



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 2

1st October 2013

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Term time action

The term is now in full swing. Children have been producing some excellent work, indeed Mrs Colenso and I seem to have a steady stream of children coming to us for "Bling Blings". We have 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 Ella (Y6) Isaac (Y1P) Gabriella (Y1B), Cassidy (Y1P), Scarlett (Y3T) Thomas (3B) Henry (2E) and Cara (2E).

Mr. Tuffney's Golden Award



Whole Food Store in Richmond

The allotment/cooking project will be selling our jams and chutneys at the new store on Tuesday 8th October. A group of children will be there representing the school. If you can come along and support us (and buy a jar or two) that would be wonderful.



As you can see we have now had our whole school photograph for 2013 taken, Yay! Keep your eyes peeled as this will appear in the school welcome lobby soon.

Super Attendance!

Last week the school achieved an attendance rate of **98.27%** (possibly our best ever) with three classes having 100% - well done Year 6, 4J and Elm! An enormous thank you for supporting us with this fantastic result. 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. We lock our two side entrances at 9.05am to maintain our 'secure line' for the safety of all the children. If you arrive after this time your child will need to enter through the main office and the office staff will ensure your child has been marked present on the register. They will also be given a small slip of paper to give to their teacher which explains they have been signed in.



PTA Update

Our busy PTA is now up and running for another school year. They really do welcome all parents getting involved in any way they can. This year Jo (mum of Cara in Elm) and Kal (mum of Macey in Elm and Charlie in Pine) will be the co-chairs. Please do get involved if you can, you will be guaranteed a very warm welcome.

Playing after School - We welcome and indeed encourage you to stay after school and chat and let the children play. However, we do ask that you supervise your children (school to them is a safe place, but after school the gates are open) and keep them in sight. The swing is not to be used before or after school; scooters and bikes should be pushed and not ridden. If there is a club on the field/astro we would ask that children keep clear of those areas. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

Parents evening (target setting)

Parents evening is just around the corner. We expect children from Y3-6 to come to 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 to the meeting or not. I hope you find the sessions helpful.

Emergency contacts and changing phone numbers

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



New and Improved CCP

If you didn't know, the Castlenau Community Centre just down the road on Stillingfleet, has had a rather marvellous re-fit. Pick up a leaflet from the lobby or from the centre to find out the full range of great programmes and activities on offer.



Free School meal entitlement

Please do enquire at the office about whether your child is 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. Now that really is a double win!

School council 2013-14

Key Stage 2 pupils have elected the following children as their representatives on the school council this year. I'm sure all the children will take on the responsibility with enthusiasm and commitment.

- 3T—Oliver and Rawnaq
- 3S—Amanda and Hendrix
- 4J—Hyun-Ji and Oskar
- 4B—Alex and Lottie
- 5—Julia and Harry
- 6—Connor and Ella

Where next ?

Our children move on to a whole host of local secondary schools. The Y6 class of 2013 went to the following schools:-

- West London Free School - 5
- Grey Court — 1
- Brentford School for Girls — 1
- Richmond Park Academy — 10
- Christ's — 3
- Chiswick — 1
- Lady Margaret — 1
- Fulham College for Boys — 1
- Ashcroft — 1

We wish them all future happiness and success.

Y6 positions of responsibility 2013

I recently interviewed children from Y6 who wanted 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 Mrs Colenso's PA to Sports Leaders to children that help me run one of my assemblies. Well done children!

London Children's Flower Society

I am thrilled to announce that Lowther's allotment has been awarded the Duchess of Gloucester's Award this year. The Trophy Award Ceremony will be held in the Old Library, Guildhall, Gresham Street on Wednesday 9th October. Mrs Wriglesworth will be taking representatives from the Gardening Club to receive the award on our behalf.

Dads that want to get active!

Richmond Knights Basketball Club run our Y3/4 basketball sessions and also organise many of the basketball tournaments that we've won on a number of occasions over the years. They work in a number of local primary schools and due to interest from dads (perhaps inspired by their son or daughter's exploits) have started up sociable weekly games for men of all abilities. I actually go myself and it's really excellent fun. The sessions run every Tuesday from 7.45pm—9.15pm at Christ's Secondary school, The sessions cost £6 and you simply need to turn up and play (and pay) . Anyone interested in giving it a try do get in touch with me and I'll let you know more. I'd highly recommend it as a sociable way of keeping fit and having some fun!

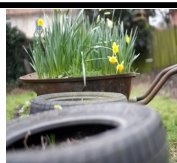


Lowther children having won a Richmond Knights Tournament last year



Help keep our beautiful school looking superb

Percentage of pupils achieving				
Level 4 or above				
Subject	Richmond	Lowther	Richmond Rank nationally 2013	Richmond Rank nationally 2012
GPS	85%	96%	2nd	na
Reading	93%	92%	1st	2nd
Writing	90%	92%	1st	2nd
Maths	91%	92%	1st	2nd
RWM ³	85%	84%	1st	2nd
Level 5 or above				
GPS	66%	72%	1st	na
Reading	63%	60%	1st	1st
Writing	45%	20%	1st	2nd
Maths	59%	60%	1st	2nd
RWM ³	37%	20%	1st	2nd
KS1 to KS2 progress				
Reading	92%	96%	7th	8th
Writing	93%	100%	26th	14th
Maths	92%	96%	12th	3rd



Homework Support at CCP

Our very own Teaching assistant Mrs Korkmazgil will be working as the supervising tutor alongside volunteers from St Paul's at CCP's homework club. The new facilities at the centre will allow children to work in even more space and comfort.

The sessions are on Tuesday and Thursday 4pm – 6pm. The club is open for anyone in Year 6 and above, so I really think the club will complement the homework support we offer and provide children with even more opportunity to complete work



Clean-up Saturday

In conjunction with our rather marvellous PTA we have clean-up Saturday planned for this Saturday (5/10/13) from 8.30 – 11am. This is an opportunity for parents and families to come over to school and get to grips with a few different jobs around the school. Please do try and get involved for either some or all of the morning. It will be very greatly appreciated.

Primary Schools in Richmond are TOP!

Once more the 42 state primary schools in Richmond have performed incredibly well academically. Richmond is the number one achieving borough nationally pretty much across the board for all subjects (based on Key Stage 2 results) We really are fortunate to be in an area where all the local schools are such excellent schools. We are very proud to be part of such a great borough. Indeed our academic results show that we more than hold our own against any other primary school not just in the borough but also in the country. Richmond has consistently performed way above the national average and that trend is continuing. Interestingly for the progress from KS1 to KS2 Lowther has, between 2006-2012, not been out of the top 13% nationally and has also not been out of the top 8 schools in Richmond during this time (twice coming 1st in the borough). During October the school will be sent information which shows in more detail our academic performance and I will share that with you in due course. Of course academic results based on tests do not give the full picture of the education provided by any school. At Lowther we pride ourselves on providing a broad education where learning is engaging and exciting and that we work closely with families to help develop really well rounded, social able and confident young people. Here's to many more years of great success.