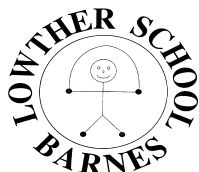


12th February 2016

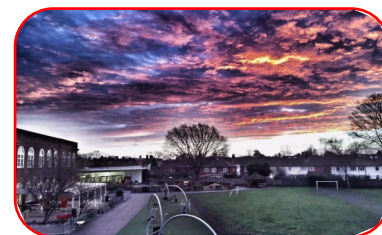
ISSUE 9



LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

This half term.....

Has been a cracker! Mr. Bracken and I have witnessed the children's enthusiasm and passion for school first hand. Indeed, on the reverse of this letter you'll see the summary of two recent learning walks we've conducted around the school. Your children are fantastic! We hope you have a super half term break and come back ready for some totally excellent learning!



Lowther has such a beautiful site. This photo was taken on a gorgeous morning at the end of January.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

We have started collecting Sainsbury's coupons again. The collection box is on the front desk so please do drop any you have in. Last year we got the giant Connect 4 and lots of other fun playtime equipment. Thanks in advance for your help.



What's coming up soon?

There's always loads going on at Lowther. Some events to look forward to in the new half term include:-

- The assessment meeting is on **TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2016 @ 6pm in the main hall**. Teachers and senior leaders will make a short presentation to parents followed by an opportunity for parents to talk to teachers and ask questions. I strongly recommend that all parents try and attend the meeting as it's something that affects all the year groups. Please note that although this meeting won't cover the Reception curriculum it will still be of interest to parents of pupils in our Reception classes.
- It's Parent's Evenings on the 29th February and 1st March.
- On Friday 4th March it's World Book Day—children can come dressed as their favourite character and get involved in lots of book related fun and activities.
- Friday 11th March is Community Day—one of our big annual events, including the fun run, lots of super activities for all the children and sports matches too

We'll keep you fully informed with all the details of these events closer to the time. In the meantime get them written in your diary!



The next Big PTA fundraiser!

As a community the parents of the Lowther School Family are truly awesome. We always feel so well supported by our community. We've had some amazing efforts recently with fundraising including funding our marvellous artificial grass, our re-stocked and improved book selection and the awesome I pads. The PTA are currently working with the school to decide on the next big project. Watch this space as we'll release all the details as soon as we have them.



Screen your Story Competition

All of the teachers were super impressed with how hard the children all worked on their stories this week. The attitudes to learning were outstanding. The pictures above give you a little insight in to what was a tremendous couple of days of story planning and writing.

Thank you so much for getting involved in supporting the children with their story writing for the Screen your Story competition. It was fantastic to see so many parents getting involved. We always truly appreciate your support when we run events.



Clubs at Lowther

Tania has done a marvellous job co-ordinating the huge and varied range of clubs we have on offer here at Lowther. There are currently 30 clubs operating.

Fit for Sport Holiday Camp

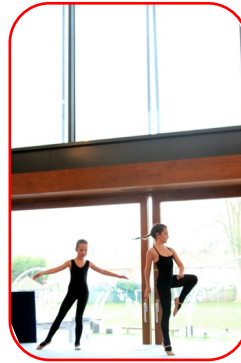
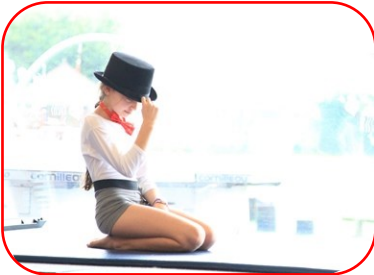
Our after school care provider Fit for Sport are offering a holiday camp for primary aged (ages 4 to 11) pupils. The camp runs from the Barnes Primary site. To find out more either visit the website www.fitforsport.co.uk or call 08454563233



LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Lowther's Got Talent 2016

What a show! A huge well done to the 52 children who danced, sang, flipped and performed their way through the final of LGT. It was an almost impossible decision to choose any sort of winner as all the acts were so good. In the end the judges plumped for the highly original and hilarious human puppet show performed by Dylan (Y2), Roman (Y2), Charlie (Y3) and Macey (Y4) I'm already excited about seeing more Lowther talent next year. Great job children!



Headship and Governors Update on Whole School Matters

School Improvement Partner report

Our School Improvement Partner (SIP) visit at the end of November was extremely helpful. The SIP is a consultant employed by the school to offer expert advice on how well the school is performing and how we can make further improvements. We conducted a series of learning walks and book looks. The main findings from the report matched the school's views and are summarised below.

- Children's attitudes to learning are outstanding
- Children's learning behaviours are excellent
- There has been a significant improvement in the quality of marking and feedback (Ofsted development point) We now have a clearer next step (children taking greater ownership) for further improvement.
- Teaching across the school is consistently very good (Ofsted development point)
- Middle leaders have far greater ownership of their area of responsibility (Ofsted development point)
- The learning walk is an excellent vehicle for us to support teaching and learning.

Maths Learning Walk

Last week teachers and support staff, alongside senior leaders conducted a learning walk to evaluate the Maths provision at Lowther. A summary of our findings are illustrated below.

- Pupil engagement across the school is very high
- There is lots of very good pupil talk and children show a very good understanding of learning objectives.
- There are very high levels of enjoyment of Maths
- Lessons show a good degree of child focus
- Relationships across the school are extremely positive
- Progression is very clear and age appropriate across all the year groups.
- Children's views are very positive about mixing classes
- There is clear differentiation within all groups
- All practice seen was incredibly inclusive
- There is clear evidence of challenge across the school.
- Ensure year groups consistently cover the same curriculum
- Lots of very positive feedback was evident
- Begin to consider how we can replicate the excellent feedback and marking evident in Literacy in Maths.

Overall, it was clear that children are working incredibly hard in Maths and show a very positive attitude to learning.

Secondary School places and more.....

As you will know there were some issues last year for some of our families getting in to local secondary schools. Although eventually all our children did get a place locally there is some concern within our community (over 40 parents attended the recent meeting with RPA) that our children will not get local offers in the future. We need to work together to fight for better secondary school options—or indeed any sort of option. Whilst governors and the headship team are working hard to challenge this it will be a far stronger message if this comes from the parent body. Please do look out for any correspondence from fellow parents about this matter and get fully behind their campaign. All our awesome children deserve to have a super secondary school option and we will need to work together to ensure this happens. Thank you in advance for your support.