



# Lowther

*We love learning at Lowther*

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Here we are in the Summer Term! It's just wonderful being able to have all the children back at school properly — we're all so happy that school is now in full swing. We've been so impressed with how hard the children are working and how good their work has been. Super work children!



We have lots of things to look forward to as well in the coming term. As the national restrictions change we hope to be able to change and adapt with them. We still harbour dreams of being able to have events like Sports Day run at the end of term. As such we have included a calendar of events for the final half term of the school year. These are all subject to change and to specific requirements from staff, children and parents, but it is very much our intent at this stage to run these events as planned. Here's hoping!


We hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter—we're sorry there's been a delay in getting April's edition out to you. Thanks again for your continued support of all things Lowther. Here's to an awesome last 3 months of the school year!




Year 2 getting creative with their Maths Learning!

Mark and Dermot





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Facebook page



Please follow  
us on Twitter

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Check our  
website

# Book Day

Book day was fantastic! It was so worth holding the date back for when the children had returned to school. We had a great day celebrating reading and books. The costumes were as ever absolutely superb. Thank you for your support in making this a special day for the children.



## Staffing update

There are a few staff updates to give you all. As you now know Mr Bracken is moving on to become Headteacher at Marshgate Primary School in September (look out for a special leavers assembly for him in July!) We have now successfully appointed our new Deputy Headteachers who will officially start their new roles in September 2021. Mr Ripley and Mrs Hughes were the outstanding candidates from a huge field of very strong candidates. Both will be class based for 3.5 days a week. This is brilliant news for the school as we have two superb teachers and leaders who will be working as part of the Headship Team to drive Lowther forward. Exciting times!

I am delighted to be able to announce that Miss Rogan is pregnant and will be having her second child. She will be working up until the end of term before going on maternity leave next school year. This means there will be some changes to the staffing structure next year — we have already begun this process and we will provide more news when we have it.

Finally, I am also very happy to announce that Miss Charlene is also pregnant and will be going on to maternity leave next school year. Congratulations to both her and Miss Rogan on their exciting news and Mr. Bracken, Mr Ripley and Mrs Hughes on their respective promotions.



The 3 core strand to how we support great behaviour at Lowther.

## Thank you!

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful families who have given in donations and contributions to help us to develop our outdoor learning space in Key Stage 1.

With your kind donations we have been able to buy 5 new planters for our new 'Garden zone', large pegs, rope and materials for our construction area and utensils for our mud kitchen.

We are very lucky to have so much outdoor space at Lowther and the children love using this space daily during our 'Rainbow Learning'.



We also have a very special thank you to the Barnes Allotment Society who have helped us in resourcing new bark and soil. We are very grateful to be a part of such a brilliant community and we cannot wait to continue to use our space this term. Thank you to all from the KS1 Team



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The children are definitely enjoying having their playground back!

## Did you know?



Waitrose in Sheen generously donated a tube of Cadbury's Mini Eggs to each and every child across the whole school. What a lovely thought and one that went down very well with our children! The picture shows our Year 4 pupils who helped fill the trolley with chocolate treats!

## The Environment

The Lowther Family is passionate about doing what we can to look after our environment. The University of West England are doing some important research and have asked for our help. Their message is below

"We are contacting you to kindly request your participation in an important national survey (in conjunction with the University of the West of England, Bristol) to address air pollution at schools. The data collected from this survey will inform the development of strategies to reduce child exposure to harmful air pollution. The questionnaire is entirely anonymous, and no personal or identifiable information will be requested or recorded at any point.

The link below will take you to the questionnaire, which should take no more than a few minutes to complete.

[https://uwe.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9ZD2i6fxjKPNCFD](https://uwe.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ZD2i6fxjKPNCFD)

Many thanks for your support with this.

Please take care when parking near school. Please do not block gates, park on double yellows, on the curb and please do avoid the zig zags. By all of us taking extra care around school it makes things much safer for all the children. Thank you in advance for your support with this important matter.

## A message about future fundraising plans

# Community

Our parent community has been amazingly supportive in lots of different ways towards the school. One of the ways is fundraising. Over the last few years the amount of funds parents have raised has been absolutely incredible.

