



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 15

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www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

A very busy and exciting half term!

Thank you all for a fantastic half term. It's certainly one we won't forget in a hurry for a whole host of reasons! Following on from our Ofsted inspection I prepared a presentation for parents which outlined all the really amazing things that the inspectors saw— if you were unable to come to the parent evening and would like a copy of my presentation please do enquire at the office where you can pick up a copy. I included feedback from Ofsted that isn't in the report.

For example, did you know that:-

"Pupils develop and apply a wide range of skills to great effect, in reading, writing, communication and mathematics. They are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage in their education, training or employment."

"All teachers have consistently high expectations of all pupils. They plan and teach lessons that enable pupils to learn exceptionally well across the curriculum."

"Teachers and other adults generate high levels of engagement and commitment to learning across the whole school."

"The school's practice consistently reflects the highest expectations of staff and the highest aspirations for pupils, including disabled pupils and those with special educational needs."

Over the coming weeks we will share our plans for the future of our wonderful school. I love being part of such a special school where the children are "truly delightful". Happy holidays one and all. We look forward to seeing you all back ready for a truly fantastic last half term of school year 2012-2013.

Attendance — fact! We were delighted that the children's attitude to learning and behaviour was recognised as outstanding. They deserve it! Within this criteria is attendance. Please note that Ofsted almost didn't give us Outstanding for behaviour purely on one ground - attendance levels. However, we were able to show that the vast majority of our families have really excellent attendance and that the children really want to come to school. If your child's attendance is below 95% for the year (this will be indicated on their end of year report) then please ensure there is an improvement going forward. Thank you in advance for supporting us with this key area.

Your PTA—could you get involved?

Our wonderful PTA do so much for our school, however they're always keen to get more people involved in supporting and helping the school matters. Why not think about getting more involved next year—it's a really sociable and rewarding thing to do. As well as joining the PTA you could consider becoming a class rep in 2013-14. Each class has a representative who parents can speak to about school matters. Thank you to all of the class reps for 2012-2013. You've done a great job.

Nursery AM: Betty/Nursery PM: Emma Ford

Willow: Ekaterina MacLeod /Oak: Emma Rolfe

Beech: Jo Austin/ Pine: Ayesha Nicolas

Maple: Harriet Lawrence/ Elm: Zoe Holloway

Y3: Sarah Reynolds & Donna Black/ Y3: Natarsha Crowley

Y4: Sarah Seward/ Y5: Sarah Reynolds & Andrea Mayes/ Y6: Maxine Neely

In addition the PTA thought you might like to know about just some of the ways your PTA have helped to fund this academic year.

£850 for the music room/£150 for 'Team Lowther' hoodies/£500 for books and supplies for Christmas /£2000 to support the allotment £200 (approx) for netball equipment/ £50 for the Y1 Guinea Pigs

They've also committed to spend £800 for another Table Tennis table; £700 towards the scramble net; £160 towards the Y5 trip; and will be helping to rejuvenate the outside area for KS1. Thank you all for the amazing help you give to the school.

Public Speaking Competition

Well done to our Y5 public speaking team. They were highly commended by the judges, who included 6th form public speakers from St Paul's and a professional presenter. They said they were so impressed by our children's enthusiasm, originality and natural, assured performance that they had to single them out for praise. Among the things they loved was that the three of them looked as though they were really enjoying themselves while on stage giving their speech.

Funnily enough, they went up to RPA on Day 2 of our Ofsted inspection - when the English department at RPA were having their own Ofsted. One of the inspectors there looked in at the public speaking rehearsals during the day and was apparently very impressed. So our children were wowing two lots of Ofsted inspectors in two days!



Diaries at the ready!

Some key dates for what is always a very busy half term.

