



# Lowther

*We love learning at Lowther*

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Here we are approaching the Christmas break and it's a great point to reflect back on what a year 2020 has been. I have to say, we have been blown away by the awesomeness of the Lowther Family and the incredible sense of community there is here. Thank you all for the wonderful support and cheer you have given us all this year. Lowther is a special place because of the people that fill it with energy, enthusiasm, positive attitudes and sense of community. Thank you all for that, but especially thank you to the children for their unfaltering awesomeness. This year has been one that none of us are going to forget for many reasons. We are extremely proud of our fantastic school community and the way we have all supported each other this year. Enjoy the special holiday — we look forward to seeing you in...yes, that's right...2021!

Mark and Dermot



## Lowther Learning

Wow! 90% of our children in Year 2 got the expected standard or higher in the recent Phonics check. That's great work, especially when you compare it to the local and national data in recent years.

Phonics standards  
Lowther 90%

National average 82%  
Richmond average 87%  
Kingston average 84%



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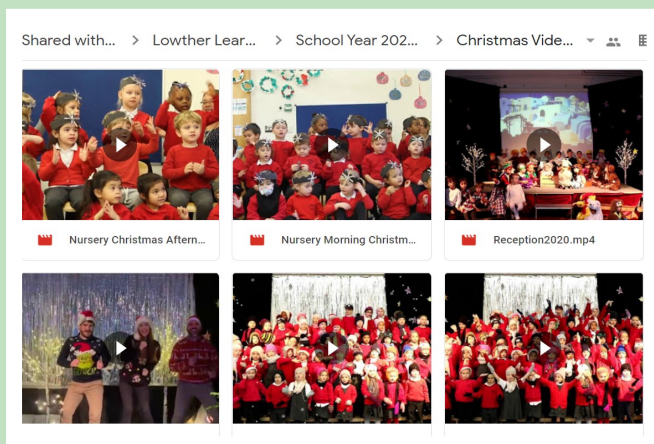
# STAY CONNECTED

# The Lowdown

The children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have done an absolutely marvellous job with their Christmas songs and shows. They're all available for you to view and download (for free) on the Lowther Home Learning Hub. Special mention to Miss Jana who filmed the shows and put them together so brilliantly for you all to enjoy. We all really hope you enjoy viewing them and sharing them with your relatives.

There's even a little staff message on there for you all to enjoy too!

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TtMQhIRXamlGfgvgYA2ewxHiSVTz8XAY>



The 3 core strands for how we support great behaviour at Lowther.

## Sports update

Sport is alive and kicking at Lowther! Whilst we haven't been able to have our usual fixtures against the other local schools children have opportunities to take part in virtual competitions (indoor athletics pictured) as well as in-house tournaments in sports such as Netball and Rugby. We love sport at Lowther!



## Charity work

A huge thank you is sent by the Christmas Day Richmond team to the Lowther community for making such a wonderful contribution to Christmas Day Richmond. They were delighted to receive the huge pile of wrapping paper that you all sent in. They send their very best wishes and thanks to everyone at Lowther school.



## Update from our school Governors

Governors have identified pupil numbers as a key area for the school's development priorities for 2021. Schools are funded per pupil, so essentially when a school has lower pupil numbers it receives less money into its budget. With this in mind please do all you can to promote our fantastic school and share your experiences of being part of the Lowther School Family.

One of the things governors have recommended to the leadership team is making some changes to our Nursery space. One of the areas we're going to fundraise for later this year is to purchase a new retractable canopy for the Nursery so that our outdoor provision can be undercover in wet and very sunny conditions. Please do support us with this.

