



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 7

6th January 2015

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Let's take learning at Lowther to new heights!

Welcome back to the start of a new term. I thought the first term of the year was a cracker and that the children did a really fantastic job with both their attitudes to learning and their involvement and passion for school life. It was also our biggest ever term of fundraising from parents and the community. Thank you all so much! As a school family we've set ourselves high standards and look forward to making 2015 the best year at Lowther ever! Our commitment in 2015 to your children is to provide opportunities for them to learn together in exciting, creative and challenging ways. Our number one school priority this academic year is to ensure the very highest standards of teaching in each and every classroom. I look forward to seeing the children flourish and soar to new heights in 2015. It's going to be fantastic!

Reception admissions

If your child is born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011 and you are hoping to secure a place in Reception at Lowther for September 2015 please be aware your online application needs to be completed by 15 January 2015. Please enquire at the office if you need any support or further details. There is huge demand in Richmond for school places so please don't delay your application.



Whole School Homework Challenge

I'm always keen to hear about children's ideas for making Lowther an even better place to come to school. Chloe in Y5 had the brilliant idea recently of making a new friendship bench for pupils. So we thought it would be fun to set the whole school the homework challenge of **designing a new bench**. I haven't done a homework challenge for the whole school this year so I really hope you enjoy having a go and getting involved in the challenge. It's available for any child to get stuck into. I'll be giving out the good ol' Bling blings for each entry and certificates for the very best entries. The winning entry will also actually get made into the Friendship bench.

You can draw or paint a model of your design (I have blank templates if it helps) If you prefer you could design it on the computer or even make it out of Lego or other modelling materials. How you do it is up to you. All entries need to be handed in to me by Friday 23rd January 2015. Happy designing!

Updates from Mrs Colenso

Inter-class competition

We believe that competition can be healthy if managed appropriately. We have an inter-class competition across the school which focuses on three weekly awards — for attendance, gold standard behaviour and class of the week. These are the latest results. Attendance across the school has been excellent—so please do continue to support your children with this vital part of school life.

Walking to school

Don't forget that now we're in January we've signed up to the 'Living Streets Walk Once a Week scheme' – WoW. WoW is a year-round incentive scheme which rewards children walking to school at **least once a week** with a collectible WoW badge.

We'd like everyone to walk to school at least once a week. Those coming by car are encouraged to 'park up' a couple of streets away and walk. Scooting, cycling and taking the bus all count as 'walking to school'. We'll be recording each pupils efforts in class. Happy walking!

	TOP Attendance awards	Class of the week awards	Golden Behaviour awards	Total number of whole class certificates
Oak	2	0	2	4
Willow	1	0	1	2
<i>Please note Oaks and Willows have only recently been involved in the competition hence their lower totals so far.</i>				
Beech	2	0	5	7
Pine	2	0	10	12
Maple	2	1	8	11
Elm	1	0	8	9
Y3C	3	0	6	9
Y3H	1	0	6	7
Y4J	4	0	6	10
Y4B	1	1	8	10
Y5P	0	1	4	5
Y5N	2	1	6	9
Y6	5	1	8	13
Top Class	Y6	Y6, Y5N, Y5P, Y4B, Maple	Pine	1st Y6 2nd Pine, 3rd Maple

So many thank yous

On behalf of all the teachers and staff and school we'd like to thank you for the very kind gifts and cards that were given to us at Christmas. It is very satisfying to know that efforts are appreciated but really a smile and a thank you genuinely are the best pressies!

100% attendance week

Next week is 100% attendance week. Please support us with this—there will be certificates and prizes up for grabs!

Diary dates for the first half term

Here are the key dates for this first half term of 2015. It promises to be a great half term of learning and excitement.

Friday 9th Jan— Cake sale for Ebola Crisis

w/c 12 Jan - 100% attendance week

14th Jan - Whole School Bake off

20th Jan - Whole School Writing Day

23rd Jan - LGT Auditions

28th Jan - Yr 1 National Gallery

29th Jan - Yr 2 Hyde Park Centre
30th Jan - Lowthers Got Talent - final 2 - 3pm

4th Feb - Reception and Year 3 to National Art Gallery

5th Feb - Music Concert Evening

9th Feb - Year 4 Kew Gardens

10th Feb - Thames Explorer

13th Feb - End of the Half term

Parentmail

If you are not receiving e mails from us please consider picking up a form to apply for Parentmail from the school office.

Prompt Pick-up Please!

Please ensure that children are collected on time at 3.15pm. It can be quite unsettling for children to be left waiting for someone to collect them. Many thanks in advance for your help with this.

Exciting Writing Challenge Coming soon

To support our drive to improve attainment in Writing Miss Hallam is planning a rather super Writing competition.

