



Lowther

ISSUE 1: 13TH SEPTEMBER 2019

WWW.LOWTHER.RICHMOND.SCH.UK



Welcome back! I'm delighted to be writing the first newsletter of the year! What a fabulous year of learning, fun and opportunity we've got in store for your awesome children.

It was brilliant to see all of the children back at school last Wednesday. We had a really excellent Inset Day but all of the team here at Lowther wanted to see our awesome pupils. The children have had a super first week or so back at school. We've all been so impressed with how well they have settled and the quality of the work they've done this week has been really pleasing to see. It's looking like it's going to be another amazing year of learning and discovery!

There's lots to catch up on in this week's newsletter so I hope you find it useful.



Talking of great attitudes, just look at Year 1 on Day 2 — this was taken at 8:52 am and they're already busy at work! Impressive!

There are lots of quick notices to give you, so they are included here for easy reference.

Please note there are some minor changes to our term dates for school years 2019/20 and 2020/21. These changes are published on the school website under the "Term Dates" drop down.

Next week we have the individual school photos for Reception to Year 6. The schedule for this is as follows:

- Wednesday 18th September: Individual photographs of pupils
- Thursday 19th September: From 8am - parents are welcome to bring babies and siblings that aren't at Lowther for family shots. This is on a first come, first served basis and our photographer will have to stop when school starts. We will also take any individual shots from Wednesday that were missed due to absence. Finally on Thursday we will take the whole school photo from the roof which will be displayed in the lobby. Please ensure your child looks especially smart for these photographs.

The new executive principal of Richmond Park Academy (our local secondary school) will be visiting Lowther to meet parents and talk about the school on Thursday 26th September at 9am. I strongly recommend parents of children in Years 4 to 6 attend if they are able to. If you are unable to attend and you have a question you'd like answering please do let me know.

Excitingly Mrs Hunter's baby is due to arrive soon and we will let you know when we have an update.

Over the course of the year we try to ensure we provide resources for the children which enrich learning and make it come to life. This is something that is increasingly hard as the school faces real budgetary pressures. As such, we are asking for a voluntary £10 donation from each family for this term which we can use to pay for the extra resources we use in class. This allows teachers to really be creative in the classroom and promote a wide range of learning opportunities. Please drop this money in to the office when you get the chance. Of course if you'd like to donate more than £10 we'd be delighted and very appreciative. It really does make a difference.

Lowther Family BBQ

Friday 20th Sept
5:30 to 7:30pm

cash bar & live music

£3 **£2**
adult ticket child ticket

each ticket is exchanged for a burger or hot dog

tickets can be purchased from the school office

Do try and come along to the first PTA event of the year—the Lowther Family BBQ. See you there!

Lowther noticeboard

Welcome!

A very special welcome to our 60 new children in our Reception classes and to their families too. We're delighted you've chosen to join the Lowther School Family. The Reception class teachers and Mr Bracken and I have been hugely impressed with how well the children have started at "Big School"

Also a huge welcome to our new families, we're delighted that 17 new children have joined Lowther in September—we're sure you're going to love it!



The deadline for applying for a secondary school place for 2020 is October 31st.

Any parents can attend the open events listed below (not just parents of children currently in Year 6) If you would like to speak to me about secondary transfer please do drop by.

