



Lowther

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Hello and welcome back!

Happy New Year to the whole Lowther School Family

It's here, 2019! Everyone here at Lowther wishes you and your family a truly wonderful year ahead. 2018 was a hugely successful year for our school and rest assured we'll be working hard to make further improvements to our fantastic school this year. Our commitment, here at Lowther, to all of you is to ensure we provide your children with the very best opportunities to learn together in exciting, creative and challenging ways. We want Lowther to be a school that inspires an enjoyment of learning and that creates a positive disposition to learning for life. The new year always fills me with excitement as it's the start of more opportunities for all of us to learn and develop. It's exciting to think that your child is going to learn to do things they've never been able to do before.

Indeed, just this week we've been focusing on "breaking school records" and gaining new personal bests. Just imagine, 2019 could be the year that they

- Win the golden standard or a LAFTA
- Read their first story book independently
- Learn and use new exciting vocabulary
- Learn how to write computer code
- Be able to bake a cake
- Be able to recall all of their timestables
- Represent one of our school sports teams for the very first time

What a fantastic thought eh? I for one, cannot wait to see your children fly to new heights this year.

Our school teams compete in a number of local leagues. You may be interested to know that we are now half way through the season and in the local leagues currently we are in the following positions:

- > Girls football — 2nd
- > Netball — 1st
- > Boys football — joint 1st
- > Rugby — 6th
- > Basketball — 3rd

This is a fantastically consistent performance as we're often competing against much bigger schools. Well done to all the children involved in these teams. We will continue to update you as the season progresses.



A huge well done to Elias in Year 3 who competed in the London Junior Chess Championship over 2 days and won 4 games out of 7. It's worth noting that the standard in this competition is very high, as it's only open to children who have gained places through a qualifying competition and players come from all over the Home Counties.



Galleries of all our Christmas shows (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) as well as the Christmas fair are now live on our website.



Our new whole school photograph is up in the lobby area. I know families always enjoy trying to find their child in the sea of smiling faces. If you'd like a copy of the photograph then please let the office know as we should be able to order you one for a small charge.



Photographs of school events

Sports Report

I hope that you take the opportunity to use the school website regularly. It's a really simple way to keep fully up to speed with what's going on at school. This includes our regularly updated Twitter Feed — which you don't need to sign up to in order to view, it's embedded into the site. We usually tweet something 3 or 4 times a week,

In addition, there are of course new galleries (for example, of all the Christmas shows), videos and other content added regularly too. Keep checking for new content.

Exciting news! You've probably been thinking this week where is Mr Bracken? He's been on paternity leave! We are delighted to share Mr.Bracken's fabulous news that his wife Sam gave birth to a beautiful little girl, Aoife Bracken on Sunday evening. Baby and mum are both doing well, dad as you can imagine, is thrilled. Mr.Bracken will be on paternity leave next week too.

It is also exciting to share with you that Miss Barker is pregnant. Michelle's baby is due in June and I'm sure you'll join me in wishing her many congratulations from all of the Lowther School Family.

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas time and enjoyed the festivities and spending time with your families. On behalf of all the teachers and staff at school we'd like to say a huge thank you for the very kind gifts and cards that were given to us by you this Christmas. It is always really appreciated and also satisfying to know that our community is thankful for our efforts, but really a smile and a thank you genuinely are the best presents! Thanks again for your kindness and generosity.

The first round of offers for secondary schools comes out at the end of March. Please don't worry if your child isn't offered one of their top preferences in this first round. Experience has shown that places tend to become available a little bit later down the line. Do come and talk to me if you need any further advice on this matter.

Please also note that the deadline is the 15th January for Reception class places. The office team are very happy to help you with this process if you would like it.

Lowther's Got Talent 2019

Every year it sneaks up on us! Yes, it's January which means that it's time again for LGT! We're now in our eighth year of Lowther's Got Talent and I'm sure the judges will see all the acts try and pull out all the stops to try and secure their spot in the grand final.

Whatever your talent, whatever your skill we'd love to see it. Children can enter the competition and perform any act of their choice—music, comedy, dancing, sports, magic, acting, (Sign up sheets are on my office door).

Performances should not be longer than 3 minutes and ideally around the 1—2 minute mark — it's much better for the performance to be short and effective than long and drawn out. Judges will be looking for originality, effort and preparation as well as talent. Auditions are **Monday 21st January 2019**.

The grand final, which of course we'd love you to come and watch, is on **Friday 1st February 2019** between 1:30pm and 3pm. It should be masses of fun! Good luck to every one entering!



Governors have been busy working with the school's leadership team on a number of different key areas of school life.

We recently simplified the language of our Top 5 priorities for the year to ensure children, staff and the community have ownership of our targets for school year 2018-19. The key priorities for the school this year are:

- We will work hard to improve our Writing
- Our Governors will help us to improve further
- Key Stage 1 will smash their learning
- We will have awesome attendance at Lowther
- We will show how amazing our school is.

If you would like to know more about any of the plans we have this year for further school improvement then please do let us know.



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