



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 4

5th November 2013

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Danceathon — Raising money for the NSPCC

(and having fun doing so!)

This Friday (8/11/13) we are having our Danceathon in aid of the [NSPCC](http://www.nspcc.org.uk). The plans for fundraising and for the afternoon are as follows. It should be brilliant — and all for a great cause too.

The danceathon will start after lunch with a whole school dance warm-up and will then run through from 2-3pm.

There will be three dance areas. In each space there will be a different dance based activity for the children to join in with.

The danceathon is for all children from Y1 to Y6 (though children from Reception are very welcome to join in the fun with their parents)

Parents are welcome to join in! We'd be delighted to have any sort of mum or dad dance offs!

The aim is that the children dance and are active and involved for a full hour. We have [dance videos](#) (also on our website video gallery) for them to copy, lots of

great music and moves

galore! Teachers will

most definitely be joining

in the fun too.



At Lowther we love dance!

Quick quick!

Just a quick reminder that the Christmas Fair Poster entries must be in by Thursday 7th November. Winners by class, and overall winner will be announced on Friday 8th.

BIG THANKS! I have been asked to pass on thanks to staff, parents and above all the pupils of the Lowther School Family for the very generous Harvest Gifts they donated recently to the [Castelnau Centre](#) and the Foodbank initiative.

Foodbanks exist to provide emergency food for local people in crisis, and clients are referred by way of a voucher system by a large variety of professional referring bodies (including Citizens Advice, Age Concern, Social Services, Schools etc.)

Emergency food packs are made up, representing initially 3 days supply of food, to see the individual or family through the initial crisis, whilst they receive longer term help from appropriate agencies.

Our Barnes Distribution Point launches a week on Friday, being run from the [Community Café](#) in the [Castelnau Centre](#), with our stores in a specially constructed shed. The administration of the distribution and volunteers etc. is being undertaken by the church here at [Holy Trinity Barnes](#), together with the start up costs. The long life food you have donated is already waiting on the shelves!

The Powerstation Local youth provision is available just down the road at the Powerstation in Mortlake. Here are just a couple of the activities they have on which may be of interest, Contact the centre for more information.

GIRLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Every Thursday 3.30-6.00pm

Learn digital photography techniques, how to edit and enhance your pictures on computer. Meet up and make new friends.

Each week we will have a different theme or subject.

Exhibit your work and get to go on a free weekend seaside residential weekend in Dorset next April 2014.

Limited spaces are available.
Call Pam 07771 566111 for more info
and to book a place or
email rick.cassman@richmond.gov.uk



POWERSTATION

Welcome back to the second half term of 2013-14

We started our term this Monday with an assembly about targets and what qualities you need as a learner to hit them. I know this will be an exciting and challenging term for all our pupils as the teachers really step up the work and learning. It will be a pleasure to conduct many a "secret" Hong Kong Phooey target ceremony, give out 100's of bling blings and award more certificates and stars. So let the challenge and buzz of learning get cracking as we embark on another action packed term of learning at Lowther.



Mr. Tuffney's Golden Award



Lowther Family Golden Standard Superstar

Well done to the latest children to be awarded the Golden Standard this year

Kitty (Y1)	Sara (Y6)
Manith (Y4)	Oliver (Y3)
Anusha (Y1)	Bruno (Y5)
Mariana (Y4)	

Attendance is looking good!

Thank you all for a cracking start to attendance across the school. Our target is 96% so to have 9 out of 11 classes hitting that level is impressive stuff. Thank you all for your support with this.

- Willow 97.8%
- Oak 96.7%
- Beech 96.4%
- Pine 96.2%
- Elm 97.7%
- Maple 97.8%
- 3S 95.5%
- 3T 95.7%
- 4B 96.1%
- 4J 97.1%
- 5 96.7%
- 6 98.1%

Well done to Y6, the current class top of the pile!

After our great success at the Wholefoods Market we will be sending £50 to a charity supporting communities in Cambodia and £120 raised from the Harvest meal will go to a charity supporting communities in Syria. Thank you for all your support.

Friday Night Junior Club

FREE TO Years 4 to 8

The club is run by experienced professional youth workers.

Every Friday throughout the year* 6.30 to 8.30pm

Activities include:

- table football
- table tennis
- indoor football
- basketball
- padis
- trips
- pool
- music recording
- computer access
- help with homework
- cookery
- music practice
- arts and crafts
- and much more...

