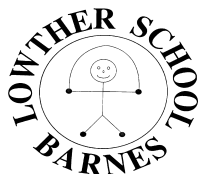


15th December 2015

ISSUE 5



# LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

## Christmas Cheer!

Thank you all for the wonderful support and cheer you have given us all this year. Lowther is a special place because of the people that fill it with energy, enthusiasm, positive attitudes and sense of community. Thank you all for that, but especially thank you to the children. Enjoy the special holiday — we look forward to seeing you in....gulp....2016!

## School Improvement Update for Parents

Our Top 5 priorities for school improvement this year are on the school website. However, I wanted to give you a brief update on our progress. There has been real commitment across our team to our school improvement focus – “Further develop and embed a sharp focus on high quality teaching” Our School Improvement Partner visited last week and highlighted the very good quality teaching that is going on consistently across the school. We are all focused on delivering great teaching. We have now conducted 11 formal lesson observations, 7 were good (2 were with outstanding features) and 4 were outstanding. However, we are moving away from formal observations as a way of judging the quality of teaching in the school. Our focus is now on teaching tips, watching colleagues teach, training courses with other local schools, inset training and teachers developing excellent teaching further through peer to peer support, team teaching, observing colleagues, networking, learning walks, staff training and sharing best practice. We also want teachers to understand that these professional development opportunities support best practice in the broadest sense. We'll keep you posted with how our plans for further school improvement develop.



### What a show!

Year 2's Nativity show was amazing—I thought the children performed wonderfully well. There will be a gallery of photographs online soon.



### Christmas jumper fun!

The jumpers were completely awesome and we've managed to raise over £500 towards the Cumbria flood victims. Thank you for your support.

## Christmas Fair News

What fun the fair was! The money is being counted and checked, and we'll be able to let you know in the new year the amount of profit that was made from the rather wonderful Christmas fair. Thank you to all of you that helped set up and run the fair, I thought it was marvellous. I appreciate that it was very busy at times and in certain places and so we'll continue to look at how we can improve the fair experience even further for the future. I know that I for one had a great time!

## The academies programme and secondary school places

Recently we held a meeting for parents to update them on the Governments initiative to convert schools to academies. Indeed you may have heard of a recent local proposal to form a Multi-Academy Trust. Lowther Governors have been supportive, visionary and incredibly dedicated to supporting the school in understanding more about the potential future of schools. The decision to take our time to look at the local Multi-Academy Trust proposal and consider other options was the right one. If you'd like to know more the presentation we did for parents is on the school website under the parent information tab.



### Panto fun!

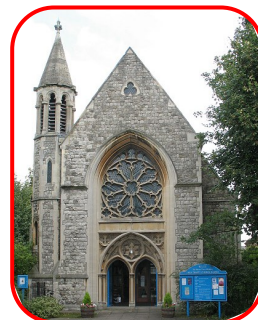
We had such a great morning as a whole school watching the annual pantomime. Thank you to those families that supported this fun annual event with their £1 donation.

## Skipper's Scoop — coming soon

It's ready! Mrs Puddephatt and her top notch editorial team have done it! So please do look out for the latest edition of the Scoop hitting the Lowther newsstand this week. The editorial team have worked really hard to put a truly fantastic school magazine together. We hope you enjoy it!

## Our Christmas Church Service

Our annual Christmas service is at Holy Trinity church on Castelnau this Friday (the last day of term) at 10am, finishing around 1045. There will be songs alongside some other performances. Please do come and join us for what is always a lovely event.



# LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

## Sporting Success

It's been a great first full term of sporting success for the school – indeed perhaps the best I can remember. In summary

- The girls football team were one kick away from making the tournament semi-finals
- Our cross-country team ran brilliantly in the Borough Race, including a boy in 4<sup>th</sup> and a girl in 15<sup>th</sup> (out of 150 runners in each race)
- The boys football team has a 3 win 1 loss record including two huge wins
- The rugby team won more matches at the Borough tournament than in years
- Our Y3/4 Basketballers won the Richmond Knights Tournament.



## Other news and developments

- Our Twitter feed is very active – we now have tweeted a total of 860 times!
- We are currently offering over 30 after school clubs in a wide range of areas
- Our classes are now making full use of the I-pads purchased by the PTA
- Children continue to produce some truly excellent quality homework
- Our team made the school look wonderfully Christmassy for the children

### LGT auditions 22/1 and the final is 29/1

Advance notice—our annual fun event for pupils in Years 1 to 6 “Lowther’s got Talent” is just around the corner. The auditions will be on the 22nd January with the final on the 29th January. There will be further details in the new year. Good luck!

### Beautiful Singing!

The Year 1 Christmas concert was fantastic. We really have been spoilt this year with such wonderful singing and acting from the children.



## Whole School Communication

In response to parent feedback, after Christmas I will send out a whole school newsletter every second Friday. However, we are looking to move away from paper copies of newsletters as we progress and intend to use the school website, Twitter feed and Parentmail to provide updates on school life. I hope you find the changes helpful.

### 100% attendance week is 11/1

Attendance for this term across the school has been a healthy 96.5%. Our target is to get to 96.5% To help promote this we'll be having a 100% attendance week at the start of January. Thank you in advance for your support.

### Reception Superstars!

Reception's Christmas Show was amazing! The children really performed fantastically to two full houses! Well done children.



## Back to School

We return to school on **Wednesday 6th January** as we have two inset days.