



Lowther

We love learning at Lowther

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the February edition of the newsletter. This is one of the happiest messages we could possibly write in the newsletter this month — the children are coming back to school on the 8th March! This is such brilliant news and all of us here at Lowther are delighted that all of the children are coming back full-time.

We have been busy making sure everything is ready for the children and to help us ensure the return to school is the happiest and safest it could possibly be.

Look out for the detailed plans that will be issued next week which will refresh you regarding some of the logistical and practical aspects of the return such as all the different entrances, start and finish times as well a summary of all our Covid safety measures that will be in place too.

Can't wait to see you all on the 8th!

Mark and Dermot



It's official! The children and families at Lowther have been awarded 5 star reviews by the teachers for the awesome home learning support that has been given to the pupils and the incredible hard work and effort the children have put in to their home learning. We've been so impressed.

Here's hoping we don't have to put the home learning plan in to place again!

We hope the last week of home learning goes well and that you can all start looking forward to coming back in to school.

Please do look out for a survey we will be issuing which will ask for your feedback on our home learning provision. It's really important to us at Lowther that we work in partnership with parents—your views and feedback really influences the decisions we make. Thank you in advance for your help with that important piece of work.



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Facebook page

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Check our
website



Charity Work

Calling all parents, children, staff and friends of Lowther - Age UK's Big Knit is back! Here's a message from our very awesome knitter Mrs Farrant!

I'm sure many of you have seen, and bought, the Innocent Smoothies wearing a small knitted hat. What you may not know is that these are sold to raise money for Age UK. Now is your chance to make a difference to the charity by joining me in knitting or crocheting hats for this very worthwhile local charity. You can make as many as you wish in whatever colour or design that you choose so this is the ideal opportunity to use up any scraps of yarn that you may have tucked away. I will collect any hats in school so that we can make one large donation before the September deadline.

So please, get out your needles or hooks and get making!



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

Sports update

We can't wait to get everyone active when they return to school. We're delighted to announce that our awesome PTA have funded for all of the climbing frame equipment to be repaired and replaced. It's ready to go come the 8th March!

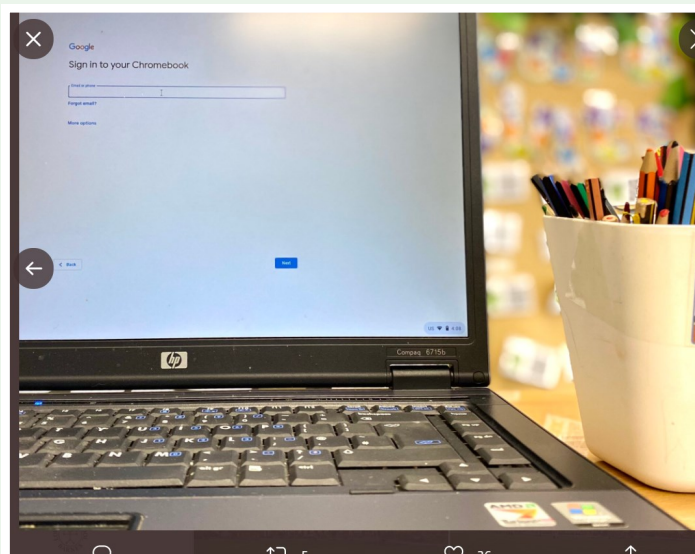
We were also successful in bidding to a local charity, SportTedd, who have generously provided us with two new large football goals (currently being built) new nets for the small goals as well as two new basketball nets—one for KS1 and one for KS2.

Clubs start up on the 15th March too. Let's get active Lowther!

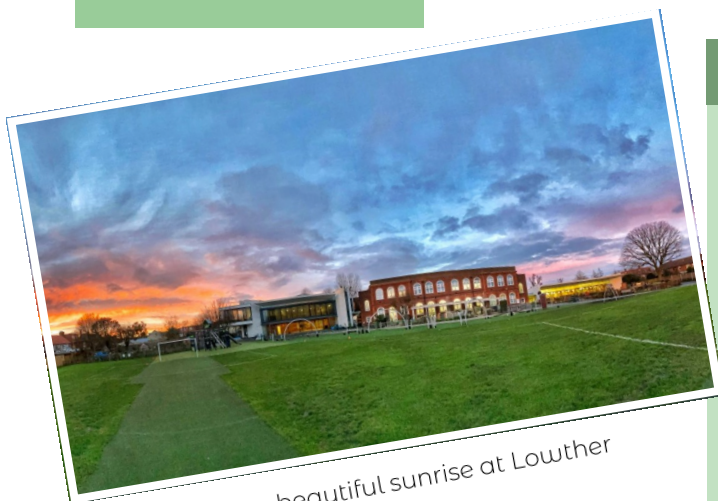


Tech update!

