



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 6

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www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

The journey continues

As we start the second half term it a great opportunity to reflect on your children's successes in the first half term of this school year.

Reception class have taken their big step into big school and have become real Lowther learners already.

Countless children have achieved certificates and bling blings for excellent work. Children have adapted effortlessly to the new school building and the logistics of the school day. There are too many other great stories to recount them all here. They do though have a common theme—your fantastic children and their wonderful enthusiasm for school. This though is only the start of their learning journey for the year, so whether they be in Reception or all the way up in Year 6 I look forward to seeing them continue to fly this half term. The challenge is on!



Photo time

The whole school picture is now up in the lobby and a slightly different version is up in the KSI corridor. Here's a special sneak preview for you. See if you can spot yourself.

School Magazine and Homework Challenge Result

Well done to all the children that entered the homework challenge. A special well done to Ella Turton (big sister of Megan) Sarfie Ghamloush (dad to Tiana, James and Ethan) and Mrs Colenso who all completed the cube (and quickly too) Y6 will be going to the O2 this month to take part in a Rubik cube world record attempt.



We had lots of super name ideas and character designs for the new school magazine. It was a tough decision to choose the winners. So much so in fact that we decided to award all the entries with a certificate. You will be able to see all the entries on the school website shortly.

The name chosen for the school magazine is "SKIPPER'S SCOOP" - this was the fantastic idea of Elia in Year 4. Elia also made a brilliant model of Skipper which was chosen as one of the mascots. The other mascot was designed by Kai in Year 3. His mascot is a dog which the school magazine team have named Scoop.

The school magazine editorial team are working hard to get the first edition published. They will be producing a magazine every half term. There will be a printed and online version available. Edition One will be out before Christmas and it'll be FREE!



Parent view — we are always pleased to receive feedback from you about life at Lowther. Please do talk to us, either in person or if you want to, use the Ofsted Parent view. This site provides a simple and easy way to give the school feedback.

www.ofsted.gov.uk/parentview



Assembly themes

We have a number of different assemblies during the course of a week. Our two whole school ones are on Mondays and then we have certificate assembly on a Friday. Last half term I covered two themes on the Mondays. 1) What do we do that makes us the Lowther School Family and then 2) we looked at behaviour at school. This half term our theme will be choices and being a great learner.

Golden Standard

Well done to all the children that have achieved the Golden Standard so far this year. Your pictures are displayed proudly outside the Headship room. I look forward to awarding lots more Golden standards this half term.

Year 1

Ben T, Clemmie, Macey, Isla

Year 2

Ben, Amanda

Year 3

Hyun-Ji, Manith, Max, Ellie, Kit, Carlota

Year 4

Celine, Lilly, Bless

Year 5

Lizzie, Elizabeth

Year 6

Codie, James, Hanaa, Tilly, Joshua, Leah, Raymond

Football victory against Sheen Mount

Two out of two now for the football team after a fantastic 5-2 victory over Sheen Mount last week. A really great team performance—keep up the great work gentlemen!



Handwriting

Across all of the classes teachers and children are working hard to improve handwriting standards. Please support this by encouraging your child to take pride in the way they present their work. To see excellent examples of handwriting have a look at the display outside the Headship room.



Hong Kong Phooey Targets—Blue belts galore!

Mrs Colenso and I have awarded lots of blue belts. This is fantastic as it means children are hitting their targets. A special well done to Imogen in Year 2 who is the first in the school to hit all 3 blue belts. We are expecting to award a lot of green belts this half term. There are 5 belts to achieve in 3 different areas—Maths, Reading and Writing. The aim is that your child should achieve one belt in each subject per half term. Please do ask your child how they are getting on with their targets. Happy target hitting children!



Reading—What we do and how you can help

Reading is a crucial part of school life and learning. This is what we aim to do to support reading

Foundation Stage

Children are heard read weekly, There are daily phonics sessions and high frequency words practice. Children are expected to read everyday at home, learn their fish words and share books together at home (both story and information books)

Key Stage 1

Children are expected to learn their fish words at home and practice with parents. These words should be read by sight not sounded out. Reading at home for 10 minutes a day everyday is also an expectation. The children have guided reading sessions twice a week and are further supported by parent helpers. Daily phonic sessions are run during the morning.

Key Stage 2

Guided Reading groups run everyday. Children are heard reading by a member of staff twice a week. Key Stage 2 pupils are expected to read every night at home and get their reading record signed. Children make the greatest progress in their reading when they read for pleasure. Finding a great author/non-fiction subject/newspaper/comic/website that your child enjoys and has an interest in is crucial in becoming a fluent reader.

We have lots of parent volunteers with reading—thank you so much for this. The reading partnership between home and school is vital. Thank you for support with making this partnership so effective.



Key dates for this Half term

This half term is always a busy one. Here are the key dates.

- Term starts Monday 5th November
- 8th Nov Yr 3 Roman Workshop
- Yr 4 Amazing Africa workshop
- 12th Nov Yr 6 Evacuees workshop
- 14th Nov Yr 2 Elm Richmond Museum
- 15th Nov Yr 2 Maple Richmond Museum
- 16th Nov Tag Rugby Yrs 5 & 6
- 19th Nov Yr 6 Cycling Training
- 20th Nov Reception to Wisley Gdns
- 21st Nov Yr 6 to O2
- 23rd Nov TAKEOVER DAY!
- 28th Nov Yrs 3/4 Basketball Christ's School
- 29th Nov Yrs 5/6 Basketball Christ's School
- 30th Nov Mufti Day for Xmas Fair
- 3rd Dec Yr 6 to Richmond Magistrates Court
- 4th Dec Making Day
- 7th Dec Christmas Fair
- 10th Dec Nativity Dress Rehearsal
- 11th Dec Nativity Performance 1.30 pm
- 12th Dec Nativity Performance 9.30 am
- 17th Dec Pantomime
- 18th Dec Church Service Holy Trinity at 10.00 am
- 19th Dec END OF TERM

Amazing attendance in the first half term — 97%

Wow! Thank you for helping us achieve such an excellent whole school attendance figure (one of our best!) Every class achieved a very good level of attendance last half term (results are illustrated below) This is not possible without your fantastic help with this—so thank you for your support. Well done to the 149 children that managed 100%. They all received a prize and a certificate.

There are 2 key areas for the school community to continue to work on. 1) Term time holidays. Requests for these have decreased but we still get too many! These absences will be recorded as unauthorised so please do not take your child out of school during term time.

2) Being on time. Again this has improved but we'd like it to be even better. We ring the bell at 8.55am. Did you know if you are 5 minutes late every day over a year this equates to 950 minutes of lost learning.

That's the same as having 3 days off school!

Let's have another great half term of learning and being at school everyday.

Thank you once more for all your help with achieving such an impressive total in the first half term.

Class	Attendance
Oak	96%
Willow	98%
Pine	98.4%
Beech	97%
Elm	96%
Maple	97%
3CR	97%
3S	96%
4	97.5%
5	96%
6	98%
School Total	97%

Gill Hines Workshops

The current state of play with the workshops is that all the workshops are now full except Drugs which has 4 places and Transition which has 3 places.

All the waiting lists are also full except sex which has 2 places and choices which has 4 places. We are hoping there will be a repeat of all the workshops later in the year.