



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 5

17th October 2011

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Thanks for a great first half term

I am delighted the children have made such a good start to the school year. They have settled into their new year group well and have worked very hard. Mrs. Colenso and I have seen so many great learners alongside some excellent teaching. I know the teachers will have very high expectations of the children as they progress through the year. Our focus will continue to be on making sure all your wonderful children continue to grow and develop in all aspects of school life.

I would also like to thank all of you, our incredibly supportive parents. The Lowther Family is a team and you are central to that. Thank you for the way you have adapted to the changes this year and for your fantastic support. Have a great half term — and if you're stuck for something to do why not have a go at Homework Challenge 2 (see below) or join in the Extended School activities (see overleaf)

End of Homework Challenge 1

Thank you very much for the entries into the photo competition — we received just over 80 photographs. We will announce the winners later this week and will prepare a special exhibition of all the entries—these will be displayed in the lobby. Here are just 4 of the amazing entries received.



Here's Homework Challenge 2—Build the future!

As a challenge over the half term holidays here's Homework Challenge 2 — **Design the new building at Lowther.** This could take the form of a drawing/painting/collage/a 3D model/a computer drawing. You could make it out of Lego, clay, recycled materials. Be creative and get stuck in! To see what the actual design looks like visit the website. However, if you want to come up with your own design that would be amazing too.

The deadline for entries is Monday 7th November 2011.

As with all the Homework Challenges every entry will receive a gold sticker. In addition outstanding entries for Homework Challenge 2 will receive a special certificate and a guest tour of the actual building site.

Good luck and happy designing and building!



Singing Workshops for ALL

Our fantastic PTA (who by the way are always glad to see new faces join in) have paid for a real treat for not just the children but parents and staff this week. They have arranged for the very wonderful Dom Stichbury (who runs the Community Choir) to come in and run singing workshops for the children—and for parents and staff too. The staff team worked with Dom back in September on one of our inset days and I can absolutely confirm that he really gets everyone singing! I was quite taken aback by how good the staff team sounded bearing in mind they had to contend with my dreadful voice! Dom will be in school all day on Thursday and Friday. The end of the workshops will culminate in a small concert on Friday afternoon. We'd love to have a performance from children, staff and parents.

The parent workshop is on Thursday at 2.45pm (and will finish before pick up)

The concert is on Friday at 2.15pm

I can assure you the way Dom works you DO NOT need to be a good singer to sound awesome! It would be a wonderful treat for the children to see the grown-ups in action—so do get involved if you can.

Governor news

We had 3 first class candidates apply to be parent governors. After counting (and then re-counting!) the votes we are delighted to announce that Josephine O'Shea has been elected. Two of Jo's daughters (Grace and Hope) are currently at Lowther and her elder daughter Niamh (now in Year 9) came to Lowther too. Jo knows the school really well and will be a great addition to our governing body.

Open door policy

All staff at Lowther operate an open door policy for children and parents. This is fundamental to the way we work at Lowther. Do come and see me or another member of staff—whether it be to celebrate a child's achievement or to share a concern. We want to work together to achieve the very best for all the children. It is much better to talk things through with a member of the staff team than let things build up. Thank you for support with this.

Website updates

Steve our fab webmaster has put lots of new things on the class sections of the website—with lots more to follow soon. We hope you like it.

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/classroom-links.php

Also keep an eye out for Raouf from Year 6 updates on the building site—this will be the main way we keep you informed of the progress of the building alongside my usual bulletins in the newsletter.

Last Chance to Order

Tea Towels by 18 Oct. Don't miss out as you cannot order at a later date. Order forms available in the school office.

Half Term Fun

On the reverse of this week's letter is the range of holiday activities organised by Pauline and Lucy our extended school co-ordinators. Why not get involved?

**Have Your Say About Richmond State Secondary Schools**

Our children deserve to receive the very best education. We are in an area of London where school standards are very high, this does however mean that there is an increasing demand for school places in the locality. A significant number of parents are working hard to try and ensure there is a great choice for every family. Do take the time to read through the information below.

Richmond Council is currently making a series of decisions about the secondary school system in the borough which will affect all the children currently at primary school. This is in response to the combination of high birth rates and greatly improved GCSE results across the borough, leading to a shortfall in secondary school places, so this decision will have widespread implications.

On 13th September Richmond Council held a debate (webcast available www.richmond.public-i.tv/core/portal/home) in which the inclusive school petition was presented that asked the Council "to ensure that every state-funded school opening in the borough from now on is inclusive, so that no child can be denied a place in a good local school because of the religion or belief of their parents". Over 2000 people from across the community have supported it, with beliefs ranging from the non-religious to Anglicans, Muslims, Hindus, Jews and Catholics, including parents and senior figures from borough schools. More details can be found on <http://www.richmondinclusiveschools.org.uk/>

It is important that the Council hears the views of as many of the borough's parents as possible as it's our families that will be directly affected. There are currently two petitions underway: one supporting the Council's plan to provide a Catholic voluntary-aided catholic school, and the other requesting instead that the new secondary school should be open to all. Both petitions can be accessed via the Council's website at:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/council_government_and_democracy/petitions/online_petitions/epetitions.htm

If you would like to know more please contact either Gaurav Mathur on gmsin@hotmail.co.uk or Jeremy Rodell on home@rodell.com.

AUTUMN HALF TERM THINGS TO DO WEEK 24TH- 28TH OCT 11

Barnes/Mortlake/Kew/East Sheen

All sessions are drop in. For more information contact Extended Schools on 07432 696986

Details	Mon 24 th Oct	Mon 24 th Oct	Weds 26 th Oct	Weds 26 th Oct	Fri 28 th Oct
Activity	Creepy Crafts and Spooky Stories	Non Contact Boxing with Alex Freyer	SPELLBINDING Science Workshop	Creepy Crafts and Spooky stories	Creepy Crafts and Spooky Stories
Time	Morning 10-12	Afternoon 2-5	Morning 10-12	Afternoon 2- 4pm	Morning 10-12
Venue	The Barn Church Atwood Avenue Kew TW9 4HF	121a Mortlake High St Mortlake SW14 8SN	Richmond Park Academy Park Avenue, East Sheen SW14 8RG	Powerstation , 121a Mortlake High St Mortlake SW14 8SN	Castelnau Community Centre 7, Stillingfleet Road Barnes SW13 9AQ
Cost	£3 per family	£3 per person	£3 per person	£3 per family	£3 per family
Age	Families up to 12yrs 4 children per adult	2-3.30pm 8yrs-11yrs 3.30- 5pm 12yrs up	8-12yrs	Families up to 12yrs 4 children per adult	Families up to 12yrs 4 children per adult
What	Halloween themed crafts for the whole family to make with our crafty workers and the Library will tell spooky tales for your children.	Learn some basic footwork, punches & defensive moves using pads, gloves and punch bags.	Science Wizard Mr Morris will teach you how to do exciting experiments that will amaze and inspire you!	The creative team from Orleans gallery have Halloween themed crafts for the whole family to make followed by spooky stories told by the library team.	Halloween themed crafts for the whole family to make with our team of crafty workers and suitable spooky tales for your children

Halloween Disco Party Friday 28th October 5-6.30 at Castelnau Community Centre- bring your witches and wizards up to 12yrs.. £3 per child includes witches finger snack! All children must be accompanied by an adult.