We're delighted to announce that we have lots of new technology for the children to use when they return. You may remember the awesome work last year to fundraise ourselves for 30 Chromebooks. Those machines are due for delivery now. In addition, the DfE have provided a further 30 Chromebooks and then we've also had a generous local donation of 50 Amazon Fire Tablets. We've got technology covered at Lowther!



Contact us with any questions
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Another beautiful sunrise at Lowther

Did you know?

Our awesome Year 6 pupils find out their secondary school offer on March 1st. We will let you all know the wide variety of schools they'll be heading off to come September in due course. In the meantime we certainly aim to give them a fabulous last half of the school year at Lowther.

Attendance Challenge!

Can we beat attendance after the last lockdown?
Here's the attendance for each class after lockdown last time. Let's beat it this time!

Reception	97.6%	Year 4	93.5%
Year 1	96.2%	Year 5	93.1%
Year 2	96.1%	Year 6	95.2%
Year 3	97.4%	School Total	95.6%

A message from the Friends of Barnes Common

Community

Friends of Barnes Common is applying for the Mayor of London's resilience fund for Phase 2 of The Vine Road Project, engaging the community, testing, consultation and finalising the Master Plan.

We have to crowdfund some of the funds to show the Mayor our community is actively engaged with this project. We are hoping for lots of support by sharing and liking our page [Vine Rd Project](https://www.facebook.com/VineRdProject), [Community \(spacehive.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/CommunitySpaceHive), commenting, offering to share skills and volunteering, and of course making a pledge if you can, this can be as little as £2 – every single pledge counts!

With this funding we hope to test some elements of the Master Plan this summer, including a temporary pump track for skate boarders, scooters and roller-bladers to enjoy. We are keen for your support in designing and implementing this, so if you are looking for a place to show off your skills, join our campaign and show the Mayor this is what you want! For younger families, we hope to make some small improvements to the park, such as some early years play equipment and outdoor seating near the pop up café, you will be able to enjoy your coffee or tea while your children play safely within sight. We would also like to add some additional planters to grow our popular community growing project and we would like to build a temporary outdoor classroom for use by the whole community.

The Mayor of London's team will begin assessing our campaign and over 74 more, to help him decide which projects he would like to pledge to. Lowther Primary School community, please help us show him we have your support!

We hope this project will give our community a little something to look forward to this summer as restrictions are lifted and we begin to return to normalcy.

If you would like to know more about the work of Friends of Barnes Common and how you can get involved, why not become a [Friend of Barnes Common](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfBarnesCommon) it's fun and it's free!