As I'm sure you are aware school budgets are challenging at the moment and so your support and help is even more vital to us at this time. We are always grateful however you are able to support the school, whether that be by helping out at events or making donations, sharing positive stories about Lowther and more—all of these things really do make a difference.

This year we'd love to try and raise enough money to fund all of the following.

1) Fund a skip (or two) so that a team of volunteers can clear a part of the allotment area. We have plans to look at trying to set up a an exciting new programme to trial there for young children. We also need some fencing replaced in there too (We estimate that this will cost in total approximately £1.500)

2) We need a Nursery canopy so that children can use the outside area in all weathers. We already have this provision for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 but not for Nursery. We also have plans to try and open up even more of the playground for Early Years. (We believe this project will cost approximately £8000)

3) We have more technology than ever before which is absolutely brilliant. We do though need to provide appropriate good quality, secure storage for the 30 extra Chromebooks we have from the DfE and St Paul's School. (This would cost approximately £1000)

I'm sure you'll agree these would be amazing things to add to our already fantastic provision here at Lowther.

Do look out for the different events and opportunities to help support our quest to provide these additional resources for the children. Thank you in advance for continuing to support

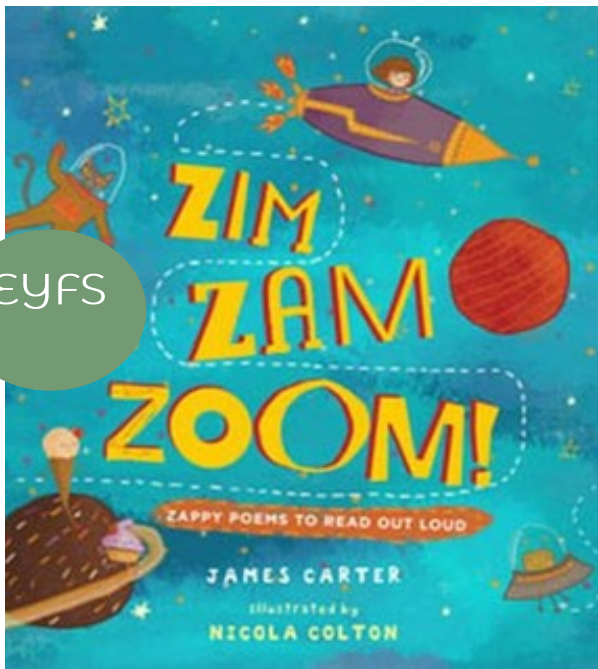


# Lowther Literature

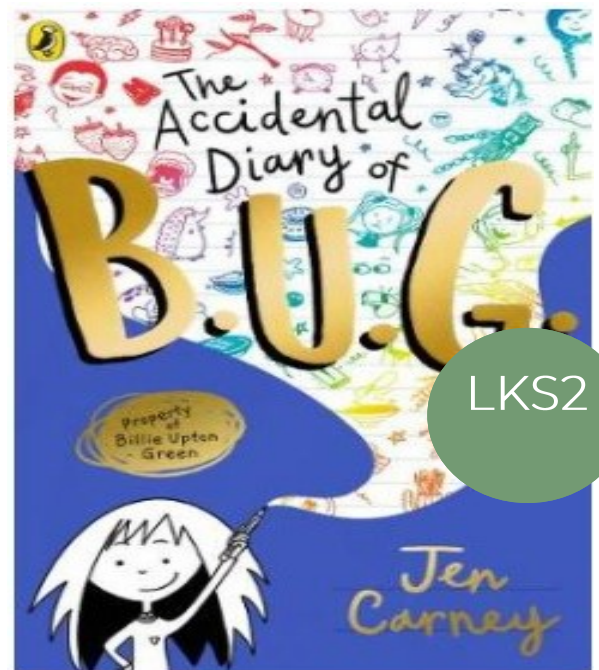


*We recommend these books as a super read*

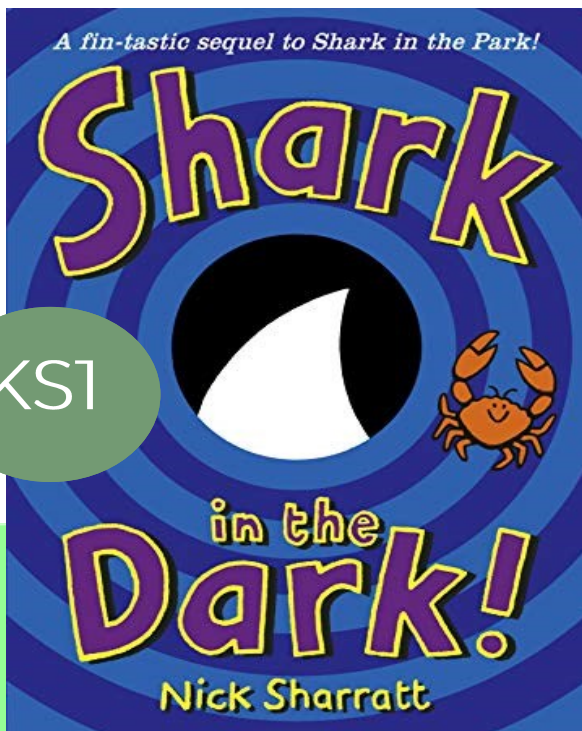
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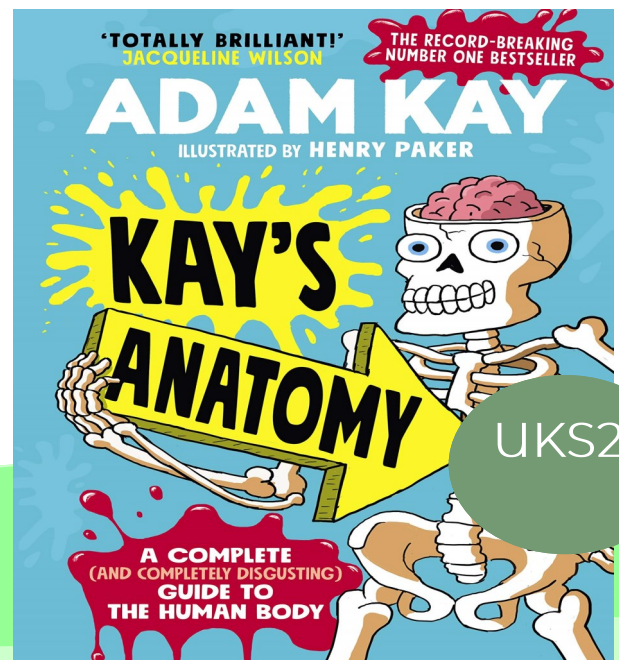
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KS1



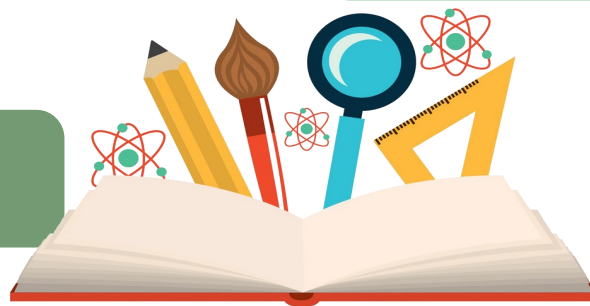
UKS2



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# Year Group Updates



## Nursery

The Nursery children have enjoyed doing some planting in the new troughs in our garden. We have planted runner beans (we are hoping that a Giant doesn't climb down to see us!), potatoes and some sweet pea flowers too. We also planted some strawberry plants which we were given by some of our parents who have an allotment. We are most certainly looking forward to eating them.

We had great fun doing some PE outside which included jumping on a piece of bubble wrap paper to see if we could burst the bubbles. The children really got jumping and popping! We did lots of writing in our outside learning area. Some of the children also enjoyed playing with the water now that the weather has improved. There was lots of fantastic working together to throw a ball through a hoop. Good Shot!



We're all looking forward to our last term together in Nursery before many of us move up in to Reception class.

Pictured below is one of our super pupils enjoying reading a story to a group of friends on the carpet. What fun!



