



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 4

11th November 2014

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

We're right back in the swing of things and, you'll be pleased to know, the children have not wasted any time in getting straight back in to the hard working ethos and spirit.

You may well wonder how the school decides on what it needs to do to improve further. We do this in lots of ways include looking at performance data (see message overleaf from governor Philip Mead) pupil's views of the school, working with the local authority and gaining parent's views. We'd really like your help with this so check out the details overleaf and give us some feedback! We then put together an annual review and this then helps us develop our school improvement plan. All staff use this plan to help guide the future direction and improvement of the school. We'll share the details of this with you via the website and in future newsletters. In the meantime enjoy the half term — the Christmas one is always a special one!

Return of the Red bags!

Miss Treble led Monday assembly this week in order to launch our red bag appeal for this year. Hopefully, everyone knows the drill by now but in case you've forgotten....Simply fill your red bag with unwanted textiles or electrical items and bring them in to school. We earn cash for the school based on the collective weight of our red bags. Last year we raised £600 over the two collections. Let's see if we can beat that this year!



Special news for Nursery parents and parents of younger children

School Open Day in November

We are very excited to announce that we're having a school open day for parents whose children start school in September 2015 or for parents of younger children. There will be flyers available from the lobby (illustrated here) which give the details. We hope it's something parents find really useful and informative. I can't wait to tell everyone more about the fantastic Lowther School Family.



Our new Eco team

Miss Treble has just appointed our brand new Eco team. Well done to all the children that applied (of which there were many) Congratulations go to Hayden, Jahzara, Isaac, Freddie, Freya, Scarlett, Lucas, Georgia, Amy and Ava.

The hard work starts now!

Golden Standard News

We continue to award the Golden Standard to very well deserving pupils. It's always such a tricky decision as all the pupils at Lowther are so fantastic. Well done to Andrew (Y2 Elm) Marcelle (Y6) and Rowan (Y2), who are the latest recipients of the award.

Christmas Fair Poster Competition Winner!

The quality and huge quantity of entries for the Christmas Fair Poster competition was amazing. A very special well done goes to Lola in Y3 whose marvellous picture will be used to advertise the event.



Just look what you've gone and done.....amazing!



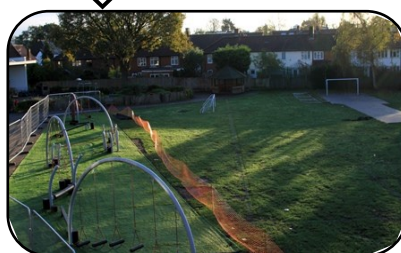
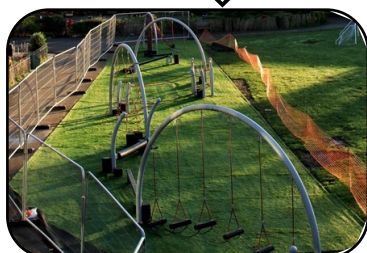
We've had issues with the field being too muddy for years. So we made a plan...



You raised a whopping £5,400 for artificial grass to be laid in key places on the field



The work started over half term—on the activity trail and the key parts of the field.



And now this part of the work is done all the children can enjoy the benefit! Now to the Foundation Stage....

New website content

We're always looking to update and improve the website.

There's a new assembly video and Y6 dance video now available. Look out for this half term's curriculum maps which will be posted shortly to:- <http://www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/curriculum.php>

We hope you find the website a useful and interesting source of information. Do let us know if there are further things you'd like included on the site.

Governors update from Phillip Mead—Chair of the Communications Committee

We are all constantly bombarded from various sources about schools and how they are performing. To help parents understand it all and to share how Lowther is doing we held a successful evening for parents last year about the school's performance and the data that the government produces about the school. We'll be holding a similar one this year too. The session is open to all parents and will be run by myself and other governors of the school. Mr. Tuffney and Mrs Colenso will, during the evening, present the school results from 2013-14. I do know they'll be telling you that Lowther ranked in the top 14% of schools nationally for progress made by pupils last year! We look forward to you joining us on Thursday 27th of November from 6.30pm through to 7.30pm in the Main Hall.

Takeover Day—this Friday!

It's this Friday and it's going to be fantastic. We've had lots of very good letters of application and some excellent interviews on Monday. Children taking over can choose what subject they'd like to teach – it can be any normal curriculum subject with the exception of swimming (for practical reasons!) Children are expected to organise an activity to last between 20 mins and 45 mins. They must prepare and organise the resources e.g. for a dance session they should have the music with them and know what moves they are teaching. For art for example they should make sure they have paints and paper (school will provide any equipment) Children will need to prepare for this either before or after school or at home – but it must be done in advance so that they are ready to teach at their allocated time slot (given to them by their teacher) All children who gained a position have to complete these 3 requirements

- They should have checked with the class teacher or the person they're taking over from as to times, job details etc.
- They should be well planned and organised and know what they're doing
- They should be dressed appropriately

It should be another cracking day.



Oops!

We've had a slight technical problem with the large whole school photo and so are planning a re-shoot. Hopefully the new picture will be up very soon.

Other school news and updates from Mrs Colenso

I think this half term is one of my favourites where school becomes even more magical than usual in the run up to Christmas! We have certainly got lots of exciting activities planned. As a school we are continuously striving to improve in everything we do. We've never held a whole school writing day before, but that is what we are planning for early next year—a whole day where the school comes together to unite in an inspirational writing project named 'Screen Your Story'. Watch this space for how you can get involved as well.

Reception Trip to Wisley Gardens

It is always a momentous occasion when our youngest children embark on their first school trip. A wonderful (but tiring) day was had by all. Take a look at our pictures.



Your views matter

The views of you our parent body are tremendously important for us in determining the way we shape the future direction of the school. Governors and senior leaders at the school really do value your feedback and use it to inform our decision making. We'd like ALL parents to spend 10 minutes completing the online questionnaire about the school on Parent view. We last did this when Ofsted were here and had an amazing 113 responses. Let's try and beat that this time! Thanks in advance for your support with this.

How to use Parent View — <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Log in / Register

You need your email address and password for the simple log-in process. Just follow the on-screen instructions.

You will then be asked to fill in a 'captcha' before completing registration. This is where you read two words from the screen and enter them into a box. This is to prevent site misuse.

You will be sent an email with a link to activate your log-in

Search

You can give your views about Lowther. To search for a school, just enter Lowther Primary School into the search box.

Select Lowther from the search results.

Questionnaire

There will be 12 questions to answer, for example, 'My child is happy at this school' with a choice of responses:

***Strongly Agree *Agree *Disagree *Strongly disagree *Don't know**

Use the 'Next' button to move to the next question. If you change your mind you can use the 'Previous' button to go back.

Once you have completed all 12 questions, click on 'Finish the survey' and the questionnaire is complete.



VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor. Please enquire at the office for more information.