Contact us with any questions  
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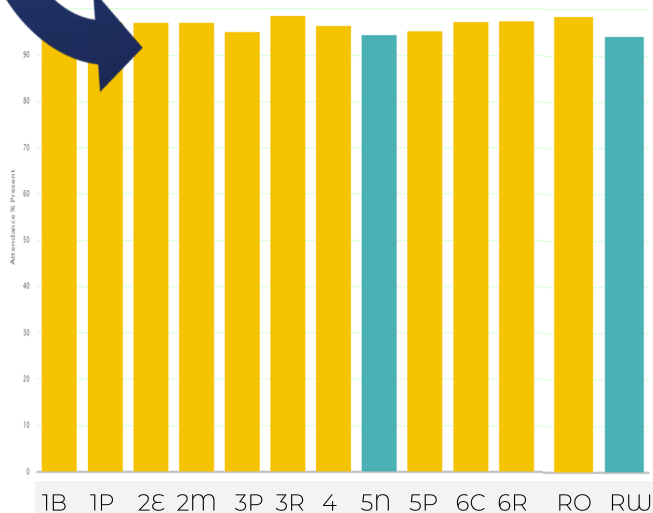
A beautiful sunrise at Lowther

## Did you know?

Lost property is a constant struggle at school. We recently collected up 24 jumpers on one day. 17 didn't have names. Please name ALL uniform including PE kits and coats etc too. It makes a huge difference as we can then get the clothing back to the owner. Thank you for your support with this.

## Awesome Attendance

Whole school attendance for the Autumn Term is a pleasing 96.5%. Thank you for your support. 11 out of our 15 classes are at, or above, 96.5% attendance. That's great! Our two top classes were 3R and Oaks who both have 98.5%. Awesome.



This graph shows each classes attendance from September until December 2020.

# Community

Our friends at Holy Trinity Church on Castelnau have been so supportive during the pandemic. They made gift bags for our children entitled to free school meals and even made each and every one of our staff team a little goodie bag to say thank you for helping the community. We're very appreciative of their support.

Please see below 3 things that they are doing instead of a family service this year.

More details are on Eventbrite for the trail. A Christingle kit and instructions will be part of the gift given at the end too.

On Sunday the 20th Dec there's a Family Nativity Journey between 1pm and 3pm. Come to church and have some family fun and festive cheer whilst you follow our Nativity trail. Go on a journey of joy and hope as you rediscover the true meaning of Christmas. Bookings are now open on Eventbrite.

<https://htbarnes.eventbrite.co.uk>

There will also be a Children's online film called Jingle Joy going live at 4pm on Christmas Eve.

The Toddler Christmas film in the Share, Play and Pray series (for The Well and young families) goes live at 2pm on the 19th December <https://youtu.be/oDBQNBd-4ts>



## Home Activities

We wanted to tell you about a site called maggieandrose.me. It's a parent and kid site based on EYFS learning through play. One of our parents is involved in it. There are creative video classes like crafting windowland art for spotting on lockdown walks and a kid created film section where children can send in their inventions or story ideas and the teacher/presenters will film them and put them on the site and Youtube.

They turn the filming around really quickly and the kids love seeing other children's amazing ideas visualised in this way

Luke & Sara's Adventure episode 2 <https://youtu.be/oDBQNBd-4ts>

A play invention idea. Sam's hide and seek <https://youtu.be/tggAo70fOoc>

## Hammersmith Bridge

Our children made super posters to ask when can the bridge be open again. Their brilliant work was much admired and appreciated by the local community. Great job children.