Open events for Richmond's secondary schools for admission in September 2020

School	Open Evening 2019	Daytime Tours
Christs School www.christs.richmond.sch.uk	Thursday 26 September 6.30 to 8.30pm	Daytime tours available by appointment throughout September and October
Grey Court School www.greycourt.richmond.sch.uk	Tuesday 1 October 6.30 to 9.00pm	Tours on 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26 September and 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17 October from 9.00 to 11.00am
Hampton High www.hamptonhigh.org.uk	Thursday 10 October 6.30 to 8.30pm	Tuesday 1 October at 9.15am, Thursday 3 October at 11.00am and Wednesday 9 October at 9.15am. Normal working day tours also available
Orleans Park School www.orleanspark.richmond.sch.uk	No open evening – see daytime tours	Thursday 26 and Friday 27 September until 11.00am. Booking available through school website
St Richard Reynolds Catholic High School www.strichardreynolds.org.uk	Tuesday 15 October 6.30 to 8.30pm	Please see the school website for details
Richmond Park Academy www.richmondparkacademy.org	Wednesday 9 October 6.00 to 8.15pm	Open mornings every Tuesday and Thursday at 9.15am in September and October
Teddington School www.teddingtonschool.org	Wednesday 16 October 5.00 to 8.00pm	Please see the school website for details
The Richmond Upon Thames School www.richmonduponthamesschool.org.uk	Wednesday 2 October 6.30 to 8.30pm	Please see the school website for details
Turing House School www.turinghouseschool.org.uk	Thursday 3 October 6.30pm onward	Monday 7 to Thursday 10 October from 9.00am
Twickenham School www.twickenhamschool.org.uk	Tuesday 8 October 6.00 to 8.30pm	Thursday 10, Friday 11, Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 October, 9.00am to 10.30am
Waldegrave School www.waldegrave.richmond.sch.uk	No open evening – see daytime tours	Wednesday 2, Friday 4, Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 October. Booking through school website

Public Markets School Markets Market Order Form Size Guide Try Before You Buy Adapted Bikes Repairs & Servicing

SCHOOL EVENTS

We hold a number of events at schools throughout the year. The school bike markets are a great opportunity to pick up an affordable, serviced child or adult bike and/or to clear out outgrown and unwanted bicycles, earn a little money and in doing so create affordable bike stock for your community.

We run full day markets and Express morning markets. Please click on the listings below for details on how the market works at your particular school.

If you want a bike market at your school, email us and we will check availability with your local authority.

Look out for further details coming soon of the first Lowther Bike sale. Mr Ripley is working with a company called "Peddle my Wheels" to put on a Bike sale on the morning of the 27th September. Sounds like an opportunity to snare a bargain!

Please take note of some of the key areas of school uniform

- NO jewellery (aside from stud earrings and watches)
- Shoulder length hair must be tied back
- Trainers for class MUST be ALL black (not black with a white sole etc.) Trainers for PE can be any colour.
- NO boots to be worn to class.
- No jogging bottoms/tracksuit - must be proper trousers or shorts.
- Here is a link to the uniform policy if you need any further details.
www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/uniform

Thanks for your support in this matter.

We received this helpful communication from local MP Zac Goldsmith regarding Hammersmith Bridge and thought parents would appreciate having the opportunity to read it too. I hope it's helpful.

Dear Resident,

I wanted to update you following my meeting last Friday with TfL officials and Barnes Councillors Aphra Brandreth and Paul Hodgins to discuss the Hammersmith Bridge closure. This follows an update I sent lastweek ([See Link](#)).

The three options Hammersmith & Fulham (H&F), who own the bridge, and TfL have looked at are a) keep the bridge closed to vehicles, and open only to cyclists and pedestrians; b) restore the bridge to its usual level of operation, or c) reinforce the bridge so that it can handle more and bigger buses as well. Given the gravity of the problems affecting the bridge structure, the costs are estimated at £70m, £120m and £150m respectively.

H&F and TfL have chosen to proceed with option B - restoring the bridge to its normal functions. It will take three years. That is around a year and half quicker than Option C, and marginally longer than Option A. The option of constructing a tunnel has been deemed too expensive and too disruptive.

I have asked, and TfL have agreed to look at whether a further option is possible of using a high tensile steel surface placed above the current surface to take the strain of traffic, and without requiring substantial work to the original bridge structure. Based on what I have been able to ascertain, that option would be cheaper and a great deal quicker. The reason TfL tell me they haven't looked at this option is that it would likely be opposed by Historic England. My very strong view is that we do need to explore this option - and I have asked the Secretary of State if he will be willing to support our doing so. TfL will be consulting with Hammersmith and Fulham, and subject to their views Historic England.

