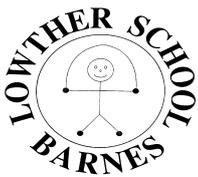


29th January 2016

ISSUE 6



# LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

## A month of awesome learning!

I've really enjoyed our first 4 weeks of 2016, I think it's been another super half term with so much great learning going on. Mr. Bracken and I take great pleasure in the number of children sent to us for Bling Blings and the awesome attitudes to learning we see as we walk around the school. Children always say a happy hello whenever we see them and always really impress us with their enthusiasm for school. From the number of certificates we've awarded for such a host of reason it's plain to see the children really are pushing themselves in their work. It's also been another half term packed full of activities and events, of which there are plenty more still to come. Don't forget the website has all the latest news on too. Here's to a cracking last two weeks of the half term.

### Dads and Mums football

Well done to the mum's football team who recorded another impressive win, this time a 3-0 victory versus East Sheen. The Dads and teachers have their second match on Friday 29th January at 7pm. Again it's against East Sheen so we'll see if the Dads do as well as the mums! If you'd like to play then do let Dave Green know. Spectators are also very welcome.

### 100% attendance week Update

Thank you all for your help with trying to increase our attendance levels. 100% attendance week was successful with the following classes all achieving 97% or better...3H, 4J, 5N, 5P, 6P and the Willow class.

## Important meeting for Parents

We wanted to give you plenty of notice about an upcoming important assessment session for parents. There is a new way of assessing children's progress and you may well know that the old "levels" were abolished at the end of last year. We'd like to take the opportunity to explain to all parents how we will assess your child's progress during their time at Lowther. This is an important meeting for ALL parents. We've planned this specifically to be in advance of the parents evenings planned for 29th February and 1st March so that all parents fully understand how teachers will assess their children's progress this year and in the future. More details to follow.

The assessment meeting is on **TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2016 @ 6pm in the main hall**. Teachers and senior leaders will make a short presentation to parents followed by an opportunity for parents to talk to teachers and ask questions. I strongly recommend that all parents try and attend the meeting as it's something that affects all the year groups.



Table tennis is booming at Lowther! We had an awesome win versus Holy Trinity school recently and the standard of play at play times is fantastic!

### Break time Snacks and Packed Lunches

It's taking us a little bit longer than we expected to make our final decisions on guidance around snacks and packed lunches. As soon as we have finished our research we will share the changes with parents. Thank you for your patience with this important matter.



Y3 making full use of the iPads funded by the PTA and all of you. They've been a huge hit!

### New Format

This is edition two of the new regular fortnightly newsletter. The next edition is due out on Friday 12th February 2016. In the meantime look out for those Parentmail messages and all our Tweets (we're up to Tweet number 887 now!)

### Yellow Zig Zags

Please **DO NOT** park on the yellow safety zig zags at the front of the school. If you do so you are putting children's lives at risk. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

### Making use of the school website

I know many of you regularly use the school website. This is a great way to keep in the loop of what's going on at school as it has our regularly updated Twitter feed, the latest newsletter and also Skipper's Scoop all available to read at the click of a mouse. There are of course new galleries, videos and other content added regularly too. Keep checking back!

### Fit for Sport

Work closely with the school to provide lunch time play opportunities for the children as well as after school care from 3.15-6.15pm. Do enquire at the school office if you'd like to know more.



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## Lowther's Got Talent 2016

The auditions for LGT this year were fantastic. And as you read this we'll know our winners. Do check Twitter and the website for pictures from the final and all the latest updates.

Some interesting facts about this years LGT.....

- We had nearly 100 children audition
- 27 acts made the final
- 52 children made the final (26 boys 26 girls)
- Only 13 of the children in this years final appeared in the final last year
- The acts in the final included a whole range of skills and talents—music, comedy, gymnastics ballet, singing, dance and more.

Well done to all the children that auditioned and took part in what is now a real Lowther tradition!



Governors Update from Sharon McNab — our chair of governors

### Multi Academy Trusts, Secondary School places and more.....

As you will know from previous correspondence we conducted a piece of investigative work around the local Multi-Academy Trust that was proposed between East Sheen, Barnes and Richmond Park Academy. Whilst at no point were we officially involved in the discussions we wanted to listen and find out more. We made the decision to then not join in this proposal. East Sheen have since followed suit and so that particular MAT is not happening. This is very much a government agenda and so will keep you posted with any further news or developments.

On the 1st March we will receive notification of the secondary school offers pupils at Lowther receive, We will, as usual, communicate this to all parents,

### RPA Acting Head Visit

Tracey O'Brien, the acting principal at Richmond Park Academy, is visiting Lowther at 9am on Friday 5th February 2016. She'd love to meet with parents and answer any questions you may have about the school, I strongly recommend parents take the opportunity to meet with her.

### Attendance Figures

Whole school attendance is 96.11% so far this year (slightly below our target of 96.5%) If your child is absent for any reason please do send in a note or phone the school office.

Class	Attendance % rom September 2015—January 2016
<b>Oak</b>	95% - below school target
<b>Willow</b>	96% - school target level
<b>Pine</b>	95% - below school target
<b>Beech</b>	96% - school target level
<b>Elm</b>	95% -below school target
<b>Maple</b>	96% - school target level
<b>3C</b>	97% - above school target
<b>3H</b>	97% - above school target
<b>4J</b>	97% - school target level
<b>4G</b>	96% - school target level
<b>5N</b>	97%- above school target
<b>5P</b>	97% - above school target
<b>6T</b>	96% - school target level
<b>6P</b>	96% - school target level

**Richmond Park Academy**  
To make our best better

## Meet the RPA Parents

If you are a Y4, 5 or 6 parent and you want to really know what happens inside your local secondary school come to our Cheese and Wine evening on the 11th February. RPA parents across the school will be yours for the evening. You can be sure of an honest answer so come prepared!

**Thursday 11th February 2016**  
Cheese and Wine Evening • 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm • Oak Tree Café • Hertford Avenue entrance  
[events@richmondparkacademy.org](mailto:events@richmondparkacademy.org)

### Parent governor elections results

A huge thank you to our three candidates for the Parent Governor elections, Aisha, Gaurav and Tamsin. It was a very closely fought contest with Tamsin Gatewood, mum of Luca (Y1) and Matilda (Y4), receiving the most votes and thus being elected our new parent governor. A real strength of the Lowther Community is the way families support the school. I know Tamsin is fully committed to further strengthen links between parents and school. Thank you also to all of you that voted in the election.



### 2016 — the best year ever!?

I love how children's learning just grows and grows. 2016 will be a special year for your child, Just think, it could be the year that your child

- Learns to read
- Learns all their timetables
- Gets 10 out of 10 on their spelling every week
- Learns to ride a bike
- Can write a computer programme
- Represents the school at sports for the first time
- Writes their best ever story
- Bakes their first ever cake

The possibilities are endless. At Lowther we want to empower children to succeed in all different aspects of school life. I'm excited to see first hand the wonderful new and exciting things your children will learn in 2016.