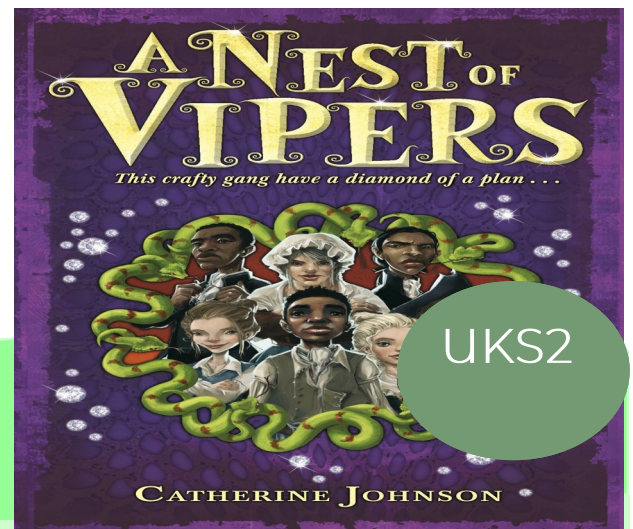
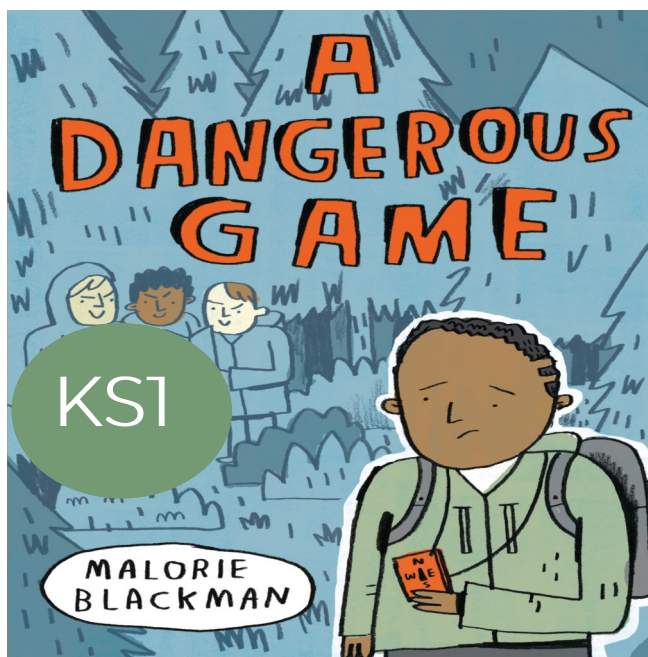
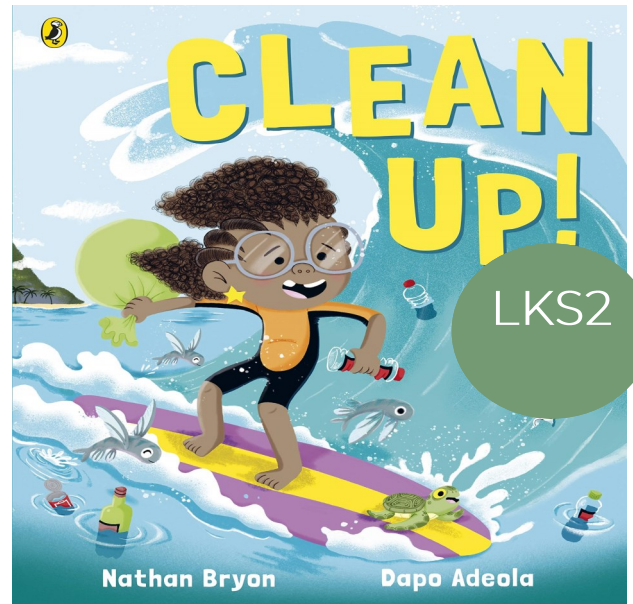
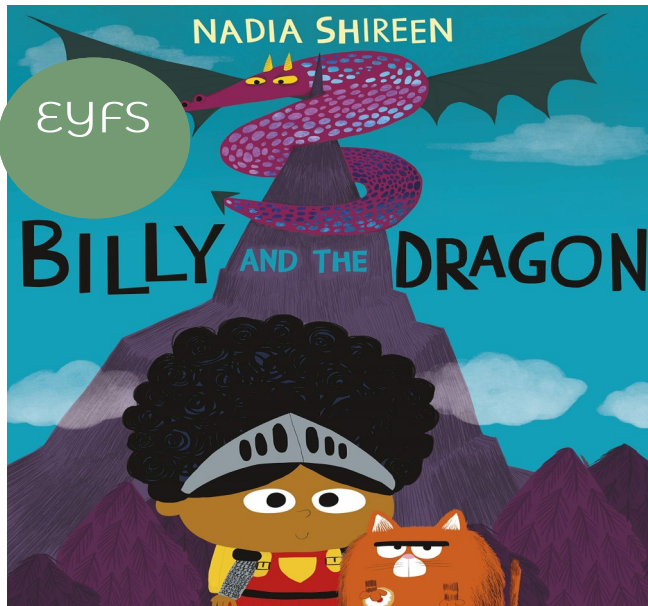


