



# Lowther

*We love learning at Lowther*

## Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to edition 3 of the school newsletter. We've spent a little time revamping the newsletter and we really hope you like the changes that we've made. As well as the alterations made to the visual aspects we've also tried to give each feature a bit more space to breath so it's an easier read. There are also some additional class pages which we hope you like. The aim of these is to give you a further glimpse in to life in each of our classes at Lowther. Alongside that we've also included some recommended reads for your children for each phase of the school. Reading is given a high profile at Lowther and we thought parents would appreciate knowing about some further good books that are available. We've invested a lot of hard-earned PTA money in a fabulous reading scheme for the lower school and want to do all we can to promote reading here at Lowther.

We hope you find the monthly newsletters a useful way of staying connected and fully informed with all things Lowther. We try to make sure key information is included not only here but on our website and social media platforms too and of course via Parentmail.

Thank you all for being so marvellously flexible and positive adapting to our new normal.. Our view is that this term has been a really positive one. We've both been in to every single class across the school this term to observe learning, progress, attitudes, quality of teaching and getting to know more about how our curriculum is working. We endeavour, every day, to ensure we have the highest standards of academic learning within a broad and exciting curriculum that is designed for high enjoyment levels amongst the children. We also know that everyone needs exciting things to look forward to and we are of course now all looking forward to sharing the build up to Christmas with the children and you, their families. It feels even more important this year that the children all have a very special Christmas.

Happy reading, and do let us know what you think of the new style newsletter.

Mark and Dermot

Let's stay  
**connected**



# The Lowdown

After 12 weeks of work we were delighted to have the handover for our fabulous new toilet facilities. These are primarily for children in Year 1,2 and 3. All pupils however, are welcome to use these facilities.



The boys loos have been increased in size significantly and now have 4 cubicles rather than 2. There are new hand dryers as well as a complete refit of all other units, the flooring etc. The girls loos have been remodelled and are now modern and fresh. In the other pupil loos we've added new taps and flushing mechanisms on the taps as well as new hand dryers in this space too. We're delighted with the outcome.

## Update from our school Governors

We are really pleased to have two new governors join the governing body here at Lowther. Lelde Wohlfart (Erin in Year 3's mum) has joined the governing body as one of your parent governors. Tim Bishop (Marnie in Year 2's dad) has also joined as an associate governor.

Most recently governors have been busy supporting the school with the development of the school curriculum and ensuring our building projects get delivered. Each of our school subject leaders have presented to governors their plans for their subject and how it is being developed further at Lowther.

Parent governors are always happy to listen to the views and thoughts of parents so do speak to either Lelde, Aisha (Dylan Y5 and Willow Y4's mum) Mel (Eleanor Y3) or Tim to discuss any aspect of life at Lowther.

## Upcoming

There are Christmas performances lined up for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Look out for all the details. These will be in the form of videos this year as we are unfortunately unable to host live performances. The children have been busy rehearsing.

We're still expecting to have a version of Lowtherness live in January (formerly known as Lowther's got Talent) I'm sure it'll be a lot of fun!

Look out for four new football goals arriving soon — courtesy of a generous grant from local charity SporTedd. There are also two new basketball hoops arriving soon thanks to the same brilliant charity.



Contact us with any questions

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Email: [info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk)



## Did you know?

We're currently reviewing our Behaviour Policy. We're trialling a new way of working that focuses on being

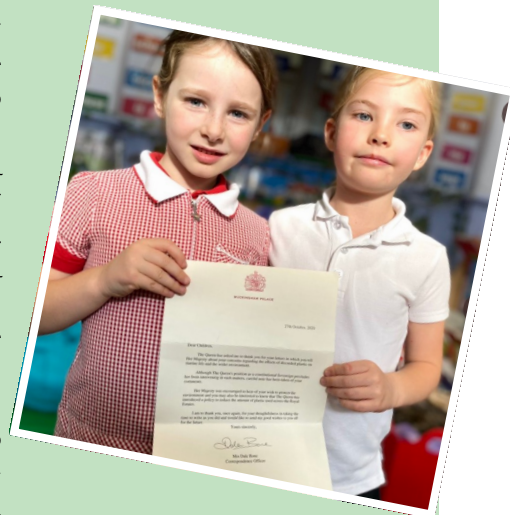


As these plans develop further we will of course share this with our parent community.



## Lowther Learning

We wanted to share more of what your awesome children are doing in class and so we have introduced some additional content to our monthly newsletter. Each year group will provide you with a brief monthly update of what they've been learning in class and what they're going to be moving on to in the coming month.



Pictured here are two of our Year 1 children with a letter from The Queen! All of the children in Year 1 wrote to the Queen about the environment and were thrilled to get a response. What a lovely thing to have happened — a genuine letter from the palace. Great job all of Year 1.

