



# Lowther

ISSUE 3: 4TH NOVEMBER 2019

WWW.LOWTHER.RICHMOND.SCH.UK



As we start a new and exciting half term it's always good to reflect on the success of the previous half term. I hope you have enjoyed seeing your child settle in to their new class and year group and continue their educational journey at Lowther. We're delighted with the start the children have made to the school year. A special mention must go to our sixty new Reception children who have been marvellous in the way they've settled in to Lowther life.

In this newsletter I would like to draw your attention to the results tables on Page 2. This is one of the graphs I shared with you at Harvest assembly. As with all data there is an important narrative that accompanies the data so I would encourage you to look at the full online presentation <https://www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/performance.php> and to come and see Mr Bracken or myself if you'd like to know a bit more and we'll gladly talk you through the numbers.

Thank you for coming along in such great numbers to support the children in their Harvest assembly performances — I loved listening to the children and sharing with you the excitement and happiness of performing. Our next big whole school event is the much loved "Takeover Day" which is happening this year on Friday 29th November 2019. It should be another cracker!

Social media is something most of use every day in some form or other. At Lowther we use Twitter (we usually tweet 3 or 4 times a week) and Facebook actively. We'd love you to engage with the school via our social media accounts. We know lots of you follow us on these platforms as they really are a great way to keep up to date with all things Lowther. We are also constantly updating the website with new videos, photos and important information for parents — there are usually some updates every week. Please do explore Lowther's online presence—we'd also love to hear from you about what sort of things you like to engage with online and what we could do to further improve information sharing with parents and families.

The screen shot illustrated to the right here, shows an example of the sort of posts we regularly make on Twitter—this particular example is a super one minute video of life at Lowther (also available on the school website and Facebook)



Our annual performance poetry competition was another huge success. We had children from all the years from one to six perform poems for the whole school to listen to. There were individual performances, groups, raps, songs, poems with strong messages, poems which made us all laugh. It was a great deal of fun and really showcased the range of talents we have in our fantastic school. Superb job children.

We love learning in different ways at Lowther. In Year 4 for example, as part of their Amazon project, the children nurtured a whole collection of cocoons and observed them change into butterflies. The picture below shows the butterflies being released into the wild.



We are delighted to announce the launch of a new Lowther Sports Club. Hockey club will be running on a Tuesday morning from 8 to 8.45am at the school after half term. The first session is on Tuesday 12th November 2019. The club will be run by Sheen Hockey club for pupils in years 2 and 3 at a cost of £3 per session. If your child would like to join Lowther's new hockey club please register your interest with the school office team. We recommend that each pupil wear a mouth guard and shin pads to participate in the club, these can be purchased from most good sports shops.

Sheen Hockey club was setup 2 years ago to give young people more access to play hockey in the local area due to most hockey clubs having long waiting lists. They run sessions for young people (boys and girls) between the ages of 6 and 14 on Saturday mornings at Richmond Park Academy. The sessions are designed to teach players from beginner level to more technical aspects once they are comfortable with the basic skills. At the club we promote a friendly environment for the all the players with all the coaches being parent volunteers or players in the club.

They also run an evening session on a Thursday evening (9 to 10pm) for anyone over the age of 15, whether they have played hockey or not. The sessions are run as a fun session with some skills work followed by a friendly game..



A key area for our school is to ensure attendance across the school is excellent. **The minimum expectation for all pupils is 96% attendance.** Attendance below this falls in to a category of concern.

To put this into context 5% absence would equate to 58 hours (nearly 2 school weeks) of lost learning in a year and a whopping 348 hours during primary school. This is the equivalent of missing a whole term's worth of learning. We are pleased to announce pupil attendance and punctuality was, in most classes, very good for our first half term. We look forward to this remaining superb throughout the school year. We really appreciate your support in communicating to the children that every school day counts.

The class attendance totals are indicated on the table. Please ask your child's teacher or at the office if you would like to know your child's attendance.