June 2013

Monday 3/6—5/6 Art House exhibition

Tuesday 4/6 Whole class photographs

Wednesday 5/6 KS2 Borough Sports competition

Thursday 6/6 KS2 Football tournament

Friday 7/6 Mufti Day

Tuesday 11th June Grounds Afternoon

Wednesday 12/6 Y3-5 Sing up Festival

Saturday 15/6 School Summer fair

Wednesday 19/6 Beech class to Pizza Express

Y4 to Richmond Museum

Y6 Camping

Thursday 20/6 **INSET DAY** (School closed)

Friday 21/6 **INSET DAY** (School closed)

Monday 24/6 Y5 Science Museum

Thursday 27/6 Y6 Production

Friday 28/6 Reception to London Zoo

July 2013

Wednesday 3/7 Y4 Hampton Court

Friday 5/7 Sports Day

Monday 8th July—12/7 Y6 Isle of Wight trip

Friday 12/7 Y3 British Museum

Tuesday 16/7 Pine class to Pizza Express

Y6 Parents meal

Tuesday 23/7 LAFTA awards

Thursday 25/7 Y6 Leavers assembly

END OF TERM

Wow! That's a lot of different things happening. It should be a really wonderful last half term at Lowther.



Photographic Competition — THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY!

Young photographers are invited to enter photos that capture something that is good or bad about Richmond. The more imaginative the images are, the better! They might be odd details of buildings, unusual happenings, nature, sports, anything.

The judges' selection of photos will be exhibited at the Richmond Society's Annual Awards ceremony on Thursday 17 October 2013 at Duke Street Church in central Richmond. You may enter up to 3 photos. There is no charge.

Age ranges: Category A under 12, Category B 12-18 yrs

Please go to www.richmondsociety.co.uk/photocomp to download an entry form and find further details.

Closing date 20th September 2013.

Selected photos will be exhibited at locations around the borough.

Family Support

We are very lucky to have Divina Delaney work at Lowther one afternoon at week. She works closely with Miss Honeysett to help and support parents and families with a variety of different issues. If you'd like to meet or talk with Divina then drop in and see Miss Honeysett who can set up an appointment for you.

Free childcare for 2 year olds

If you receive either income support, have an annual income of less than £16,190 or one of the other selected criteria you could be entitled to 15 hours free childcare. If you'd like to know more and to find out whether you could be eligible please contact the Family Information Service on 0208831 6298 or check with the Children's Centre here at Lowther.

ADULT ED WEEK at CASTELNAU COMMUNITY CENTRE

Monday 3 – Friday 7 June 2013

FREE taster sessions and workshops for anyone over the age of 16. All classes are free, no need to book. Try your hand and see if you like it, learn something or just have fun.

Please enquire at the Community Centre on Stillingfleet Road for more details.

Teacher class allocations 2013-14

We are currently putting the finishing touches to our arrangements for the next school year. We will communicate this to parents as soon as our plans are finalised. This is likely to be around the middle of June.

Whole School Homework Challenge — it's been a while!

Apologies that I haven't set a whole school homework for a while. Here's the latest one—with the idea given to me by Elia and Ben in Year 4 (thanks for the great idea you two!) The challenge is to

DESIGN MRS.COLENZO or MR.TUFFNEY A NEW GOLDEN STICKER (Bling Bling!)

We've had all sorts of things on our golden stickers—some examples are illustrated below. You'll need to think about what picture the sticker should have on it along with some words that celebrate the child's achievement. It's up to you how you design the sticker, you can use the computer, you can draw or paint, perhaps even make one. We'll leave the creative bit up to you.



The deadline is Friday 7th June. All entries will receive a certificate and our 4 favourite designs will be made into actual stickers for Mr.Tuffney and Mrs.Colenso to give out. Good luck and happy designing.



Y4 Residential

The Y4 class had an awesome time on their 2 night residential. It's the first time we've run a residential trip for a class other than Year 6. Judging by the positive feedback we've had from children and parents it looks likely to become a regular fixture.

Y6 Celebrations!

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard this year. They really focused during their SATS week and we fully expect them to smash their targets. They certainly deserve to do very well indeed.

Another Basketball victory!



Well done to the Y5/6 basketball team who won their second trophy of the season in dramatic fashion. Trailing for most of the game in the final they stage a thrilling comeback, with Owen sinking the winning shot with only seconds to go. They fully deserved their victory—fantastic!