



# Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 9

7th January 2013

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

## Learning 2013 style

Welcome back to the start of a new term. Wow, it's now 2013 and schools really have changed a lot over the years. New technology, the development of different teaching strategies, exciting new resources and new ways of thinking all help to make schools better and better. Our commitment to your children is to provide opportunities for them to learn together in exciting, creative and challenging ways. Our number one school priority this academic year is to ensure the very highest standards of teaching in each and every classroom. I look forward to seeing the children flourish and soar to new heights in 2013.

## Homework Challenge 3 — now complete

Questions, questions, questions so many questions. The children did a great job putting their questions together for the third homework challenge. I am hopeful that some of them might make their way into the NSPCC book. Here are some we received from the children to get you thinking.

- If I took one half of my brain and put it in somebody else's skull would we both be me?
- Why is water so clear?
- How long can we live with just bananas?
- Why are some people funny and others aren't?
- Why can you not tickle your own body?

I'm hoping to compile an online book of all the children's brilliant questions. Homework challenge 4 is not too far away.

## Italian Day 2012

At Lowther the foreign language we all learn is Italian. This year, for the first time, we had a whole day celebrating Italian culture. We learnt interesting facts about Italy, sang songs and played games. Everyone came dressed as an Italian or in the colours of the flag. We were delighted by the children's response to entering into the spirit of the day. It really is a strength of the school the way children and their families embrace life at Lowther so fully.



## So many thank yous

On behalf of all the teachers and staff and school we'd like to thank you for the kind gifts and cards that were given to us at Christmas. It is very satisfying to know that efforts are appreciated but really a smile and a thank you genuinely are the best pressies!

## 100% attendance week

Next week is 100% attendance week. Please support us with this—there will be certificates and prizes up for grabs!

## Fit for Sport

Welcome back to Fit for Sport who will be running their after school programme from the school site now that we have the space again. Enquire at the office for further details.

## Diary dates for the first half term

Here are the key dates for this first half term of 2013. It promises to be a great half term of learning and excitement.

w/c 14 Jan - 100% attendance week

14 Jan - Year 6 Shakespeare Workshop

14 Jan - Author visit to whole school

16 Jan - Reception to National Gallery

18 Jan - Reception, Yr 1 & Yr 2 Perform drama workshops

18 Jan Year 6 Shakespeare performance

23 Jan - Year 2 Science Museum/ Yr 4 Victoria & Albert Museum

25 Jan - Lowther Got Talent - final 2 - 3pm

28 Jan - KS2 Open Evening

31 Jan - Year 1 National Gallery

1 Feb - Yrs 5 & 6 Football at NPL Sports Ground

1 Feb - School Council Mufti Day

8 Feb - PTA Quiz Night

18 Feb - Half term week

All after school clubs will be starting next week, full details to follow.

## Inter-class competition

We believe that competition can be healthy if managed appropriately. We have an inter-class competition across the school which focuses on three weekly awards — for attendance, gold standard behaviour and class of the week. These are the latest results

	TOP Attendance awards	Class of the week awards	Golden Behaviour awards	Total number of whole class certificates
<b>Oak</b>	0	0	5	5 (Oaks and Willows have only recently been involved in the competition hence their lower totals so far)
<b>Willow</b>	1	0	5	6 (Oaks and Willows have only recently been involved in the competition hence their lower totals so far)
<b>Beech</b>	0	2	8	10
<b>Pine</b>	3	0	7	10
<b>Maple</b>	4	2	8	14
<b>Elm</b>	1	2	8	11
<b>Y3CR</b>	2	1	8	11
<b>Y3S</b>	0	1	9	10
<b>Y4</b>	0	1	8	9
<b>Y5</b>	0	1	11	12
<b>Y6</b>	5	2	7	14
<b>Top Class</b>	<b>Y6</b>	<b>Beech, Maple, Elm, Y6</b>	<b>Y5</b>	<b>Maple and Y6</b>

### Nativity Superstars!

Wasn't the Nativity great? The children did a marvellous job singing and acting their way through a fabulous show.

Do look out for the online gallery of snaps taken by the very talented Mr Daniels. Thank you for supporting this event so keenly.

### Skipper's Scoop - edition 1 now out

A big well done to Mrs Colenso and her editorial team for edition 1 of Skipper's Scoop. I thought it was a terrific magazine. I know the team are keen to make the magazine better and better so please do feedback to Mrs Colenso any ideas you may have to make the magazine even better and what you particularly liked about the first edition. If you haven't picked up a copy yet there are still copies available in the lobby or you can read it online on the school website.



### Lowther's Got Talent 2013

Yes indeed it's that time again. What started as an idea from three girls in Year 5 has now turned into an annual Lowther event. This will be the third time we have hosted Lowther's Got Talent and I know with new judges this year the acts will really need to pull out all the stops to make it to the final.

There are 4 different categories

- 1) Music and singing
- 2) Alternative
- 3) Sport and dance
- 4) Comedy, drama and magic

Performances should not be longer than 3 minutes and ideally around the 1—2 minute mark — it's much better for the performance to be short and effective than long and drawn out.

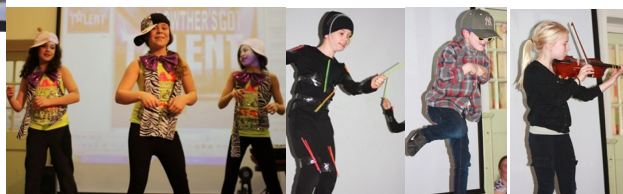
Judges will be looking for originality, effort and preparation as well as talent.

Auditions are

Friday 18th January 2013 (from 9-12.30)

The grand final which of course we'd love you to come and watch is on **Friday 25th January 2013** between 2pm and 3pm. It should be fun!

Here are some pictures to remind you how good last years final was.



### Promoting Positive Behaviour at Lowther

Excellent behaviour is a vital part of school life. At Lowther we believe in promoting positive behaviour with rewards and incentives. One of the many ways we support this is Mrs Colenso's weekly behaviour target. Each week Mrs Colenso sets the whole school a target to aim for. Each class is then given an award based on how well they did. These are the targets and results achieved so far this school year. As you can see the children have been doing an excellent job. The first behaviour target for 2013 is for the children to focus in class. I'm sure we'll be giving out lots more golds this year.

Week	Target	GOLD awards	Silver awards	Bronze awards
1	Make Your Teacher Smile	6	2	1
2	Wear Correct Uniform	9	0	0
3	Meet School Expectations	7	0	2
4	Keep School Litter Free	11	0	0
5	Have Happy Playtimes	9	2	0
6	Earn Rewards	10	1	0
7	Line Up Quickly	0	0	2
8	Tidy and Organised	3	6	0
9	Find Fascinating Facts	3	1	1
10	Bug Your Teacher	4	3	0
11	Learn Playground Games	7	2	0
12	Meet Expectations	6	2	1

**More details on the Self Esteem taking place here at Lowther—to book a place please enquire at the office.**

*Tuesday 26th March - Self-Esteem – Lowther Primary School at 7.00pm – 9.00pm.*

How we feel about ourselves affects everything we do and restricts the choices we make. Children and young people behave differently with siblings and peers, learn more slowly, may not fulfill their potential and be less inclined to work at new things if their self esteem is low. This participatory workshop will introduce to you the important features of self esteem—what it means, where it comes from and what we can do to help build it. Low self esteem often runs in families, so we'll also look at what we can do to help them by helping ourselves.