# Lowther Literature



*We recommend these books as a super read*

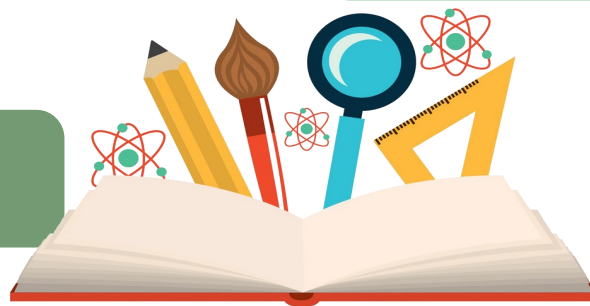
This month all our recommended books are from a new selection of books we have at school which feature main characters from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Happy reading everyone!



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# Year Group Updates



## Nursery

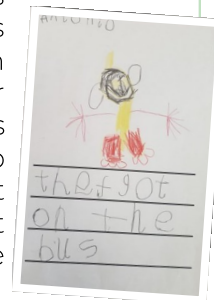
The children have been busy making a lovely range of decorations to take home. The Nursery looks very sparkly and so do the children on occasions! Everyone practised very hard for the singing to parents which we hope everyone enjoys watching. The children did a brilliant job learning the words and actions and performing the songs so well. We also really enjoyed being able to perform "live" for you on Zoom. Weren't the children fantastic?!

We have a couple of book recommendations this month. Check out Ollie's Christmas Reindeer by Nicola Killen, this is an imaginative story for children to enjoy. Also worth reading is Little Owl and the Star by Mary Murphy. A lovely simple Nativity story. Happy Christmas from all of the Nursery!



## Reception

December is such a fun time to be in Reception because we learn all about Christmas! We began the month by listening to the Nativity story and then performed in our very first Nativity show. Everyone was so proud of the fantastic singing, dancing and speaking. Shortly after this we learned about how Christmas is celebrated in different places around the world. Some of our friends from Sweden and Poland told us about the traditions that they share with their families. We also learned about the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah and how this is celebrated in some people's homes. At the end of the month a cheeky elf came into our classrooms and made all sorts of mischief, so we decided to create posters to warn the rest of the school of the trouble that he likes to cause. We do hope that he gets caught soon...



Next month we will be learning all about the season of Winter and begin to look at the story 'Naughty Bus' by Jan Oke. We are looking forward to our Christmas break but cannot wait to get back to school to continue on our exciting learning journey!



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# Year Group Updates



## Year 1

In Year 1 this term we have been extremely busy with winter festivities. We have been learning about religious and non-religious celebrations which we share in our class and have had some children acting as wonderful guest speakers sharing their experiences from home. We have been learning about celebrations such as Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Hanukkah and Christmas. This has also led to learning about special places of worship in R.E. and talking about places they feel at peace and calm.

In History, we have been investigating the great London Frost Fair of 1684. The children have been discussing the incredible events that occurred such as bringing an elephant down to the frozen River Thames, roasting a whole ox and celebrating with the King and Queen.



Following our formal letters written to the Prime Minister and the Queen, some of the children were invited onto the Pod Save the Queen Podcast. We recorded the podcast this week and we look forward to airing it and sharing it with you.

In Maths, the children have been deepening their understanding of addition and subtraction. Practising their number bonds and mental maths skills. In English we have been working on fractured fairy tales and the children have greatly enjoyed arguing their points of view from the wolf's perspective! Finally, we have of course been working extremely hard on our Nativity. We have had so much fun planning, rehearsing and filming the scenes for our first ever Nativity movie - we can't wait to share it and we hope you enjoy it too!