'Screen Your Story' is a wonderful opportunity for all our young storytellers. The competition gives pupils the chance to be a published author, or even have their story made into a real film to be shown at the Olympic Cinema in Barnes. Watch this space for more details coming soon. I can't wait!



Skipper's Scoop - edition 1 now out

A big well done to Mrs Puddephatt and her editorial team for edition 1 of Skipper's Scoop. I thought it was a super magazine. I know the team are keen to make the magazine better and better so please do feedback to Mrs Puddephatt any ideas you may have to make the magazine even sharper and what you particularly liked about their first edition. If you haven't picked up a copy yet there are still copies available in the lobby or you can read it online on the school website.

Governors Update from Sharon McNab — our chair of governors

School leadership and governance

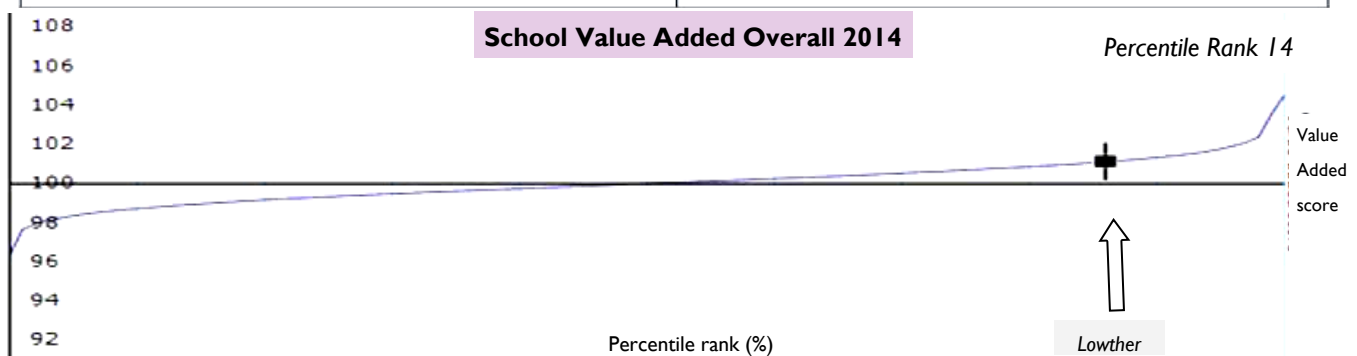
I hope you are finding the regular updates from governors useful. We want to share more with parents and families the role of governors within the school's organisational structure. So what then, do the governors of Lowther actually do?

- Together with the headship team they are responsible for making sure Lowther provides a good quality education.
- They provide challenge and support to the headship team drawing on their own knowledge and experience.
- They help make decisions together on matters such as performance, targets, school policies and school development plans.
- Governors monitor the impact of policies and oversee school budgets and staffing.
- They report on school achievements and respond to inspection recommendations.
- They hear appeals from pupils and staff and consider complaints.
- They ask questions and respect the position of headship team as the professional leaders of Lowther Primary School.

All governors at Lowther are fully committed to supporting and challenging the school. To find out more about our school governors and the work they do please visit the governor section of the school website.

Further Data news In the last newsletter I shared with you some regional data on the progress pupils make at Lowther. Illustrated below are how pupils at Lowther did with regard progress compared to other schools nationally. As you can see pupils make excellent progress at Lowther. We are working hard to continue to ensure pupil progress is an outstanding feature of our school. A full explanation of all our school data is available online on the "How are we performing?" tab.

Subject	Percentile ranking
All subjects combined	Top 14% of schools nationally
Maths	Top 10% of schools nationally
Reading	Top 8% of schools nationally
Writing	Top 62% of schools nationally



Lowther's Got Talent 2015

Yes, it's January which means that it's time again for LGT. What started as an idea from three of pupils in Year 5 has now turned into a much loved annual Lowther event. Our fourth Lowther's Got Talent will have new judges who will be expecting the acts to pull out all the stops to make it to the final. There are 4 different categories that children can enter

- 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 Friday 23rd January 2015

The grand final which of course we'd love you to come and watch is on **Friday 30th January 2015** between 2pm and 3pm. It should be huge amounts of fun!



Another Lowther first — a full Music Concert

Anyone who came to the Church service before Christmas will have witnessed first hand the growing breadth of musical talents we have at Lowther. With this in mind we are delighted to announce our first ever Lowther Music concert.

Selected children will be invited to perform at the concert and there will be performances from adults too. All parents and families will be welcome to come and enjoy the concert. The full line-up will be announced soon along with tickets to the event. In the meantime the date to put in your diary for the concert is Thursday 5th February at 6pm. It should be a super evening of music.