

# Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 6

15th December 2014 www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

#### Happy holidays from everyone in the Lowther School Family

It's been a really fantastic first term at Lowther. I've seen first hand the children shine and sparkle in so many ways. In the classroom Mrs.Colenso and I have been impressed with first rate attitudes to learning whilst in the wider school life children have run, drawn, sang, cooked and so much more—and all to a great standard. Our challenge for 2015 is to make it the best year of learning at Lowther ever. We'll certainly be going for it. In the meantime, we wish you all a very special holiday time with your family and friends.. See you in 2015!



The children enjoying the whole school pantomime

#### Getting into the Christmas Spirit

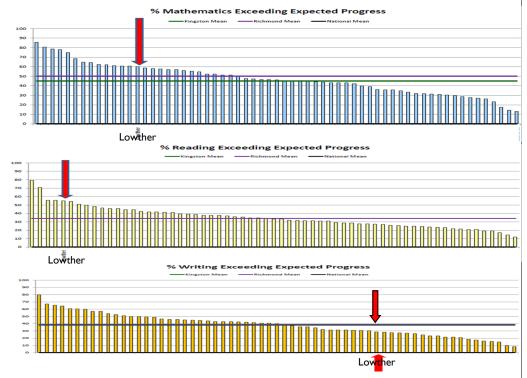
We've had lots of different events going on around school as we build up to Christmas. Thank you for always supporting our school events so whole heartedly. We'd like to invite you all to our annual Christmas service at Holy Trinity church on Thursday at 10am. It should be a lovely occasion.



We raised over £150 for charity Newlife with our Christmas jumper day

#### How much progress do children make at Lowther?

In short — a lot! The graphs below show where Lowther ranked within the 50 schools in Richmond and Kingston for progress made by pupils. As you can see in Reading (5th place) and Maths (14th place) progress was excellent. Writing (31st) was disappointing in comparison. We're working hard to ensure Writing progress is consistently as good as in the other core subjects. Overall cumulative results for last year put us in the **top 14**% of schools **nationally** for the progress pupils make at Lowther — a superb result.



# We have a new year's resolution that we'd like everyone to support!

From January we've signed up to the 'Living Streets  $\underline{\mathbf{W}}$  alk  $\underline{\mathbf{O}}$  nce a  $\underline{\mathbf{W}}$  eek scheme' – WoW. WoW is a year-round incentive scheme which rewards children walking to school at least once a week with a collectible WoW badge. - See more at: http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-with-us/walk-to-school/primary-schools/walk-once-a-week#sthash.vbcfzplN.dpuf

We'd like everyone to walk to school at least once a week. Those coming by car are encouraged to 'park up' a couple of streets away and walk. Scooting, cycling and taking the bus all count as 'walking to school'.

The theme of WoW 2014/15 is 'When I grow up', exploring the dreams and aspirations of young people with badges covering careers from journalism and dentistry to agriculture and art. January's badge represents an accountant and all children who have walked once a week will be awarded one at the end of the month.

Many thanks in advance for supporting us with this new scheme – what a fabulous way to kick start a healthy and safe 2015!

#### Whole School Photograph

If you haven't spotted it yet the new whole school photo is now up in the lobby.



#### Changes to football

To improve the quality of skills and the overall quality of the games being played at play and lunch time we've introduced smaller size 2 footballs. Larger footballs are now no longer allowed on the playground. The early signs are good, after all, the football team had their first win of the season last week 4-0 vs St Osmund's!



## Part of the community

We were delighted to be invited

to the new Windermere Court Residents association bulb planting morning. 20 children from across the school helped to plant hundreds of bulbs.



#### More data....

Thank you to those of you that attend the recent data evening. If you weren't able to make it and would like to know more then the presentation is now on the website.

http://www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/school\_data.php

I will also share some of the information over coming newsletters.

### A thank you from chair of Governors Sharon McNab

Dear all in the PTA,

Following our Governors meeting last night I just wanted to extend a huge thanks from the school Governors for your OUTSTANDING fundraising for the school. Mark shared the excellent news of the amount you have raised in such a short time and it really is an amazing achievement

So thank you again for your dedication, enthusiasm and sheer unlimited energy. You are the best, and your children and the entire school community appreciate everything you do.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Best wishes Sharon

#### And thanks from us too!

I would totally echo Sharon's comments. This term has been unbelievable. The combined efforts of our school community has been stunning. The great news is that it will be the children that will benefit from the fundraising efforts.

#### **Christmas Fair Success**

Thank you all for supporting, helping run, making donations and generally getting involved in the Fair. We managed to raise a whopping £4500! That's amazing. We're going to be using the money to purchase books across the school. This will be so beneficial to the children.

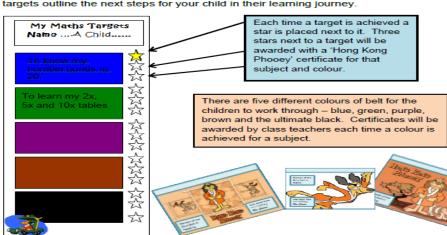
#### **Spectacular Christmas Shows**

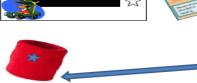
I thought the Christmas shows put on by the children in Years I and 2 were sensational. Thank you for coming along to support the children and the school. We love putting on shows, but we need a good audience, so thank you. We've put photo galleries online for you as well as a 10 minute highlights video of the Y2 nativity songs. If you'd like a copy of any of the pictures or the video please just drop in a memory stick (please bear in mind the video is 750mb in size!) to the office and we'll transfer the files for you.



# News about targets from Mrs.Colenso

All children in Years 1-6 have learning targets in reading, writing and maths. These targets outline the next steps for your child in their learning journey.





The Hong Kong Phooey Wristband!



Don't forget we return to school after the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 6th January 2015 (Monday the 5th is a staff inset day)

Children start: Tuesday 6th January Inset Day: Monday 5th January Half Term week: 16th - 20th February Term ends: Friday 27th March



#### Y5/6 Basketball Tournament

All the children in Y5 and 6 took part in two basketball tournaments last week. We believe in a balance of health, fitness, skills and competition when teaching sport and so are planning regular intra schools tournaments. The children played with determination and a will to win but with a superb sporting manner. Well done children.

### Attendance Figures for the Term

Attendance this term has been super. We've achieved a school total of **96.4%.** We are aiming for 96% + this year so thank you for your support so far. Let's see if we can continue to beat that target!

