFTAs were born (Lowther Awards For Terrific Achievement/Attitude) These awards are up for grabs for any pupils from Y1 to 6. This year we've expanded the categories slightly to give even more children the chance to shine. We're also going to ensure that on the night a few words are said to explain why the child deserves the award. Tickets this year will be limited to two per family. If your child has been nominated for an award you will receive a letter in the post in the coming weeks inviting you to attend. We hope it will be a great night. More details will be announced nearer the date.



## Y4/5 Boys dance sensation

Wow! Y4/5 boys took their moves down to Barnes Primary this week to join in a dance performance alongside boys from Kew Riverside, Sheen Mount and Barnes. Our boys were awesome — well done lads!

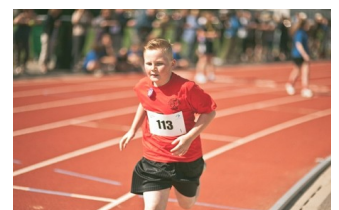
## Sports Day Format 2013

Sports day is for many children and families one of the highlights of the school year.

Over the years we've changed and adapted it so that it is as brilliant as possible for all the children. This year with the school changing in size we've adapted it once more.

We will be operating team carousel activities in the morning (as before) but this year we will be splitting the school in two. In each half of the school there will be 20 teams made up of approximately 7 children from different year groups. The idea is to make the groups smaller to allow the children to get even more involved. We have continued to put siblings in the same teams but will no longer continue with wider family such as cousins etc being in the same team. It should be a truly fantastic morning of team events.

In the afternoon we will be having our usual running races. There will be the girls and boys sprints for each class as well as the longer distance races for Y1 -6. We've ordered the medals, set up the teams, planned the activities—all we need now is some good weather and lots of supporters! Sports Day is FRIDAY 5th JULY 2013.



## Job vacancies at Lowther

We have a vacancy for an SMSA (school meals supervisory assistant) to work 10 hours a week over the lunchtimes. If you're interested in the position please enquire at the office.



### Pupil reports

Teachers have been busy preparing your child's end of year report. As previously mentioned we are using a new format this year. We will be including a feedback form (as we did last year) so please do let us know your views. Reports will be out Friday 5th July.

### PTA Facebook page

The PTA Facebook page has really taken off and is a great way to socialise with fellow parents, find out all the goings on of the PTA and the Lowther School Family. Do go and check it out.

### New staffing for next year

We are delighted to announce the appointment of two new teachers for the school year 2013-2014. We had one vacancy as a result of our expansion. We have recruited Miss Hannah Jones to fill this role. Hannah will be joining us from Heathfield Junior School where she has been teaching for the last 5 years. Hannah is passionate about music and so will be getting heavily involved in the musical side of things here at Lowther. We have also recruited Miss Jennifer Meacher. Jennifer beat off a whole raft of applicants to gain a position in the lower school. Jenny is an Early years and KSI specialist I know both Jenny and Hannah will be fantastic additions to the Lowther School Family. Both of them will spend some time in school this half term in order to meet children and parents.

We will share all the class allocations and class teams of grown-ups next week.

### Good bye and good luck teachers

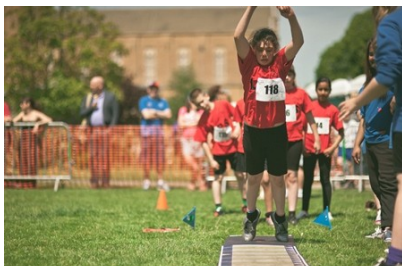
We have a number of teachers leaving us this year for pastures new. Mrs Anderson has worked at Lowther for 11 years, most recently as a specialist teacher taking small groups. She has decided to try a new career path and has scooped a position working with a Christian charity, the Riverbank Trust, which works with local families.

Mrs Gardener will be leaving her maternity cover position in the Nursery as she has managed to secure a permanent position at another school.

Mrs Taylor, who works part-time in the Nursery, has decided to step back from teaching for a while and enjoy being with her young family.

Finally, Miss Jenkins will be leaving us to move down to Bristol where she has secured a new teaching position.

We thank all our departing teachers for their huge endeavours as part of the Lowther School Family. We wish them every happiness in their new ventures

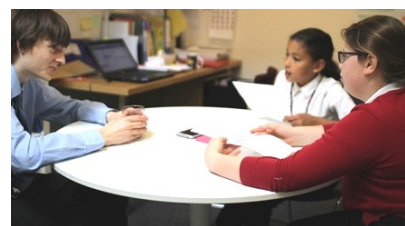


### Now "live" online

There are 3 new galleries now online

- Borough Sports
- Grounds Afternoon
- Y4 residential trip

Additionally check out a great dance video starring some of the boys from Y4/5. The pupil survey results are also available for you to read on the school council drop down. We've made some additions to the events page including pictures of Rock Star day, the Summer Fair and the KS2 Football Tournament. Happy surfing!



### Skipper's Scoop — edition 3 coming very soon

Mrs Colenso and her editorial team have been working around the clock to get edition 3 of Skipper's Scoop ready for reading. I'm really looking forward to getting my hands on a copy. We expect them to hit the street on Monday 24/6. The school magazine has been a fantastically successful project this year and we look forward to a new editorial team taking on the reigns next year.

### Wow! The Summer Fair has raised £6000

Thank you all for getting so involved in supporting your school. It's very exciting as we'll now be able to purchase additional things for the school (for example a brand new PA system, a new table tennis table, a revamp of the KSI outside area etc) that we'd otherwise not be able to afford. Thank you all once again.



### Homework Challenge reminder Another Whole School Homework Challenge to get stuck into

The challenge is simple "Design a whole school homework challenge"

I believe that children have the most creative minds on the planet—so here's a chance to prove it! We've had all sorts of homework challenges over the years—photography, models, recycling, singing the list goes on and on. You'll need to think about setting a challenge that everyone could have a go at. It's up to you how you design the challenge, you can use the computer, you can draw or paint, perhaps even make one. We'll leave the creative bit up to you.

The deadline is Friday 28th June. All entries will receive a Bling bling and a special certificate. Our favourite challenge will be made into an actual Whole school homework challenge. Good luck and happy designing.