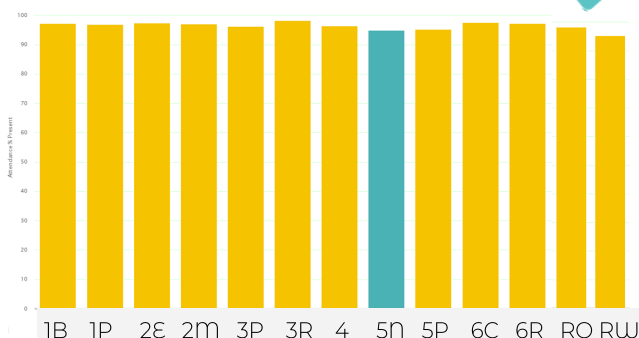
## Community

The PTA have set up a school lottery to raise money and make a difference for our children. What a great idea as the real winner is the school!

For every £1 ticket sold, 40p will go straight to Lowther. In partnership with our school, it's a fantastic way to bring parents, carers, teachers and the wider community together and to give something back.

## Awesome Attendance

Thank you for supporting great attendance this term. All our classes in Gold below have attendance above our minimum expectation of 96%. This is really impressive!



This graph shows each classes attendance from September through to mid-November. Wow!

Match all 6 numbers you will be also entered into a prize draw held by "Your School Lottery" (The Company that runs this for schools nationally) for a chance to win up to £25,000

We hope to raise funds that can support and enrich the education of our children - we aim to provide extra resources for the children and improve the school environment.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/cause-data/916c0c48-b925-4090-84f4-15b711c8eb18/leaflets/4aa12044-28be-4fd9-819d-e984b57fbf2d/launching-a-lottery%20-%20digital.pdf?updated=637387972918800000>

Or simply use the QR code above



# Lowther Literature

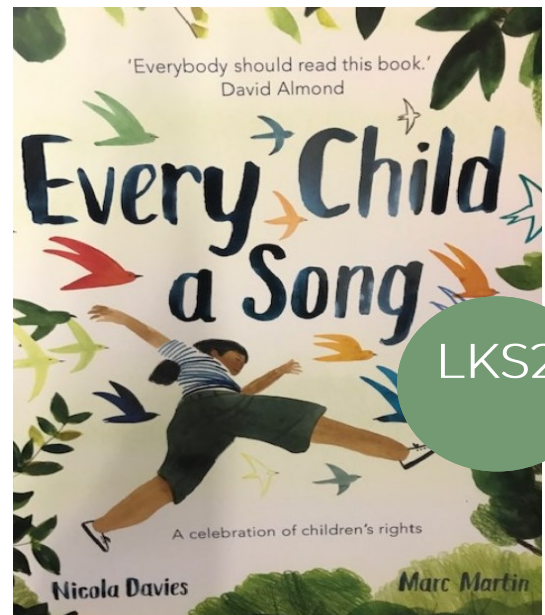


*We recommend these books as a super read*

EYFS



LKS2



KS1



UKS2



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# Year Group Updates



## Nursery

The children in our Nursery have been busy playing with the 'Clean Mud' which is great for developing those fine motor skills. Our pupil pictured reported "It's squishy and cold".

There's always lots of different opportunities to build things from different materials. The other picture here shows one of our pupils busily building a giant robot from boxes.

We've also enjoyed seeing the children taking full advantage of our newly remodelled outside learning space. Our book suggestion for you this month is 'Oliver's Vegetables'. We had lots of fun reading this and then tasting some of the vegetables. We learnt about where our vegetables grow and what you can make with them. We also made vegetable soup from some butternut squash that we picked from the school allotment.

We all tasted the soup, it was yummy!



## Reception

Reception kicked off the month of November by looking at the season of Autumn. We went on a walk around the school grounds, looking closely at the changes that we could see, and then carefully mixed paints to match the colours of the beautiful leaves that we had found. Shortly after this we marked Remembrance Day, spending time talking about why people wear poppies and then creating our own poppies to plant in the sand pit for the two minutes silence.

Everybody was incredibly sensible and respectful. We have finished off the month by learning all about dinosaurs and have impressed everyone by using our fantastic writing skills to write about our own imagination dinosaurs!

November has certainly been a very busy time for us in Reception!

Next month we will be learning all about the celebration of Christmas. We are looking forward to performing our first Nativity show, creating decorations, cooking Christmas treats and maybe even receiving a visit from a certain elf on the shelf...



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# Year Group Updates



## Year 1

In Year 1, the children have been busy engaging with their new topic 'The Enchanted Forest'. In English, we have been learning about different styles of writing by becoming immersed in our topic and retelling traditional fairy tales. We are excited to begin exploring fractured fairy tales next week.

As part of this topic, we have had some very exciting provision activities available. We have had Lowther Fairies who came to visit. The children were busy writing messages to the fairies and even receiving tiny messages back to read!