I have also asked TfL to look at increasing the frequency of the 533 bus, and they have agreed to keep this under review.

There have been discussions about introducing a toll system for the bridge - to help pay for it - and I have asked our London Assembly Member Tony Arbour to seek assurances from the Mayor of London that Richmond residents would not be required to pay more than Hammersmith and Fulham residents (as has been mooted by various politicians in our neighbouring borough). The option of a toll is something that myself and the conservative councillors would have to be convinced of. It certainly wouldn't be a preferable option at this stage.

A temporary bridge is being considered for pedestrians and cyclists (motorbikes will still be able to be wheeled across) whilst repairs are being made to the structure of the bridge. Further information will be provided on this in the coming weeks.

Many residents have raised concerns about safety on the bridge and having discussed these concerns with TfL they have agreed to talking to Hammersmith and Fulham and Historic England about improving lighting on the bridge and moving the meshing to improve safety on the bridge for those crossing late at night.

Finally, I wanted to make you aware of a shuttle/cab service being introduced for vulnerable residents who need to access Hammersmith. For more information please see [HERE](#)

I will continue to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely,

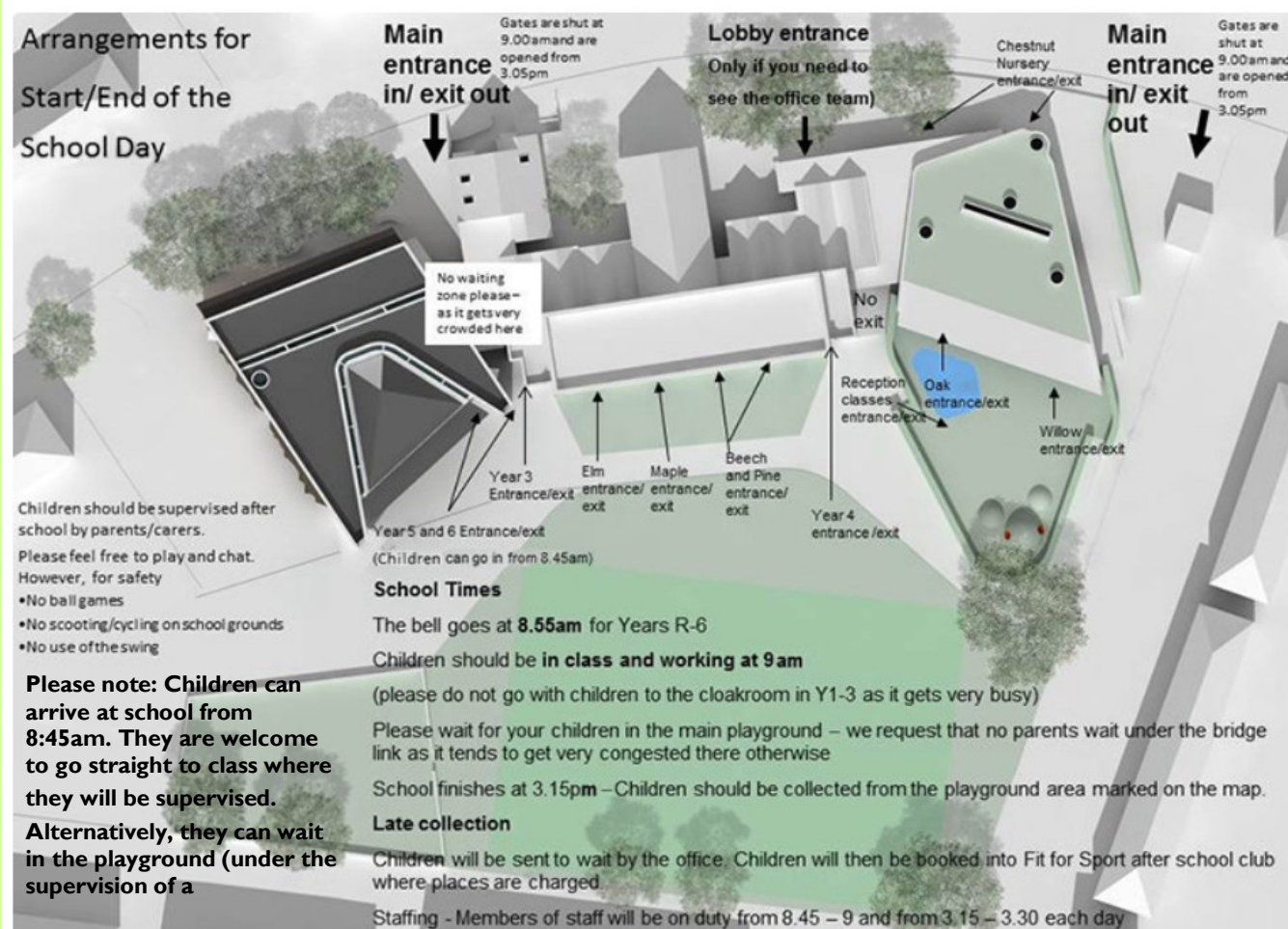
Zac Goldsmith MP

We will be having our annual stall at the Barnes Food Fair this Saturday (Saturday 14th September). The children have been busy preparing jams, chutneys and biscuits to sell — all made with ingredients from our lovely school allotment. Big thanks to Chef Sarah and Chef Claire and to our awesome PTA who are running the stall. Do try and visit on Saturday if you can.



Illustrated below are our arrangements for the start and end of the school day. I hope you find it useful.

The start and end of the school day



PTA news

