



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 20

3rd May 2012

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

A MEGA – hardworking term!

The Summer term is now in full swing. The children will be working super hard this term as it's the term where there are the end of year assessments. At Lowther we are very proud of the progress the children make whilst they are here. Our results indicate that children working at all different levels make excellent progress at Lowther. Over the last 6 years our added value ranking nationally has never been outside of the top 13% of schools in the country. This ranking looks at the progress the children make at the school – so for any school this is a key measure.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Value added	Top 1% of schools nationally	1%	6%	9%	13%	5%
Percentile ranking nationally						

Summative assessments (as they are known) or in other words “tests” are an important part of the school year. However, they are only a snapshot of children’s attainment on that particular day in that particular subject. They do not tell the story of your child’s social, cultural, spiritual and creative growth. At Lowther we want children to achieve the very highest academic standards alongside learning in an exciting, stimulating and creative way. By creating an environment where children feel safe and happy they are then able to achieve their potential. This is the Lowther way — we’re very proud that the attitude to learning our pupils have is first class. This has been fundamental to our pupils’ successes over time.

Building News

Our new school building is really taking shape. I was lucky enough to have a site walk around recently and it really will be a space the whole community can be proud of. I’m especially excited about having

- A super ICT room for whole class lessons
- A wonderful cooking space so the chefs can really do some wonderful cooking with the children
- A bigger hall so we can all fit in more comfortably
- And a fantastic new sports space so we can get your children working extra hard in PE!

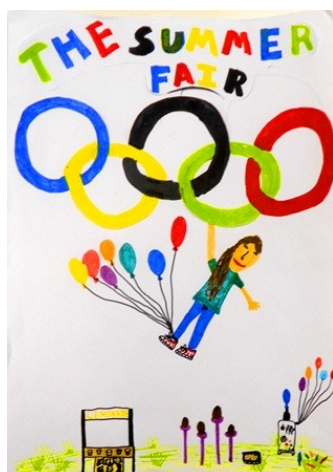


Raouf in Y6 has made a cool little video which shows the progress of the site. Check the school website for details.

Summer Fair Poster competition

Wow! Thank you to all the children that entered the poster competition — we had some truly smashing entries.

Congratulations to Tabby in Y5 whose poster really showcased the Fair and the Olympic theme. Tabby’s work will be displayed on the Marsh and Parsons signs in the local area.



Pink day 2012— Friday 11th May

Help us to support two great charities - Breakthrough Breast Cancer and The Caron Keating Foundation by paying a £1 to wear ‘Pink’ on the 11th May. We will also be holding a ‘Pink’ cake sale on the same day so please get baking!

Team Lowther will be taking part in the ‘Pink Powerwalk’ on Sunday 13th May and you can sponsor them here:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/lowther12>

Sharing information

We really want to have as much open communication with parents as possible. We have begun to put our school policies online for you. We will gradually add to these over time as governors and senior leaders review and amend policies.

Upcoming events

Mon 7th May Bank Holiday

School closed

Fri 11th May

Pink Day

W/C 14th May

SATs week Yr 6

Tues 15th May

Queen’s visit to Richmond Park

Tues 22nd May

Reception to London Zoo

Fri 25th May

Year 5 to Garrick Theatre

Mufti Day for Summer Fair

W/C 28th May

Creative Arts Week

4th—8th June

Half Term Week

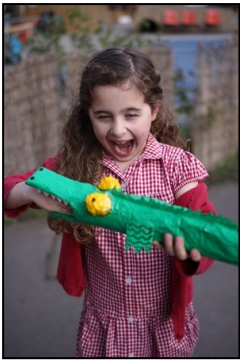
School

Council News

After the success of the Tuck shop the school council will be getting their teeth stuck into a new project shortly. Their brief has been children’s health and well-being and so their initial plans for their next project are focused on sport and PE. I look forward to seeing what they come up with.

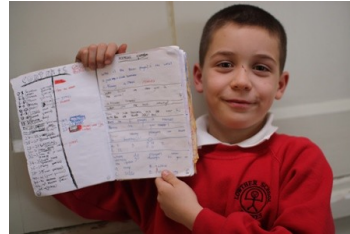


Homework Challenge 5 — DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!



The children did a marvellous job with the DSD challenge. We had gardeners, film makers, artists, writers, golfers and lots more. Well done to all of you for trying something new.

Look out for Challenge 6 coming soon!



Attendance and holiday requests

Our attendance target is 96%. We are currently on 95% so with every family making an extra effort to come to school every day we can hit our target by the end of the year.

Please be aware that governors and school leadership have made the decision that holiday requests for term-time holidays will NOT be authorised. Over the year we have received far too many requests — over time we have always tried to be practical and understanding with these requests. However, as a school we have a duty to ensure children are at school during term time. I am sure you realise that this decision is in the best interests of the children.

Sport and the Olympics

Parent mail

If you aren't signed up for parentmail yet please do — it's the easiest and quickest way for the school to share information with you. Please give your details to the office team.

Entrance and exit

Thank you for the way you have adapted to the entrance and exit arrangements this year. It will be much easier for everyone next year when we have 2 main entrances. In the meantime we request that children do not exit and enter through the welcome lobby. Thank you in advance for helping with this.



We love sport at Lowther and as it is the Olympics in London this year we will have an even greater focus on sport and fitness in the summer term.



Whole Class Photos

Matthew, our fantastic school photographer, has now taken the whole class group photos. I'm sure you'll love the results. They'll be available to order in the coming weeks from the school office.