## Reception

Reception have absolutely loved being back at school and have settled back brilliantly into Lowther life. We are so incredibly proud of them!

We began last month by reading the story 'Colour Monster' and explored how we felt about coming back to school. We then read the story of 'The Enormous Turnip' and used this as an opportunity to explore planting and growing a little bit further. We looked closely at the different parts of a plant and then everyone had a go at planting their very own sunflower seed. The children have been looking after their seeds very well and we are excited to see how these grow and change over the next month. We finished the month by learning about the Christian celebration of Easter. We read the Easter story and discussed the different ways that people choose to celebrate at home.



On the last day of term we were lucky enough to have our own Easter egg hunt on the allotment- it was so much fun!



The children have continued to develop their maths skills since being back at school. They have learned all about 3D and 2D shapes and some of the different language that we can use to describe them. The children have also been working hard to review their Phase 3 sounds and tricky words in their phonics sessions. We are impressed with how well their writing is developing and we think we might have a set of authors on our hands very soon!

We are all very excited to be back at school so that we can continue with lots more learning. This term will be thinking about the season of Spring, celebrating St George's Day and then exploring some traditional tales. The fun in Reception never stops!



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# Year Group Updates



## Year 1

With great excitement over our return to school, we have got straight into our Space topic. In English, the children have been investigating famous astronauts and their day to day life in space. The children have been learning to write in the first person and write diary recounts of events. We have been continuing with teaching phase 5 phonics and are now really using and applying their reading skills. We have been trying some comprehension questions and really enjoying daily group guided reading as well.

In Maths, the children have been working on measurement. They have been comparing and measuring lengths in non-standard measurement (hands or string) and in cm. They then moved to measuring mass non-standard measurement (blocks) and in g and kg. Finally we moved on to measuring capacity and using comparative language.

In Art the focus has been paint and colour. The children have been exploring block colour work in the style of Kandinsky and recently tried some self portraits in the style of Picasso.



In Science, the children have been investigating materials. They have been aiming to build boats and so had to test waterproof materials,

floating and sinking, boat shapes and even how to propel their boats. We ended this unit of work with a very exciting boat race between the two classes.

In RE, the children have been learning about Special Foods. This led them through discussions about their own celebrations and events at home. We spent time learning about Jewish event Pesach and the special foods used, we then discussed the events that take place during Lent and the Christian celebration of Easter. This ended in a final end of term Easter fun day with egg hunts, races and arts and crafts. What a busy and fun half term!



## Year 2

We are looking forward to our new topic 'Homes and Habitats'. We will be focussing on our local area and thinking about any animals or plants that may be native to Barnes

What an awesome month April has been for Year 2! We have loved learning about all things Arctic and Antarctic. In English we learnt about the 'April of the Penguins' and wrote information booklets explaining all about the treacherous journey that the penguins take each year.



In Maths we have been exploring shape. We can identify and name a range of 2D and 3D shapes and can describe their properties.

We have built on our learning in gymnastics and have developed skills such as balances, jumps and rolls. Ask us to perform an arabesque, an arch or a dish- we've mastered them all! We really enjoyed using the apparatus and performing our new skills to the class.



In our 'Rainbow Learning' time we have loved making the most of our construction area and have cooked up a storm in our mud kitchen.



We have started to do some gardening and have planted some seeds in our new planters. We are keeping an eye on them every day and making sure they are watered.

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# Year Group Updates



## Year 3

Although only being back at school for 3 weeks in April, it was a busy and jam packed month! The children returned to school with great enthusiasm and excitement. We kicked off our return with celebrating world book day where the children showcased some of their favourite books and bedazzled us all with wonderful costumes. We all had a lot of fun celebrating a wide range of fantastic children's literature.

In English, we used our poetry skills to create some great Mother's Day poems before moving on to take ourselves on an adventure to Pompeii by delving into the book 'Vacation under a Volcano'. The children used their knowledge of descriptive writing techniques to create wonderful action packed stories based on the setting and characters of this book. In maths, the children have continued to widen and deepen their understanding of multiplication and division and are beginning to use formal written methods to multiply 2 digits by 1 digit numbers.



