



Lowther

ISSUE 1: 7TH SEPTEMBER 2018

WWW.LOWTHER.RICHMOND.SCH.UK

Welcome back! I'm delighted to be writing the first newsletter of the year! What a fabulous year of learning, fun and opportunity we've got in store for your awesome children.

One week in and it's all systems go! Term has now well and truly started and school is in full swing. The children have come back to school so well. All the teachers and I have seen children that are happy, settled and already working super hard—it really has been a cracking start to term. Seeing the smiling faces of the children looking so smart in their uniform as they came back to school this week was really wonderful. The children at Lowther have a wonderful natural enthusiasm for school which rubs off on us all. It is now our job to make sure we provide your children with the very best learning opportunities and experiences. So we're all ready to strap ourselves in for another year of amazing learning...let's get rolling!

Hello

News of recent events and activities

As you would expect here at Lowther the children have come back on top form and some of the work they've done this week has been really pleasing to see. It's looking like it's going to be another amazing year of learning and discovery!

Over the summer the school site was used for a photo shoot for the DfE's campaign to attract people in to teaching. Some of our children will also be featured in the advertising. Keep your eyes out for those ads—we'll try and sign post you to them when we know they're out. We were happy to be involved as it helps to promote our fantastic school further.

Have you noticed the new windows? We've had all the windows on the front elevation of the main building replaced. We're delighted with the outcome, the hall in particular looks fantastic. Now, over the last two summers, we've had all the windows replaced in our wonderful original building. Meaning it's quieter, better ventilated, warmer in the winter as well as looking so much better too.

Updates from the PTA

Barnes Food Fair is next Saturday, 15th September - if you can spare an hour on the Lowther School Stall please email lowtherschoolpta@gmail.com

"Calling all bakers" - we need cakes and goodies for the Barnes Food Fair Lowther Stall. It's a chance to showcase our school to the Barnes community and get our fundraising off to a good start!

'Save the Date' Lowther Family BBQ, Friday, 21st September 5:30 -7:30pm. Tickets will go on sale soon. Come and enjoy the grounds, reconnect with old friends and welcome new families.

Thank you to all the people that have come forward to volunteer as Class Reps. Could every parent/carer please ensure you give an up to date email addresses to your Rep so they can collate the class contact lists. Thank you.

On a separate note the PTA would like to thank all the parents that supported the Gin Night in our Summer Term, raising £1,200, specifically to thank Robert Blackwood (Archie's Dad - Yr1) for donating his time and Gin Expertise to the evening, making it highly entertaining and enjoyable. Also thanks to Jamie Sutherland (Rufus's Dad Yr2) for his delicious catering at the event. Feedback for the night was phenomenal! For those that missed it, don't worry a repeat event will happen in 2019!

Finally, the PTA would like to thank the entire 'Lowther Community' for a fantastic fundraising effort last year - the total raised was £24,000. This was an outstanding amount! Thank you all. Let's see if we can smash that figure this year!

Last year we applied to take on a new programme run by the NHS and Barnados which focuses on promoting alternative thinking strategies. We were lucky enough to be one of the schools in Richmond to start the programme. Two other local schools joined us for training on our INSET day on Monday. The programme is called PATHs and will be used in all classes from Reception to Year 6. It's an excellent programme and will be highly effective in supporting children with social-emotional learning—this includes learning more about forming positive relationships, teamwork, recognising one's own emotions and values and more. Do talk to your child's class teacher or myself if you'd like to know more about the programme.

New school programme

Vacancy for a member of support staff

We have an exciting opportunity for someone to join our support staff team here at Lowther. If this is something you'd be interested in or would like to know more about please do enquire at the office where you'll also be able to pick up an application form. The role is working with our younger children (age 3 to 7) The hours are flexible and thus we will be considering both full and part-time hours to fill this role.

The closing date for applications is Friday 21st September.

Important practical notices

If you have packed lunch please don't forget our new policy—which is available online. Mr Bracken and I will be monitoring this very closely as we support families in making adjustments to what their children bring in to school for lunch. Many thanks for your support with this key matter.—we've been massively impressed with the quality of lunch boxes so far this year—thank you.