## Year 2

December has been a busy month in Year 2! We got to work practising for our nativity 'Lights, Camel Action'. This year we did things slightly differently and recorded the show scene by scene. We then got a golden ticket sent home telling us about a special premiere (which we had on Thursday). We got to wear our party clothes into school and had a celebration of all the hard work that we had put into our nativity. We even got to watch ourselves on the big screen! We stayed on the Christmas theme in English writing letters to Santa and sending them off to the North Pole. We have had a great time in Science investigating materials. First we made chairs for the wicked witch in Hansel and Gretel focussing on comfort and stability. Then we turned our attention to Santa and thought about what materials would be best for him to make his sack from- after all it needs to be strong and sturdy to carry around all



those presents! In Art we have used marbling inks to create patterns and push pins and sequins to design our very own baubles. This week we have also been busy



wrapping some handmade surprises. So Year 2 families, look out for something special under your tree net week!



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# Year Group Updates



## Year 3

Year 3 has been busy enjoying lots of fun activities over the last few weeks. Despite having some end of term assessments to get through, the children have continued to celebrate the magic of Christmas at this special time of year. In Year 3, we have been learning a song linked to the story of Christmas that the children are looking forward to performing. We have been busy making Christmas cards for communities in Malaysia who have been hit by an earthquake and hope to share some Christmas cheer with them. Year 3 are looking forward to sitting back and enjoying the 'Jack and the Beanstalk' Panto, as well as visiting Santa in this final week of term. In other areas of the curriculum, the children have loved getting stuck into some fossil making and learning about the fossilisation process. In P.E, we ended the term with a mini netball tournament, where the children showcased their fantastic skills and demonstrated wonderful teamwork- they had a ball! In English, the children have loved exploring the story of the 'Bear and the Hare' and created some wonderful dialogue between the two characters to illustrate their caring and kind friendship. Year 3 wishes you all a wonderful Christmas.



## Year 4

Christmas spirit has been in full swing in Year 4 this month!

The children have really honed in on their comprehension skills in English, thinking about how we can find information in a text. In Maths we have continued to work on multiplication, focusing on fluency and recall so that we can quickly recall timestable questions out of order. The children are really enjoying challenging themselves!

We have also been lucky enough to receive a (virtual) visit from Santa Claus, and to watch a Pantomime, provided by the PTA, which was great fun!

Finally, the children had an amazing time practising and performing their Christmas songs – I hope you enjoy watching them too! Have a very Merry Christmas from all of us in Year 4 – can't wait to see what the New Year has in store!



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## Year Group Updates



### Year 5

Year 5 have had an exciting end to the first term of the year and are super excited about Christmas, unlike a certain character in our English topic, A Christmas Carol. It has been interesting to see Scrooge's alternative view of Christmas!

We had an excellent visit from the Connected Learning Centre, who worked with the children on producing a book and delivering a video presentation about the Maya people of Central America. We have been learning about the Maya in History and the children used Green Screen technology to present their reports as though they were on location.

We have also had a busy couple of week of taking assessments and then going through the papers. Year 5 have worked tirelessly this term, and we are really proud of the way the children have applied themselves.

We would like to end by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



### Year 6

This month Year 6 have had a fantastic few weeks of learning and greatly enjoyed building a physical reaction game using Micro:Bits and electrical switches. We coded the Micro:Bits with Make Code to build an 'OR' gate circuit, and the children enjoyed seeing who had the most Ninja-like reflexes! Needless to say, it was not their teachers...

We have also been busy preparing for the annual Lowther Enterprise Fair. The children have worked tirelessly in their business groups to make cookies, brownies, slime and all manner of curiosities, to sell at our fair on Monday. We asked children from Years 1 to 6 to bring in up to £5 if they wish to purchase items and presents at the fair :) and the businesses were very successful in making a huge profit, all of which goes to Lowther!

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
From everyone at **Lowther**

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