Oak <b>93.5%</b>	Willow <b>96.1%</b>
Beech <b>95.8%</b>	Pine <b>97.1%</b>
Maple <b>97.4%</b>	Elm <b>96.1%</b>
3P <b>97.5%</b>	3R <b>97.0%</b>
4M <b>96.6%</b>	4N <b>94.7%</b>
5N <b>97.4%</b>	5P <b>97.2%</b>
6C <b>96.2%</b>	6R <b>94.2%</b>
School Total <b>96.3%</b>	Minimum school expectation for all pupils <b>96%</b>

**BAR & BBQ**

**RPA**  **PTA**  
and friends  
proudly present

# A FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR



**SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER**  
**GATES OPEN 4.30pm | FIREWORK DISPLAY 6pm**  
**at RICHMOND PARK ACADEMY**  
(Hertford entrance car park)

**TICKET ONLY**  
**Earlybird tickets £6 each or £20 for a family ticket**  
**(ends 2nd November) & £8 / £24 thereafter**  
**(preschool children FREE) available from**  
**www.eventbrite.co.uk (search RPA fireworks)**

Sponsored by 

I hope you enjoyed hearing about how well the children had done academically at Lowther last year during harvest assembly. Below are the graphs which illustrate just two of the fantastic headlines—that our children were in the Top 6% nationally in Reading and Maths combined for both attainment and progress. Superb stuff. This was achieved through fabulous attitudes to learning and consistently first class teaching over time. The full results from 2019 are on the "How are we performing" page on the website. Go explore!



In the past we have had shoe box collections at school to give a gift to a child in a part of the world where they may not receive a gift. Whilst we're not running it at school this year it might be something really positive to do with your child at home. You can even drop the boxes off at convenient locations like branches of The Entertainer. There are a number of different charities that run these appeals, the one illustrated here is by Operation Christmas child, but you may want to explore using another ones too.

You can go on their website (or search for "shoe box appeal") to find out more — but here are the basic principles and actions needed to join in the shoe box appeal. Do consider giving it a go (the deadline is the 18th November) — it could make a child's Christmas.

### STEP 1



## Find a Shoebox

Get an empty medium sized shoebox, and wrap the box and lid separately in colourful wrapping paper or order preprinted shoeboxes [online](#). Attach the appropriate [boy/girl label](#), marking if your gift is for a boy or a girl. Select an age category 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 and attach the label to the top of your shoebox.

### STEP 2



## Fill with gifts

Fill your shoebox with a selection of fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. If possible, include one or two special items you know a child will love such as a doll, cuddly toy or deflated football with pump. See our [Gift Suggestions](#) below for more ideas.

**Due to more stringent import regulations, toothpaste and sweets can no longer be included in shoeboxes.**

### STEP 3



## Make your project donation

A suggested donation of £5 is essential to cover project costs, including shipping, to enable a local church or group overseas to lead a safe, well-organised children's event where your shoebox will be given to a child in need. More detail on what your donation covers [here](#).

Give online at [Follow Your Box](#) and you can print out a barcode and place it inside your shoebox on top of the contents. This will enable us to tell you which country your shoebox gets sent to.

Or you can enclose cash or cheque (to Samaritan's Purse) and place it in an envelope inside your shoebox on top of the contents. If you are packing multiple shoeboxes you can write a cheque for one combined donation.

Note: Follow your Box is only available when you pay online

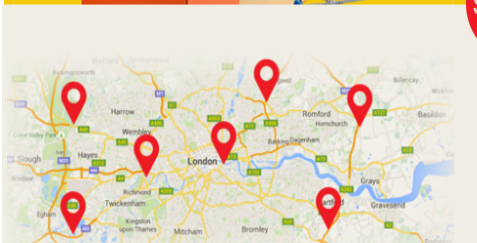
### STEP 4



## Personalise

Personalise your shoebox by including a hand written note and a photograph of yourself, your group or your family.

### STEP 5



## Drop Off Your Shoebox

Place a rubber band around each closed shoebox and take it to a local drop-off location between 11th and 18th November. Your nearest drop off location will be listed on the website from late September ([find my nearest drop off location](#)), or call 01993 770620.



Year 6, along with Chef Sarah and Chef Clare, held a super Community tea party at the end of last half term. The children made afternoon tea, including some delicious cakes and scones for elderly members of the community and talked to them about their lives and their experiences. It was a lovely occasion.

