



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 1

8th September 2014

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

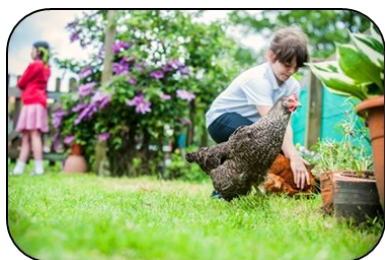
Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Year

I always love the start of term. The combination of shiny uniforms, the excitement of moving up a class, seeing friends again and the buzz of a new year of learning ahead (and that's not to mention the relief on parent's faces!) are a joy. Term has now well and truly started—and the children have got off to a flying start. We've already given out certificates and plenty of bling blings—and look forward to doing so many more times as the year progresses. We had two very good inset days of staff training, including for the first time, sharing training with our partner local schools (Barnes, St. Osmund's, East Sheen etc.) The days went superbly but school's just aren't quite right without children! We were all so pleased to see the children return on Thursday. I was delighted to see that none of the children had lost their wonderful natural enthusiasm for school over the holidays. All the team at Lowther are fully committed to making sure we provide your amazing children with the very best learning opportunities and experiences. Together we can make this the best year at Lowther ever!



A huge Lowther welcome!

A very big Lowther welcome to all our new families that have joined the school family this September. We are also delighted to welcome our Nursery and Reception children into BIG school during the coming week. It's such a special time when children begin these landmark years. I'm sure Mrs Colenso and I will be giving out plenty of gold stickers in the coming weeks!



School Improvement

Senior leaders at the school and governors are busy putting the finishing touches to our school improvement plan for 2014-15. As you may remember we hosted a night for parents at the end of last term to begin sharing these plans. We'll make sure the full details of our plans to drive further improvement at Lowther are on the school website in the coming weeks.



Look out for a new whole school photo soon!

Staffing changes — a brief summary

We're delighted to welcome Miss Barker to our Nursery class and Miss Mould to the Oak class. In Key Stage 1 Mrs Cox and Miss Tennant are team teaching Elm class whilst in Lower Key Stage 2 we welcome Miss Coward and Miss Hallam to Year 3. Finally, in Upper Key Stage 2 we hope Mrs Puddephatt enjoys life in Year 5 as much as she did in Year 2.

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.

Super start!

All the teachers, as well as Mrs Colenso and I, have been really impressed with how quickly and well the children settled back into school life over the first few days. It shouldn't really surprise us any more as they do it every year! Fantastic work children!



School Year 2014—15 — more great things planned

We're fully committed to making Lowther an exciting, challenging and rewarding place to come to school. Our intention is to develop and support our already very broad range of activities and enrichment that we provide for the children whilst looking at exciting new opportunities too. It promises to be another action packed year at Lowther.

Some dates for your diary

Important school dates are online now on our new and improved online calendar—we hope that it is even more user friendly. Included below are some of the key dates for the first half term.

September

- 16th – 2.30pm UppKS2 Curriculum Forecast Meeting
- 17th - 2.30pm LowKS2 Curriculum Forecast Meeting
- 18th – 2.30pm Years 1 and 2 Curriculum Forecast
- 22nd - Year 2M Hammersmith Fire Station
- 25th – Year 1 Natural History Museum
- 29th – 3 Oct Year 6 Cycle training
- 29th Sep - Walk to School Month
- 30th - Year 2E Hammersmith Fire Station

October

- 1st – Year 4 Wetlands Centre
- 3rd - Rec & KSI Perform Drama Workshops
- 3rd - Year 6 Churchill War Rooms
- 6th - Year 4 Richmond Odeon
- 7th - Year 2 Tower of London
- 13th – Parent Consultations
- 14th – Parent Consultations
- 22nd - Year 5 Theatre Exchange Athens/Year 6 WW2
- 23rd – 9.30 am Harvest Assembly

HALF TERM – 27th – 31st Oct

Home time

Children must have written permission from someone with parental responsibility to leave the school premises by themselves at the end of the school day. If you'd like your child to go home by themselves please organise collecting a permission form from the school office.

French Club News



Our French club is starting again next week (wc 15/9). Monday 15th September for Reception class, Tuesday 16th September for Years 1 to 6 and at lunch time on Friday 12th September for Years 1 and 2. There are still a few places available so if you are interested in your child participating in the lessons please contact Liliane via email club@lescoccinelles.co.uk or visit their website for more details about the methods and strategies they use: www.lescoccinelles.co.uk

Thanks for your send-off

We really appreciated everyone helping to give Mrs Wriglesworth a marvellous send off after 18 years of superb service to the Lowther School Family. She's still helping us mind, as she sent me a fantastic video which I used in last weeks assembly!



Cakes Competition for children at Barnes Food Fair

On Saturday 20th September it's the Barnes food fair. Children can bake a cake and enter in to the competition. Simply bake the cake and take it to the OSO between noon and 4pm with the judging at 4.30pm. It would be great if our reputation locally as master cooks is reinforced with a Lowther pupil scooping a prize, so I say go for it!



School Meals

I am delighted Reception and KS1 are now all entitled to a hot and healthy meal for free every day. I look forward to sharing many a happy meal time with them this year.

School Leadership

As you will be aware we have re-organised our senior leadership team for this year. The school's senior leaders (Mrs. Webster, Mrs Said, Mrs Colenso and myself) oversee a team of leaders across the school. Some of the changes we've made include Key Stage 2 being split into lower and upper and clearer leadership of the different areas of the new curriculum. We also want to ensure fantastic communication between different phases of the school to aid sharing the very best practice. The further development of the leadership group is again an important part of the school improvement plan for the year ahead.

Ant and Dec aren't the stars, Y6 are!

A huge well done to the 11 children from Year 6 who took part in the Ant and Dec roadshow at the O2 and Wembley arena. I was lucky enough to see them perform fantastically in front of a mere 15,000 people at the O2! School plays are going to be a doddle for them!

We are expecting the video that ITV filmed with us here last year any day. We won't be able to put it on the website but we will be showing it in assembly and will do an after school screening for parents. We'll keep you posted.



Administrative and Logistical Requests — Please bear in mind the following information below

Up to date contact numbers

Please can all families ensure the school office have up to date contact numbers, including an emergency one. This is essential so please do check with the office if you're unsure if they have your current details.

Attendance News

Attendance at Lowther is very good thanks to all of your fantastic support with ensuring children come to school every day. If your child is unwell please do phone school in morning of the absence and send a note in on your child's return to school. Many thanks.

Follow Twitter for school updates

Remember you can follow the latest news and happenings at school via the Twitter feed on the website. Additionally the PTA also have a Facebook page which again you can access via the school website.



Morning routine

Attached to this newsletter is an additional letter which outlines some minor changes we're making to the morning and evening routine at school. These changes are being made in the best interests of the children and are effective from Monday 8th September. Thank you in advance with your support with this matter.

Being Safe before and after school

We kindly ask that children do not partake in any of the following either before or after school on the school grounds.

- Play any ball games
- Scooting or riding bikes anywhere on the school ground
- Do not use the large swing

Children and families are of course welcome to stay and play, chat and socialise at Lowther. These small restrictions are purely for safety reasons. Thanks for your help with this.