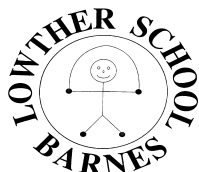


14th January 2016

ISSUE 7

LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



2016 is rocking and rolling!

Welcome back to the start of the Spring Term! Everyone here at Lowther wishes you and your family a wonderful 2016. Last term really was

packed full of great learning and excitement and 2016 is going to be equally filled with the first class broad educational experiences we're all fully committed to providing for your children. We look forward to sharing the thrill of watching your children grow and develop academically and socially in 2016. It's going to be awesome!



So many thank yous

On behalf of all the teachers and staff at school we'd like to thank you for the very kind gifts and cards that were given to us at Christmas. It is very satisfying to know that efforts are appreciated but really a smile and a thank you genuinely are the best pres-sies! Thanks again for your kindness and generosity.

Whole School Communication

In response to parent feedback this is the first of the fortnightly newsletters that will be sent out on each second Friday. Do look out for the next one on Friday 28th January. I hope you find this a useful way to regularly keep up to date with school life. However, if you prefer more regular updates then our Twitter feed and Parentmail are the best ways to keep up with school life.

Exciting Writing Challenge Coming soon

To support our drive to further improve attainment in Writing, Miss Hallam is planning to enter the school once more in to the rather super Writing competition 'Screen Your Story'. This is a wonderful opportunity for all our young storytellers. The competition gives pupils the chance to be a published author, or even have their story made into a real film to be shown at the Olympic Cinema in Barnes. Last year 3 of our pupils were winners and were even featured on BBC London News. It should be fantastic!

screen your story



Dads football

Fresh (well actually not that fresh!) from their debut 5-2 win over St Mary Magdalene's, the Dads and teachers have their second match on Friday 29th January at 7pm. This time we're playing East Sheen Dads and teachers. If you'd like to play then do let Dave Green know. Spectators are also very welcome.



Prompt Pick-up Please!

Please ensure that children are collected on time at 3.15pm. It can be quite unsettling for children to be left waiting for someone to collect them. Many thanks in advance for your help with this.

100% attendance week— thank you

Thank you all for your help with trying to increase our attendance levels. 100% attendance week has been very successful. We'll update you fully via Twitter when we have the results. Please continue to support your children with both excellent attendance and punctuality.

Important meeting for Parents

We wanted to give you plenty of notice about an upcoming important assessment session for parents. There is a new way of assessing children's progress and you may well know that the old "levels" were abolished at the end of last year. We'd like to take the opportunity to explain to all parents how we will assess your child's progress during their time at Lowther. This is an important meeting for ALL parents. We've planned this specifically to be in advance of the parents evenings planned for 29th February and 1st March so that all parents fully understand how teachers will assess their children's progress this year and in the future. More details to follow.

The assessment meeting is on **TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2016 @ 6pm.**

Break time Snacks and Packed Lunches

We are currently reviewing which snacks and foods are suitable for children to have at school. We will ensure clear communication to parents of any changes when we have made the final decisions.

Inset Day— 17th June 2016

As you know we altered our Inset Days to allow teachers to be trained fully on our new Target Tracker assessment software, To confirm the one remaining Inset Day this academic year is **FRIDAY 17th JUNE 2016.**

Boys football success

There was an amazing performance by the boys football team at their tournament on Monday. They played superbly and made it all the way through to the tournament semis. This is a really fantastic achievement as the tournament featured some 24 other schools.



A superb performance.

RPA Update

As you will be aware Lesley Kirby is no longer the Head teacher at RPA. The acting head is a Miss Tracey O'Brien who will be supported in her role for the next two terms by the school's leadership team and Mark Hartley (Head at Barnes) The governors at RPA are working towards making a permanent appointment for September 2016. We will keep you updated with developments.

Gallery Avalanche!

We've recently put the following galleries on the school website

Reception Nativity, Y1 Christmas Show, Year 2 Nativity, Y6 girls football video, KS2 sing off video and the Whole School Panto.

We hope you enjoy viewing them. It's worth noting that we have a new feature on the website for viewing the galleries on iPad and iPhone.

We're always happy for parents to have copies of any of the photos taken at school.



LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Lowther's Got Talent 2016

Yes, it's January which means that it's time again for LGT. What started as an idea from three pupils in Year 5 has now turned into a much loved annual Lowther event. Our fifth Lowther's Got Talent will have new judges who will be expecting the acts to pull out all the stops to make it to the final.

There are 4 different categories that children can enter

- 1) Music and singing
- 2) Alternative
- 3) Sport and dance
- 4) Comedy, drama and magic

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 **Friday 23rd January 2016**.

The grand final, which of course we'd love you to come and watch, is on **Friday 30th January 2016** between 2pm and 3pm. It should be huge amounts of fun!



Governors Update from Sharon McNab — our Chair of Governors

School leadership and governance

I hope you are finding the regular updates from governors useful. Our school improvement partner recently visited the school and produced a comprehensive document for school governors on the progress the school is making. Alongside senior leaders at the school he spent the day in classes and looked at children's work and the quality of teaching, marking, pupil engagement and general school life. A summary of his report is outlined below.

All governors at Lowther are fully committed to supporting and challenging the school. To find out more about our school governors and the work they do please visit the governor section of the school website.

Comments from learning walk and discussions

Clear learning objectives that are shared well with pupils

Activities being tackled by pupils are well judged to move their learning forward and maintain their interest and motivation

The learning environment seen in classes is vibrant, attractive and well maintained

Pupils are happy to come to school and collaborate well.

Teachers work hard to provide feedback to pupils and to implement the well-designed marking scheme, to show where a pupil has been particularly successful and where they need to improve

The classrooms are bright, vibrant learning environments

Resources to support children's learning across the curriculum are well organised and are readily available for children to access independently.

Pupils have a good understanding of the success criteria for their work.

Books are generally well presented. Many have plastic covers and labels, but this isn't always the case

...a very strong focus on challenge

The large outdoor learning area supports learning outside very well.

Adults support children's learning very effectively and they are well deployed

Areas of future focus

Further develop approaches to marking and feedback, so that teachers need to write less, pupils are always given time to provide high quality responses that are consistently checked, and are given more responsibility within the process.

Revise the approach to target setting so that low levels skills become 'non-negotiables' and targets challenge pupils to master higher level skills.

Minimise the use of any worksheets, restricting their use to where they help scaffold the work for pupils or provide other necessary support that results in improved outcomes.

Accelerate the pace of learning of pupils entering with lower skill levels, so that a higher number of children reach a Good Level of Development by the end of their Reception year.

Comments on progress on areas for improvement from our last Ofsted Inspection (April 2013)

- Increase the proportion of outstanding teaching throughout the school by:
 - making sure that all feedback explains how pupils can improve their work
 - making sure that teachers always give pupils time to reflect on and respond to written and oral feedback.

The school has worked hard to improve the quality of feedback and on policy and practice in marking. Pupils have more opportunities to reflect on feedback and use it to improve their work. Progress on this area is good, there is further work planned by the school.

- Develop the role of leaders in charge of subjects so that they contribute to raising achievement across the school through effective monitoring and evaluation of learning and progress within their areas of responsibility.

Discussion with faculty leaders demonstrated how well they contribute to school improvement. Progress in this area has been very strong.