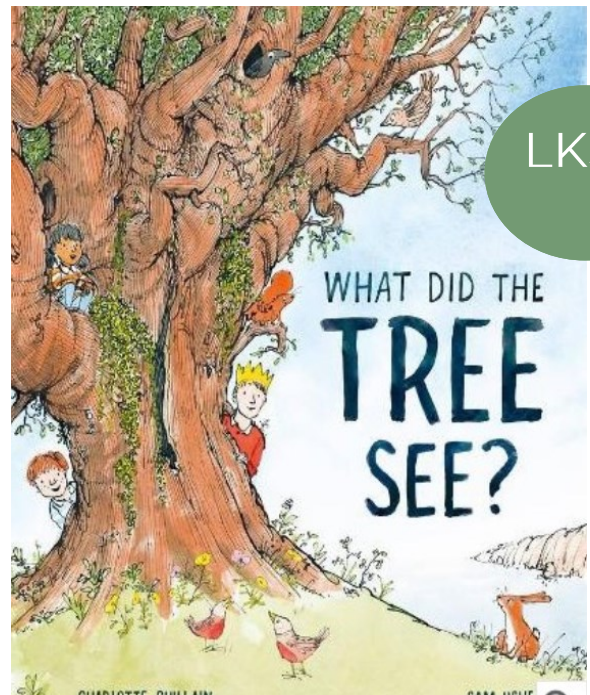
Lowther Literature



We recommend these books as a super read



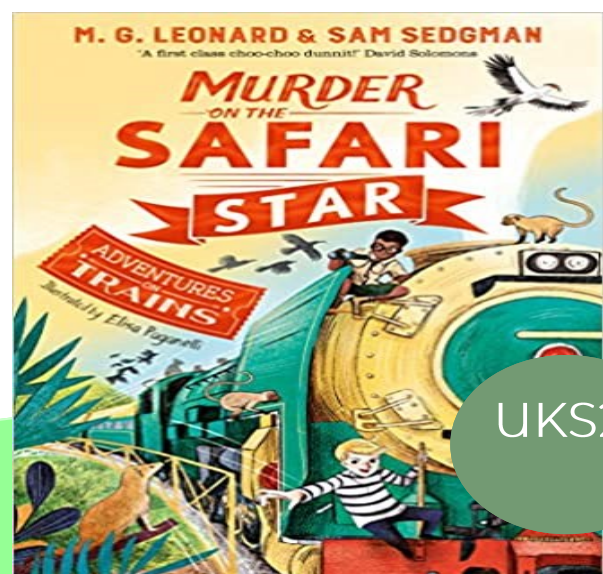
EYFS



LKS2



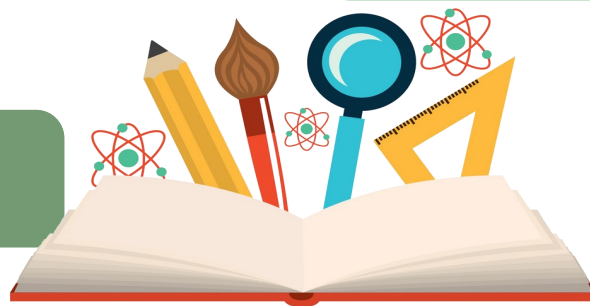
KS1



UKS2

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Year Group Updates



Nursery

In the Nursery we have been busy learning about lots of different things. We finished our topic about 'People Who Help Us' by having a Fire station in our role play area.

The Nursery children spent some time talking about Chinese New Year as this was especially relevant to 2 children in the morning Nursery group. James and Lyra stood up in front of their friends and explained about

'cleaning all the rooms in the house. This gets rid of all the old germs and dirt ready for the New Year'. 'We will have new clothes and some will be red because that is an important colour for us. We are going to have some special food'.



The children in Nursery helped to make some stir fried vegetables with noodles in a sauce. We watched some Dragon Dancing and were surprised how easily the Dragons dance up in the air on posts! We did some Dragon Dancing of our own using a scarf to dance under.



The weather has been good so we have played outside. Some of the children learnt how to spin 2 hoops around on their arms.

We are still learning about rhyming and have enjoyed reading 'Green Eggs and Ham' by Dr Seuss. Martha brought her copy into the Nursery for us to read.

Reception

Reception have continued to blow us away with their incredible resilience and great attitudes to online learning this month. We are so proud of them all!

We began the month by learning about the different sorts of transport that we can find in our local area. The children went on their own transport walks and then created maps to show the route that they took. We then learned all about the festival of Chinese New Year. The children enjoyed reading the story of the Great Race and looking at the different ways that Chinese New Year is celebrated. They decorated their own houses with lanterns and door decorations and then created their own Chinese dragons to dragon dance with!



Reception finished the month by celebrating Pancake Day. We read the story of the 'Runaway Pancake', retold it using our own puppets and story maps and then had a go at making

some pancakes of our own. Delicious!

Making pancakes was not the only opportunity that Reception had to work on their cooking skills this month. Each week Chef Sarah wrote some incredible recipes that the children were able to read them all by themselves. After seeing some of the delicious scones, carrot cake muffins and vegetable noodles that were made we think that the children might be returning to us as professional chefs!

The children have continued to work hard on their maths skills this month and have learned some different strategies to add and subtract numbers. They have also worked hard to learn new digraphs and tricky words in their phonics sessions and are becoming quite confident readers.



We are really looking forward to returning to school next month and spending lots of time working with our friends. We are also going to be learning about growing and the celebration of Easter- we cannot wait!