In Maths, the children have been working on their understanding of number bonds. Children have been learning to work systematically to solve a missing number problem and developing mental maths skills. We are now building up to the end of term with rehearsals for a very special Nativity show – It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!



## Year 2

In Year 2 we have been exploring 'Heroes and Villains'. We thought about what it means to be a hero or a villain and discussed people through History that would fit these headings. We have used positive reflection times to think about what these amazing people have done for us and how they have changed the lives of so many. In Maths we have been learning about addition and subtraction. The children have used tens frames, number lines and

hundred squares to solve number sentences and have applied their learning when reasoning and problem solving. To tie together our Fire of London unit, the children planned, designed and made their own fabulous fire engines; making great use of the awesome woodwork bench in our outside learning area. The children have been working hard in Phonics- particularly on blending tricky split digraphs! They all completed their Phonics Screening Check earlier in the week and totally smashed it! Finally roll up, roll up to Roller Disco Club... How could we not mention it?! What a huge success- the children are loving every minute of it!



of it!

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# Year Group Updates



## Year 3

In Year 3 we have been busy learning about our new science topic of Rocks and Soils. We are learning new, adventurous vocabulary and now understand what tricky scientific words such as sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous mean. This half term, we have become real geographers and are putting our skills to the test to find out all we can about earthquakes and what causes them to occur. We have linked this learning into our English and ICT topics, where we have begun to create an information text on Earthquakes. We used our researching skills to gather and collect information and create appropriate subheadings under which we can record and document our findings.



We have begun to plan our new D&T project, where we will be using our embroidery and sewing skills to create something special. We are continuing to enjoy mastering addition and subtraction in

maths. Our skills in netball are coming along nicely, and we will be soon ready to play some inter year matches to showcase our great teamwork.



## Year 4

We have been incredibly busy in Year 4! The children have truly thrown themselves into our Geography topic of Rainforests this term. Initially we focused on where rainforests are located in the world, their climate, and the creatures that call these areas home. We then delved deeper into why rainforests are so important, what deforestation is, and its causes. We have linked our Geography learning closely to our English and Art/DT units where the children have been creating balanced arguments and creative pieces, alongside looking at indigenous art and creating our own sculptures using natural resources. The leaf-bowl sculptures are truly stunning and the children are really looking forward to bringing them home and giving them to someone special!

In Maths we have been consolidating our understanding of the foundations of Maths, with place value, addition and subtraction and now multiplication as our focus areas. Year 4 have been working hard to try different methods and are on their way to becoming timestables superstars!

Finally we have been lucky enough to have had two themed days and a visit so far this term! We took part in the wonderful Roald Dahl Day alongside Year 3 and celebrated our Rainforests topic with a brilliant 'Rainforest Day' at the end of October. We also had a fantastic visit from the CLC who came last week to run an ICT workshop on robotics.

The children were amazing and loved programming, and controlling their very own robots. What a term we've had already! Bring on Christmas!



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# Year Group Updates



## Year 5

What a start to the year for Year 5! In History, we studied Ancient Greek, discussing the validity of the Trojan Horse story as well as learning about Greek gods and goddesses, democracy and myths and legends. We have now turned to the Ancient Mayans, where we have already learnt about Chichen Itza, what modern Mayans are doing and we have become archaeologists, working out what the lost cities were used for.



Our English work tied in well with History, as the study of Greek myths and legends got the year off to a flying start. We used a playscript to act out the story of Theseus and the Minotaur and read a number of other classic myths.

Stories play a big part of our work on speaking and listening, and the children heard a professional storyteller recount the tale of Icarus and Daedalus before telling the story themselves. They produced their own myths which was celebrated in our first "Phase Write-off" of the year, with a pupil from each Year 5 class being chosen to read out their myth to an audience. The writing was of an exceptional quality.

We have also studied the classic picture book Way Home by Libby Hathorn and Gregory Rogers, developed our Instruction writing skills and begun work on A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. The Autumn English programme is a full one but the children have responded with great enthusiasm and are making excellent progress.

In Maths, we have moved on from Place Value into Multiplication and Division. Year 5 have shown an excellent understanding of factors, multiples, prime, square and cube numbers, and have now moved on to multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000. They are smashing the Year 5 curriculum!



## Year 6

This month in Year 6 we have been learning about Anne Frank and the Holocaust, researching her life and writing her biography. The children have enjoyed this topic and we have shared many interesting discussions.

In maths, we have been learning to multiply and divide fractions, and apply this learning in a range of contexts.



As part of our wider curriculum learning, we have been using Micro:Bits to code different applications, learning about the Silk Road in geography and constructing electrical circuits to explain how they function.

We look forward to hosting our Enterprise Fair on Monday 14th December, where Year 6 will be selling the products they have made in their mini-businesses!



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