



Lowther

We love learning at Lowther

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the first weekly newsletter of 2023! We'd like to take this opportunity to wish a very Happy New Year to the whole Lowther School Family.

2022 was another hugely successful year for our school. Please be assured we'll all be working really hard to make further improvements to our fantastic school in 2023. Our commitment here at Lowther, to all of you, is to ensure we provide your children with the very best opportunities. We will be focusing on our 5 core values of being Creative, Confident, Inclusive, Resilient and Authentic as we strive for every child to excel at school. We want Lowther to continue to be a school that inspires an enjoyment of learning and that creates a positive disposition to learning for life. It's exciting to think that in 2023 your child is going to learn to do things they've never been able to do before! We look forward to working with you this year and in the future as we work together to help your children soar to new heights.

Best wishes for a fantastic weekend.

Mark and Alastair

Assembly themes this week

Being Confident

On Tuesday Mr Ripley's assembly was about one of our 5 core values—being confident. We looked at what it means and why we want children to develop confidence and how it helps you, both in and out of school.

Being Creative

On Wednesday we did some creative challenges — in Art, Maths and problem solving. We explored how being creative and using your imagination is fun and can really help you in school too.

Photo of the week



Staff video! Thank you to those of you that engaged with our fun Christmas video (screenshot above). It's had over 3,500 engagements now, which is amazing. If you haven't seen it yet you can view it on the school website or via the school's Twitter account.

What's been happening this week?

This week has seen the children come back to school with positive attitudes and lots of smiles. We've been really impressed with how quickly they've settled back in to the school routine. We're all set for a fantastic 2023 at Lowther!

Upcoming events and diary dates

- ⇒ Screen your Story launches 16th January
- ⇒ It's Lowtherness Live auditions for Year 1 to 6 on the 25th and 26th January 2023
- ⇒ The dates for this term are as follows.
- Children start** - Tuesday 3rd January
- Children finish** - Friday 10th February
- Half Term week** - Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February
- Children start** - Monday 20th February
- Children finish** —Friday 31st March

Don't forget!

Please think about ensuring your child will be warm during their PE lesson. Hats and gloves are allowed for PE as are plain black joggers and our sports hoodie. We love sport at Lowther and don't want any of the children's enjoyment to be affected by being cold.

Auditions: 25th and 26th January 2023

Decisions for finalists: Friday 27th January

Live Final:

Friday 3rd February 2023

LowtherNESS

LIVE

Previously known as Lowther's got Talent

screen your story

WRITE A STORY • WIN A CHANCE TO GET IT PUBLISHED • GET IT MADE INTO FILM

Our theme this year is 'Family'

This year we want you to write about Family. We're looking for any story about what it is to have a family, what it is to be without one. Tell us what you think a family is - can only people have one or can other animals too? Are families only mums and dads and kids or can they be bigger than that? Are families good things or maybe not so good? Do members of families help each other? Do they get in the way? Do you have to live together to be a family? Are families important?

Stories about families are some of the greatest stories ever told - now it's your turn to tell us your story.

Go to the page for your year to see what you have to do to enter.

Two upcoming events we're all looking forward to are....

1) Screen your Story Our annual story writing competition launches on the 16th January. We've had lots of winners before and hope to again this time out. The theme for the stories this year is "Families". Look out for more details coming soon.

2) Lowtherness Live! We are delighted to announce it's time again for Lowtherness Live! We're now in our eleventh year of Lowtherness Live and I'm sure the judges will see all the acts try and pull out all the stops to try and secure their spot in the grand final. Whatever your talent, whatever your skill, we'd love to see it. Children can enter the competition and perform any act of their choice—music, comedy, dancing, sports, magic, acting. Sign up sheets are on my office door. 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.

The grand final, which of course we'd love you to come and watch, is on Friday 3rd February 2023 between 1:30pm and 3pm. It should be masses of fun! Good luck to everyone entering!

Please like
our
Facebook
page



Please follow
us on Twitter

Check our
website

Did you know?

There are over 30 different home languages spoken by families in the Lowther community. That's absolutely incredible!

Secondary offers: The first round of offers for secondary schools comes out at the end of March. Please don't worry if your child isn't offered one of their top preferences in this first round. Experience has shown that places tend to become available a little bit later down the line. Do come and talk to me or the office team if you need any further advice on this matter.

Please also note that the deadline for Reception class places is the 15th January 2023 and offers usually come out in April.

General School Matters

At the start of the new year I thought I'd mention a couple of things we're noticing with uniform and other matters - please do note these core expectations.

Uniform matters:

- ALL uniform (including coats and hats) to be named please. We find a lot of unnamed jumpers and coats around school.
- Footwear remains the main issue with incorrect uniform.
- **NO boots** to be worn at school.
- No jewellery is allowed at school (except stud earrings) and watches
- No shoes with logos that are not in black.
- Shoes/trainers must be all one dark colour (ideally black)
- **NO Lowther sports hoodies** to be worn to school please — these are just for PE lessons in the winter months.

Please note ALL packed lunch boxes should be stored carefully (before and after use). We also politely request that plastic bags are NOT used for packed lunches as this isn't in line with our school's attempts to minimise our use of single use plastics.

Before and after school

- **NO ball games** (unless at a sports club)
- Children should not use the swing and the large climbing frame equipment at this time.
- **NO scooting or cycling** on school grounds for safety reasons please.

Thank you for your support with these matters.

Safeguarding: If you have any safeguarding concerns about a child, please contact the school's DSL and refer to the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (on the school website). Please ensure you phone the office so this is addressed quickly. Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are Mrs Bere, Mr Ripley and Mrs Hughes.

If you feel a child may be in danger, you may contact the SPA directly on the number below or the police directly.

Single Point of Access (SPA): 020 8547 5008 Out of Hours: 020 8770 5000

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 020 8891 7470 / 07774 442675

Please use the playground in the mornings or after school to pass on quick messages to class teachers. Wherever possible, the teacher should always be the first port of call if you have any concerns or questions.

General enquiries: Please speak to the class teacher in the first instance. If not, you can call the school office on 0208 748 3984 and we can then arrange for the relevant person to call you back. Our office email address is info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk.

Absences: Please email info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk or call our school office on 0208 748 3984 to report an absence.

Special Educational Needs: Please contact our SENDCO (Mrs Bere) on the school number (0208 748 3984) or email e.fitch@lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Wraparound Enquiries: Our provider for after school care is Fit for Sport. You can contact them via their website fitfor-sport.co.uk

The school runs Breakfast Club so please enquire with our office team if you'd like to book a place

PTA enquiries: Please contact the PTA team on lowtherschoolpta@gmail.com

Headship Team: You are always welcome to talk to any one of us by phone or in person. You can also email us at headteacher@lowther.richmond.sch.uk