Don't forget school meals are FREE for all pupils up to end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2)

You may be interested to look at the data below. This shows the % of children at Lowther over the last 3 years (in Reception and Year 6) that were obese or overweight. As you can see we still have some work to do to ensure we are supporting our children with healthy lifestyles and fantastic well-being. Our packed lunch and break time policies have been designed to support this further. Thank you for your support.



The proportion of Reception children who were overweight or obese (18.8%) is statistically similar compared to other schools across England (22%). 16% of Reception children were overweight or obese in Richmond upon Thames local authority.



The proportion of Year 6 children who were overweight or obese (34.4%) is statistically similar compared to other schools across England (34%). 25% of Year 6 children were overweight or obese in Richmond upon Thames local authority.

Parentmail is the easiest and quickest way for you to stay in touch with important events at school. Most families have signed up but if you haven't please do so. You can pick up an application form from the school office. Twitter is another super way to see pictures and hear all the news from school. You don't need to sign up to Twitter, you can access the feed via the latest news section on the school website

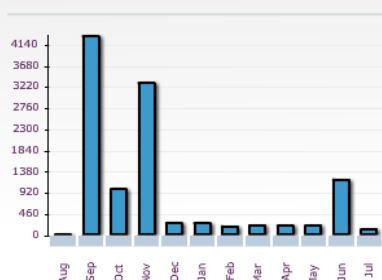


An extra special welcome to our Nursery and Reception children and Families

It's always a thrill to see our youngest children start their school adventure. We are delighted to welcome our Nursery and Reception children into BIG school this week. It's always a special time when children begin these landmark years. I'm sure I'll be giving out a lot of gold stickers in the coming week. An extra special welcome to families that are new to Lowther—we hope you love being part of the Lowther School Family as much as we all do.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Donations received



Total donations received

£11,760.00 Last 12 months

Thank you all! The amount of money you raised last year was simply incredible. Thank you all so much for your wonderful support of our school in what was an extremely tough year financially. The donations you made, totalling an amazing £11,760 made a huge difference to our school. Thanks again for your brilliant support. The challenge now is to see if we can again raise funds this year to help support our school financially in times when it is very tough.

Check out this page on the website which has all the details of how you can make donations, either regular or one-offs, to the school.

<https://www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/fundraising.php>

Of course, you can also contribute financially to school by coming along and supporting our fantastic PTA events, whether that be quiz night, the summer fair—you'll have a lot of fun and you'll be helping the school.

Please do get involved.

We have a fabulous team of teachers here at Lowther with such a diverse set of skills and experiences. Our support team are brilliant too, and we're all here to ensure your children have a wonderful primary school experience.

We've had quite a lot of staff move around the school as we believe this to be a really healthy and a positive way of supporting teachers professional development. All the senior staff at the school will continue to be actively teaching in the classroom too. We believe this to be an important part of sharing and modelling good practice.

Did you know that Mr. Gradidge will be teaching music across the whole school each and every Thursday. This has been funded by the PTA as music is something we'd love to develop further. We're very excited about developing the music experience for your children at Lowther. Mr. Mahi is now fully qualified as a teacher and so we're delighted he's going to be teaching at Lowther in 2018 too.

If you haven't had a chance to catch up with your child's new teacher yet we very much hope you'll have the opportunity to do so in the coming weeks. The relationship between home and school is vital for ensuring pupils make excellent progress with their social and academic learning. Thank you for all you do to make this partnership so successful.

Your class teachers for 2018/19

Foundation Stage	Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
Nursery—Mrs Murphy	Y1 Beech—Mrs Hughes	Y3M: Miss Mason	Y5N: Mr Nelson
Oaks—Mrs Hunter	Y1 Pine—Miss Tittle	Y3R: Miss Rogan	Y5R: Miss Newton
Willow—Miss Barker	Y2 Maple—Mrs Tucker	Y4G: Mr Gradidge/ Mr Mahi	Y6R: Mr Ripley
	Y2 Elm—Mrs Cox/Mr Agarwal	Y4P: Mr Picken	Y6C: Ms Chalbot