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Year Group Updates



Year 1

This month in Year 1 in Maths, we have been primarily learning about place value. The children have been identifying patterns on number grids, comparing numbers and amounts, discussing place value and numerical order, and working hard on some problem solving and reasoning challenges. They have also been developing skills in counting in twos, fives and tens which led to many children playing shops and trying to solve problems using coins.

In English, both classes have been exploring the story 'Charlie's Super Hero Underpants'. This was a vehicle to work on some picture sequencing challenges, verbal retelling of the story in the correct order, planning and finally retelling the story as a written narrative following their plan. The children are continuing to work on Phase 5 phonics and are developing skills segmenting more challenging words now in their writing. It is great to see children using their word mats and toolkits to help them with reading and spelling trickier words.



In R.E., the children have listened to the story of Saint Valentine and discovered why and how people celebrate today. This ties into our over-arching R.E. question this half term, "What makes a special day?". The Children were then making their own Valentine's crafts and cards to post to family or friends.

Our P. E. also links closely to this 'Special Day' theme as we have developed our skills in dance. The children have been finding out how to do a Chinese Lion and Dragon Dance as part of our Chinese New Year celebrations. The children have also been listening to some Chinese music, thinking about the beats and the speed of the dance and learning a sequence of movements put together with music.



Year 1 have been super busy in many other areas of the curriculum too, including looking at seasonal changes and the effects of the current season on plants in Science; learning about rhythm, un-tuned percussion instruments and reading crotchets, quavers and rests in Music; and studying colour wheels and use of colour in Art.

Yet again, we have been so impressed by the children's perseverance during this tricky time and we look forward to the challenges and excitement of the new term together.

Year 2

In February we have had loads of fun and it is fair to say it has been jam-packed with learning! In Maths we started off the term learning about statistics. We were blown away with the children's understanding of charts and diagrams and their creativity when it came to creating their own. After this we moved on to explore Multiplication. The children have been brilliant at making equal groups and creating arrays as well as making doubles and comparing multiplication facts. We have now started to look at division and exploring sharing and grouping. We are really excited to be starting our new theme for this half term - all about 'Antarctica'. We're currently filling ourselves with knowledge about the region and using some creative writing techniques to describe the landscape there. When we return to school we will be immersing ourselves in the March of the Penguins, so look out for some fact files, our own explanation text and writing a story about an emperor penguin. We can't wait to get started with lots of creative activities such as a penguin dance sequence and experimenting with different paint techniques to create a penguin themed masterpiece!



We have also started our new Gymnastics unit focussing on jumps and balances and combining these skills to create simple sequences with a clear beginning and end. We can't wait to get back into school and start to practise our sequences incorporating partner work and apparatus.

In science we will be investigating Antarctic food chains, learning about how polar animals have adapted to survive in such harsh environments, making habitat models and conducting some investigations all about ice and icebergs! As geographers we will be investigating different climate zones around the world, naming continents and oceans and then taking an in depth look at the physical and human features of Polar Regions.



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Year Group Updates



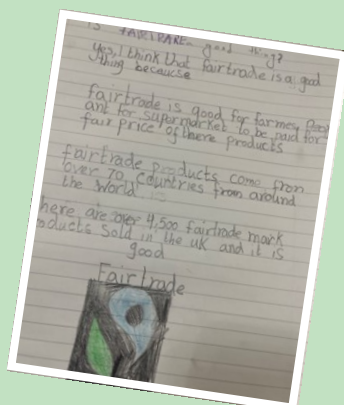
Year 3

In year 3 we kicked off the month learning all about the Chinese New Year. The children did a fantastic job at continuing to develop their speaking and listening skills by writing, editing and re-telling the story in their own words.



In Art and D&T the children drew and created puppets of all the animals in the story. The children displayed their dramatic talents by dressing up in costume to re-tell the story of how the Chinese New Year came about. You can check out these videos on our google classroom- we think they are great!