* subject to closure on bank holidays and during summer vacation.

For more details email rick.cassman@richmond.gov.uk or call 020 8288 0876

www.facebook.com/Powerstationclub

POWERSTATION

121a Mortlake High Street SW14 8SN



Homework Challenge 1 — the Lowther Joke book

I do like a good joke—and so does Henry in Y2. He approached me recently to ask if we could put a Lowther joke book together. I thought it was a brilliant idea so here it is in the form of a Homework challenge. Your task is simple—come up with a joke or series of jokes and present them in an interesting way—perhaps you could do a comic strip, your best handwriting, a video of you telling the joke, a piece of art—it really is up to you. Make it stand out and of course make it funny!

All jokes need to be submitted to Mr Tuffney by Monday 18th November 2013

All homework entries will receive a Bling bling. The best jokes will also appear in a Lowther joke book and will win a certificate. Good luck and happy joke telling!

The whole school from back in 2003—a few current members of staff are lurking in the picture somewhere!



Parent Workshop available For any parent who has concerns about their child's sense of self worth or who would like to know more about the topic Gill Hines is running a workshop entitled 'Developing Self Esteem' for parents on Thursday 14th November at the Whitton Community Association, Twickenham. Places cost £15 or £1 for parents of children receiving free school meals. For more information, booking or to ask Gill a question please go to her website www.gillhines.co.uk

Old Lowtheronians—or something like that!

I was reflecting recently on how many former pupils come back to visit Lowther and how many families have a long established link to the school. We're hoping to put together a way of hearing stories of Lowther's history from way back—I'm even trying to persuade Mrs Henchie to get involved in some way. If you have any ideas of how we can move this forward do come and talk to me—I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Takeover day 2013

We have made some changes to Takeover Day for this year. It's huge popularity with the students has meant that for practical reasons we will re-focus the day on how we used to run the day when it was first introduced. The focus is on the children taking over from their teacher or teaching assistant in their own class.

Children taking over can choose what subject they'd like to teach – it can be any normal curriculum subject with the exception of cooking and swimming (for practical reasons!) Children are expected to organise an activity to last between 20 mins and 45 mins. They must prepare and organise the resources e.g. for a dance session they should have the music with them and know what moves they are teaching. For art for example they should make sure they have paints and paper (school will provide any equipment) Children will need to prepare for this either before or after school or at home – but it must be done in advance so that they are ready to teach at their allocated time slot (given to them by their teacher).

This year for any roles where children would like to takeover from grown-ups who are not based in a classroom e.g. Mr Tuffney, Mrs Colenso, Mrs Day etc they need to apply to teach a normal class lesson as well as the additional role. We will then select 2 names from a hat that will be able to be those people for two hours each.

All children who gained a position have to complete these 3 requirements:

- They should have checked with the class teacher or the person they're taking over from as to times, job details etc
- They should be well planned and organised and know what they're doing
- They should be dressed appropriately

It should be another cracking day.



Young Peoples Survey

Children from the upper years completed an online survey last summer. All pupils in Richmond schools complete these surveys as it helps the local authority to plan its provision. I thought you might like to see some of the results.

	Lowther	Richmond
Pupils responded that they went to an after-school club in their own time in the four weeks before the survey.	73%	48%
Pupils responded that they have been bullied outside at school during breaktimes.	5%	23%
Pupils responded that they enjoy physical activities 'quite a lot' or 'a lot'.	95%	84%
Pupils responded that they were afraid to be in school because of bullying at least 'sometimes' in the month before the survey.	9%	19%
Pupils responded that they were pushed or hit in the month before the survey.	23%	34%
Pupils responded that they 'usually' or 'always' feel safe at school.	100%	94%
Pupils responded that they think their school deals with bullying 'quite' or 'very' well.	67%	57%

100% of pupils said they feel happy talking to children at school. This compares with the 89% of pupils reporting this in the wider Richmond data.

86% of pupils exercised hard enough to breath harder and faster on at least three occasions in the previous week. This compares with the 79% of pupils reporting this in the wider Richmond data.

14% of pupils had experienced bullying-type behaviour 'often' or 'every day' in the last month. This compares with the 20% of pupils reporting this in the wider Richmond data.

27% of pupils said they think there is not enough for them to do in their local area. This compares with the 10% of pupils reporting this in the wider Richmond data.

