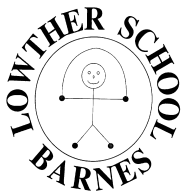


3rd February 2017

ISSUE 12

# LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



## School Busy-ness

As we approach the half way point in the school year, I am delighted to report that the children at Lowther are happy, polite and considerate to one another. Learning behaviour is consistently very good across the school and children's attitudes to learning are excellent.

It's been a great half term so far and I'm sure the last week or so will be brilliant too. Some of my highlights of the term so far have happened just recently —

Screen your Story and Lowther's Got Talent. Thank you so much for getting involved in Screen your Story. The children love having adults in to help them with their writing. Judging by what I've read so far, I'm hopeful there'll be another winner or two from Lowther again.

## Jury Service

I wanted to let you know that I have been summoned for Jury service. This is scheduled to take place for the two weeks after the February half term. I will still be in school every day and will try and be around as much as possible during that time. Mr.Bracken will be leading the school fantastically and I look forward to returning to school full-time on the 20th February 2017.

Class	Attendance % from September 2016— January 2017
Oak	93% - below school target
Willow	95% - below school target
Pine	96% - broadly in line
Beech	96% - broadly in line
Elm	95% -below school target
Maple	94% - below school target
3C	98% - above school target
3R	95% - below school target
4P	96% - broadly in line
4G	97% - above school target
5N	97% - above school target
5C	96% - broadly in line
6J	96% - broadly in line
6P	96% - broadly in line

## Attendance and Punctuality News

Our school attendance target this year is 96.5% As a school we're currently below that at 95.99%. As you can see from the table of data, most classes have good attendance, but are below the target level.

School attendance for the week before Christmas was only 84% and the week after Christmas was just 93.5%. Please ensure you are not taking your children out of school during term time. This is ALWAYS marked as an unauthorised absence.

Punctuality across the school is variable and it's been agreed by the senior leaders and governors at the school that this is something that needs addressing. We have been putting together a new whole school approach to this with clearer expectations and closer monitoring. We'll share this after half term before we launch the new expectations at the end of February.

## Screen your Story

Our annual foray into the Screen your Story competition took place again this week This high profile event has been a really useful tool for promoting high quality writing in a fun and stimulating way. The children's "spooky" stories are excellent.

## Lowther's Got Talent 2017

Wow! Lowther's Got Talent was a great success this year, with two overall winners – Zehkeil from Y1 with his awesome street dance moves, and Alexander from Y5 performing a Martin Luther King speech about peace. I don't think you can get much bigger variety than that! A total of over 100 children auditioned with 38 children making the final (20 boys and 18 girls) from ages 5 to 11. I thought the final was a wonderful showcase of what Lowther is all about—encouraging children to try new things and getting fully involved in school life.

A massive well done to our children that auditioned and our 38 finalists: Amelia, Medina, Cassidy, Sophia, Elle, Ameliah, Scarlett, Bulqays, Katherine, Madeleine, Nathaniel, Daniel, Zehkeil, Ava, Tuna, Lolly, Aleeyah, Ella, Lucas, Leo, Kit, Toby, Thomas, Kaziah, Xavier, Oliver L, Elias, Joel, Dylan, Bibi, Michael, Ali, Alexander, Molly, Kitty and Oliver W. You all put on a truly fantastic afternoon's entertainment for us!

I'm already excited for what the children will come up with for Lowther's Got Talent 2018!





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## The return of the Sainsbury's vouchers

It's that time of year again! The Sainsbury's scheme for schools to be able to purchase sports equipment is up and running (thanks to those of you that have already started collecting)

There's a collection box by the front desk of the office. Last years total was incredible and we purchased all sorts of new equipment. Thanks in advance for your support with this.



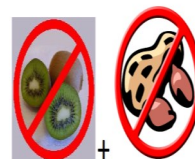
## ITV Filming at Lowther

I've been lucky enough to have a sneak peak at the VTs that ITV filmed a couple of weeks back. They're brilliant! The pieces will be aired each day on ITV on their Good Morning Britain show next week (wc 6th February 2017). So keep your eyes out for Lowther on the television!



## Fruit and nuts!

Just a quick reminder that we are now a no Kiwi and no nut school. Thank you for your co-operation with this change in school policy.



## School Improvement Partner Work

We work closely with our Local authority School improvement Partner (SIP) to look at how well the school is doing and what we can do to improve further. We are planning a whole school review next half term and we will share with you the findings of this piece of work with our SIP.

## New Scooter Racks

I hope you've noticed the 60 new scooter racks we've had fitted. Mrs. Day organised obtaining these for free from Transport for London. I'm sure you'll agree they make a welcome addition to the playground.



## Annual Richmond in Bloom Art Competition

Outlined below are the details for the Richmond in Bloom Art competition. Good luck to those of you that decide to enter.



### Open NOW! Richmond Borough in Bloom FLORAL ART COMPETITION 2017 in co-operation with Achieving for Children

This annual competition, is open to pupils of all ages who attend a school within the Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

The entry chosen as best overall will be used to illustrate a special poster to publicise this year's gardening and floral display competitions for residents and businesses. It will be displayed in libraries and elsewhere throughout the borough.

The paintings will be judged in five age categories, from under 5 years to sixth form (see the box next page) and there will be a winner and two runners-up in each age category. All these 15 top entries will go on exhibition at special events during the year.

Entries may be submitted through the school or may be sent individually, sent direct to Achieving for Children at the address on next page.

#### What the judges are looking for

- \* Does this painting show artistic talent, taking account of age?
- \* Does it depict one or more flowers or shrubs seen in gardens during the summer months?
- \* Does it reveal a keen observation of blooms?
- \* Is the painting as a whole colourful and eye-catching from across the room - to provide an arresting poster design?

#### The awards

For each of the top 15 entrants - selected across all 5 age categories - a commemorative Richmond Borough in Bloom certificate and a prize pack of art materials giving many hours of enjoyment.

The overall winner will also receive a unique commemorative trophy to treasure for lifetime.

Each school whose pupil is a category winner will be awarded a special Richmond Borough in Bloom commemorative certificate to display.

Award winners will be invited to a presentation ceremony and celebration tea party.



Winning entry 2016  
Ayesha Khan, age 14  
Widley School

#### HOW TO ENTER

Please read carefully these conditions of entry.

1 You must be attending a school within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

2 Pictures may be in paint, crayon, ink or felt pen (but not computer generated) on a sheet no larger than A4 (29.7x21cm) and must not be mounted.

3 Only pictures in portrait shape will be accepted and the picture must not contain any words or figures.

4 Award winning entries will be retained by Richmond Borough in Bloom and may be put on display or reproduced. The organisers do not undertake to return any other entries.

5 Your entry must be submitted through your school, or direct to the address below, by the closing date of Tuesday March 28th 2017.

6 You must affix a label or write directly onto the back of the picture stating:

- Your full name (in capitals)
- The age (in years) you will be on Tuesday March 28th 2017
- The age category entered - A, B, C, D, or E
- The name of your school.

Entries without all these details will be disqualified.