A huge thank you to you all. The amount of money you raised last year was simply incredible. Thank you all so much for your wonderful support of our school in what was an extremely tough year financially. Via the PTA fundraising and our Virgin money giving donations page, the school's community has made contributions totalling over £25,000. This is incredible and makes such a huge difference to our school. Thanks again for your brilliant support. The challenge now is to see if we can again raise funds this year to help support our school financially in times where it is very tough for schools.

Check out this page on the website which has all the details of how you can make donations, either regular or one-offs, to the school. <https://www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/fundraising.php>

Of course, you can also contribute financially to school by coming along and supporting our fantastic PTA events, whether that be quiz night, the summer fair — you'll have a lot of fun and you'll be helping the school. Please do get involved.

Staffing

We have a really fabulous team of teachers here at Lowther, with such a diverse set of skills and experiences. Did you know that half of our teachers have changed the year group they're teaching this school year? I think that really says something about our teachers' fantastic approach to their job as well as their huge commitment to Lowther. In addition to our class teachers we also have other experienced qualified teachers supporting the children's learning. Mrs. Blaxland, who works one day a week offering fantastic teaching to children from Nursery to Year 3 and when Mr Mahi is not teaching Year 2 he offers excellent teaching cover to our team. Our support team are fabulous too, and we're all here to ensure your children have a wonderful primary school experience. We believe employing the right people that have the same passion for Lowther that we all do is key. Here's to another super year of learning and opportunity at Lowther.

Your class teachers for 2019/20

Foundation Stage	Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
Nursery: Mrs Murphy	Y1 Beech: Mrs Sandeman	Y3P: Miss Palmer	Y5N: Mr Nelson
Oaks: Miss Tittle	Y1 Pine: Mr Gradidge/Mr Agarwal	Y3R: Miss Rogan	Y5P: Mr Picken
Willow: Mrs Hughes	Y2 Maple: Mrs Tucker	Y4N: Miss Newton	Y6R: Mr Ripley
	Y2 Elm: Mrs Cox/Mr Mahi	Y4M: Miss Mason	Y6C: Ms Chalbot