Science week was full of fun and practical experiments that explored a wide range of forces that are around us each day. We discussed how these forces can be harnessed to create innovative change for the better. In art, year 3 looked at a range of pictures and paintings that have emerged through

lockdown and these pieces of art can be reflective of feelings and emotions of this restrictive time. We linked this to our PSHE learning, identifying some feelings we experienced during the lockdown period and then chose pictures and colours to help express them through art. We then applied these to a multimedia self-portrait- using paint, collage and photography to bring it all together.

Year 3 had a lot of fun cooking over the last 3 weeks of the spring term and continued to serve up delicious dishes each Thursday that allowed the children to compare and contrast modern day dishes to ones that were akin to the Stone Age times. We are looking forward to seeing what the summer term has in store!



## Year 4

We're back! Year 4 have truly come back to school with a bang – ready to learn and take on new challenges!

In English, we have been focusing on working in depth with a text – 'Varjak Paw'. The children have been doing lots of guided reading and character studies as we continue to work on our inference, comprehension and prediction skills. We will also be using the book as stimulus for other work – whether that's exploring other forms of writing or writing creatively.

We are also going to be working on a small play this term so that the children will have the chance to flex their acting muscles! More information on this to follow in due course...



In Maths, alongside our ongoing work to improve the fluency of our timestables, we have been working hard on fractions. We have been working on our understanding of what a fraction is whilst also adding and subtracting them and converting them to find equivalent fractions! Soon we will be moving on to decimals.

Since being back at school we have also had the opportunity to explore more of the wider curriculum in a way that we were unable to during Lockdown which has been so much fun! In History we have been exploring all things Roman, whilst in Science we have been mastering electricity- learning all about insulators and conductors and experimenting with different circuits. Recently we have moved on to learning all about teeth as we begin our topic on digestion!

It has been so wonderful to be back together again and I cannot wait to see what the brilliant Year 4 team will achieve this term!



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# Year Group Updates



## Year 5

We have been having a fantastic time and enjoying the return to school in Year 5. Before Easter, we completed our termly assessments, and both Mr Picken and Mr Nelson were very pleased with the way Year 5 conducted themselves and approached the tests. They are quite demanding, and yet everyone had a go at everything we put in front of them and pushed themselves to do well.

We also hope you have had a restful Easter, and we have enjoyed hearing about how much chocolate was eaten during the break!

It has been a fabulous start to the Summer term, and all pupils have come back refreshed and ready to learn. We are continuing with our study of The Highwayman in English, and have seen some wonderful actors playing the parts of the characters in the poem. We have also practised our dictionary skills to look up some of the old vocabulary in the poem and scribbled hasty warning notes on "parchment" while writing in role. Some of the children particularly enjoyed the freedom of not having to worry about their handwriting on this occasion.

In Maths, we are now starting to add and subtract decimals. We are also moving on to our new Geography topic, Mountains. We have already learnt about the tallest mountain in the world, the highest above sea level, and the tallest in the solar system!

Thinking big in Year 5!

Sadly the year is flying by, but we are looking forward to making the most of our final term together.



*The Year 5 team recommend this super book 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio.*

## Year 6

It has been another great term in Year 6! We have been so proud and pleased at how the children have returned with such an appetite to learn! In English, we have been building up character descriptions through dialogue using our class text of Skellig; exploring how David Almond has used figurative language to build atmosphere.

In Maths, the classes tackled algebraic expressions and equations with incredible surety, ratio and looked at the volume of compound shapes! This was challenging work that they have absolutely ran with.



While in Science, we have been exploring the vast theme of evolution: How we have evolved through adaptation; looking at both our inherited and environmental traits and how they make each one of us unique!

We have been cracking codes in computing, creating digital cards using HTML and understanding the application of different types of tags within the code. In the summer term we are looking forward to the many exciting opportunities that await; camping, cycling and of course the Isle of Wight!



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# Lowther Loves Science

We have celebrated a brilliant Science Week 2021 at Lowther! The theme for the week was 'Innovating for the Future', and children across the school – from Nursery up to Year 6 – took part in exciting and fun investigations as part of their learning and scientific enquiry. Each year group planned experiments, games and investigations on innovation using the British Science Week resource packs. Themes such as space exploration, the environment and animal & plant life were explored during the week. Here are some of the pictures from around the school that demonstrate what a fabulous week of Science was enjoyed by everyone!

*Mr Ripley* (Head of Science)



EYFS

Nursery and Reception getting involved in some hands on Science!

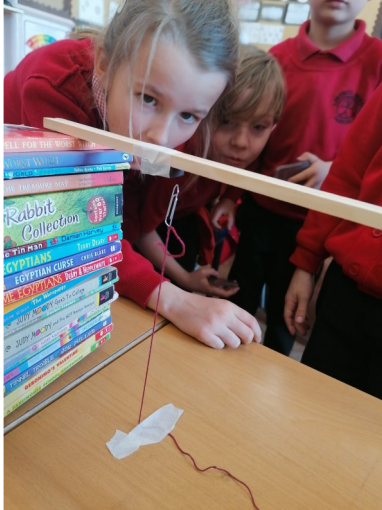


Year 1 and Year 2 had a lot of fun finding out all sorts of things in a range of different experiments and investigations.

KS1

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# Lowther Loves Science



LKS2

Just some of the fantastic investigations Year 3 and 4 undertook.



UKS2

Year 5 and 6 proudly showing off some of their work and working hard on their investigations.



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From May 17th 2021 it becomes a little easier for us to start to run more in the way of events. We are allowed to run indoor events at half capacity and outdoor events where people can be spread out. From June 21st the remaining restrictions are due to be eased further. We have therefore planned for this and hope to be able to run many of our usual events. This is of course subject to our own internal risk assessments and all of us following other protocols such as mask wearing and social distancing. We will also use outdoors wherever possible too. The table below outlines our planned activities for the Summer Term. Please note these are all subject to change. It should be a fantastic last couple of months at Lowther, we look forward to be able to share it with you.

JUNE 2021	
Date	Event
Week commencing 7th June	
Wc 7th June	Year 1 –6 RSE lessons
Tuesday 8th June	Whole Class Photographs
Wednesday 9th June	Family and individual photographs
Friday 11th June	Film premiere of Year 4 Production <i>(This will be available for parents to purchase for a small fee)</i>
Week commencing 14th June	
Wc 14th June	Year 4 Timestables tests
Wc 14th June	Assessment week (whole school)
Thursday 17th June	Y6 Camp over at School
Friday 18th June	School Inset Day (school closed)
Week commencing 21st June	
Monday 21st June	School Inset Day (school closed)
Wc 21st June	Assessment week (whole school)
Wednesday 23rd June –Friday 25th June	Creative Arts Week
Thursday 24th June and Friday 25th June	Y6 Production <i>(We expect Parents to be able to attend this event)</i>
Friday 25th June	Arts Week assembly (1pm) <i>(We expect Parents to be able to attend this event)</i>
Week commencing 28th June	
Wc 28th June	New class lists and teachers re-leased to parents and pupils
Wednesday 31st June to Friday 2nd July	Healthy Activity Week
Friday 2nd July	Sports Day <i>(We expect Parents to be able to attend this event)</i>

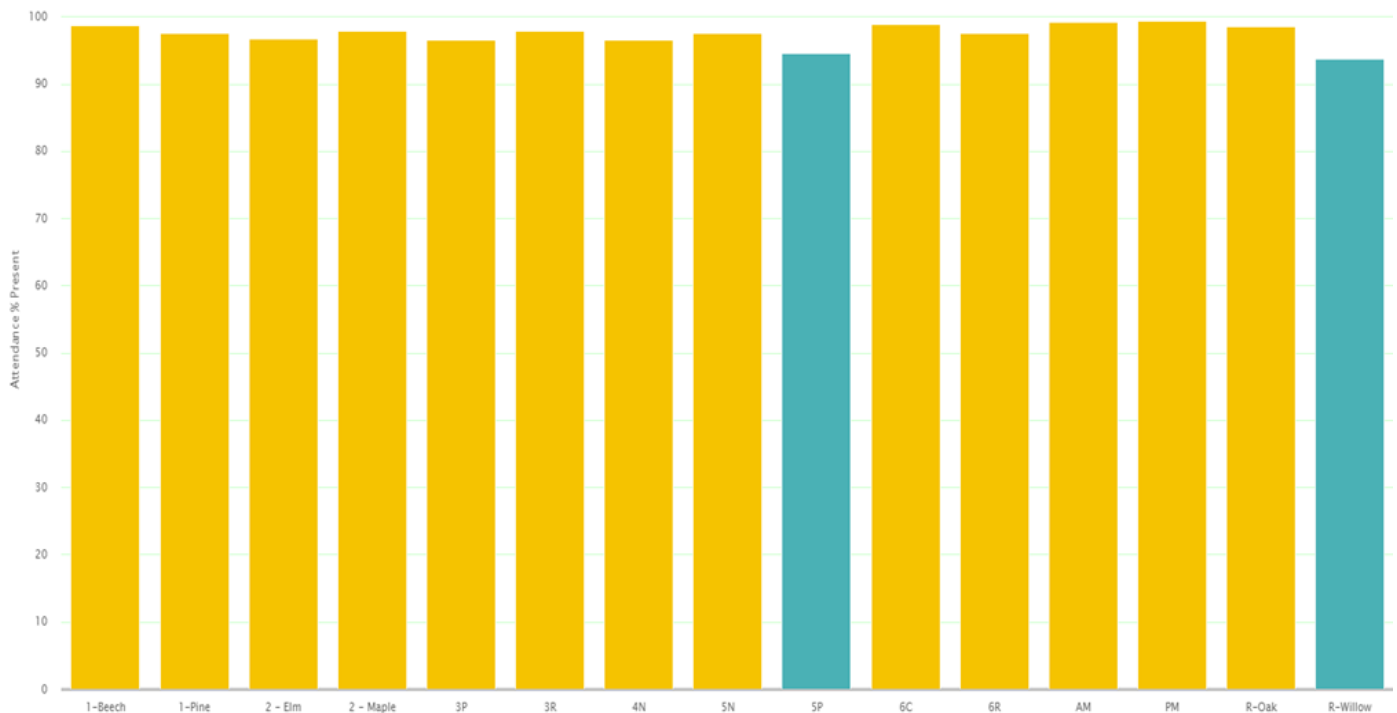
JULY 2021	
Date	Event
Week commencing 5th July	
Wc 5th July	End of year Pupil reports due out
Monday 5th July	Head start day for Year 6 pupils
Monday 5th July	Shuffle up day for all children <i>(children go up to their new class)</i>
Tuesday 6th July	New Reception parents evening <i>(We expect Parents to be able to attend this event in person)</i>
Thursday 8th July	Year 6 Dinner <i>(We expect Parents to be able to attend this event)</i>
Friday 9th July	Y6 End of Primary School results due
Week commencing 12th July	
Wc 12th July	Y6 Isle of Wight trip (all week)
Week commencing 19th July	
Monday 19th July	LAFTAs awards evening (7pm) <i>(We expect Parents to be able to attend this event)</i>
Tuesday 20th July	Staff leavers assembly (1:30pm) <i>(We expect Parents to be able to attend this event)</i>
Wednesday 21st July	Y6 Leavers Assembly (1:30pm) <i>(We expect Parents to be able to attend this event)</i>
Wednesday 21st July	Last Day of Term We finish at 3:15pm. The Children are due back Thursday 2nd September 2021 (Wednesday 1st September is an Inset day for staff)

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# Attendance update

## Attendance for summer term so far.

All of our 14 classes (Nursery through to Year 6) except for 2 are currently meeting or exceeding the school's minimum expectation for attendance, which is 96.5% attendance. That's great news! The school's overall attendance is an impressive 96.7% which is such a appositive improvement. Thank you for your support in ensuring children attend each day.



## Easter Hat Parade



We had a fantastic response to our Easter hat parade challenge. Children in all of the year groups showed great creativity and imagination in putting together some truly fabulous hats. Here are a few photographs which give you an idea of just how good they were! Thank you for the time and effort you put into supporting the children in making these marvellous creations.