We have come back after our break well rested and this half term in English, we have started our fair trade project, learning all about where the food we eat comes from and how it gets to the shelves in the supermarket. With it coming up to Easter, we thought it a good idea to learn about where chocolate comes from and are busy writing explanation texts to share our knowledge with others. We have kicked off our multiplication topic in maths and Year 3 have certainly shown what amazing mathematicians they all are. We have just started our new unit in Science- Plants! We can't wait to begin to see all the trees begin to blossom over the next few weeks :)



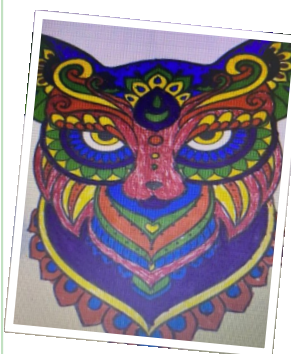
Year 4

Remote Learning continues to go at full speed in Year 4! I have been so impressed by how the children have handled this lockdown period, maintaining such a positive outlook and excellent work ethic as they mastered the ins and outs of Google Classroom.

In English we have been working on a variety of writing styles and working on improving and stretching our vocabulary with the children producing some marvellous instruction writing, newspaper articles and now trying their hand at formal letters. In Maths, we have continued to work on multiplication, focusing on perfecting our recall of those trickier times tables and also looking at different written methods. We have now moved on to a focus on division, looking at both mental and written methods. Division is not the easiest of mathematical operations to master, but the children have really embraced the challenge! Once we are back in school our next topic will be fractions.

Once again, the support from parents during this difficult Lockdown period has been nothing short of amazing and very much appreciated by both me and the Year 4 TA team.

We are so excited to all be together again on the 8th March – the countdown is officially on! Until then, keep up the excellent work Year4 – you're fantastic!



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Year Group Updates



Year 5

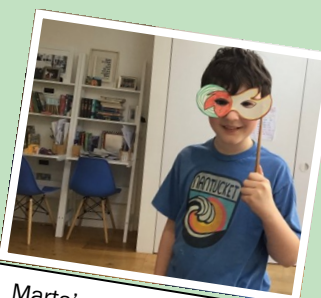
What a few weeks it has been for Year 5!

Firstly, Mr Picken would like to say a huge thank you for all your well wishes and say that he is finally feeling as though he is on the mend. We both hope you all had a restful half-term and managed to spend some quality time with your families.

We have been so pleased to see the commitment to learning everyone in Year 5 is showing. Our live lessons are very well attended, and the children are clearly putting huge amounts of effort into their home learning. This could not happen without the support of parents and families, so thank you.

We are still working hard on fractions in Maths, and will be soon moving on to decimals and percentages. It has been tricky adapting this for home learning, but there has been a lot of hard work from everyone involved, and in particular our support staff.

In English, the children produced some great work during our study of film narrative, which they rounded off with an impressive set of reviews of *The Piano*. We have now started learning about Michael Morpurgo and are looking forward to being able to focus on speaking and listening again, in addition to reading and writing, when we are back in school.



Marta's online lessons have kept Italian language and culture thriving and home-made masks like this one allowed us to celebrate carnevale.

We were delighted by the children's excellent work on climate change in Geography, as it was the first time the entire unit had been taught in Year 5. We have also been studying Italian and PE and are nearing the end of Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH, Robert C O'Brien's classic story, which we have read to the year group in the afternoons.

Everyone at Lowther is looking forward to a safe return to school, and we can't wait to welcome you all back soon.



Our focus on the use of line in Art produced some excellent work, including this lovely still life drawing.

Year 6

Year 6 have been outstanding in their home learning this term and we are so proud of them!

Attendance and engagement have been 100% and we have seen fantastic attitudes from all of the children. In our English learning, we researched and wrote non-chronological information texts about Natural Disasters. We really enjoyed discovering how volcanoes are formed and the damage they can cause, as well as how important they are for our global ecosystem. All of our excellent research and investigating was used in designing and building our own websites about disasters too! We considered the content, design and usability of websites to create our own pages where you can explore, watch and learn all about hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters!

In science, we have been learning about the importance of diet and exercise to keep our bodies in a healthy condition. We investigated the different food groups and the importance of a balanced diet, and also the negative effects that some drugs and alcohol can have on our bodies and their internal systems.

In maths, we have learnt about measurements and how to calculate the area and perimeter of different compound shapes. We have applied our learning to a range of quadrilaterals while calculating the



Ingredients:
Prosciutto from Italy
Philadelphia from New York
Bread from UK
Lassini fruit from South Africa
Tomato from the Netherlands
Egg from UK
Avocado from Mexico
Butter from UK
Coke from UK

perimeter, area and volume of these. This learning was further explored in identifying shapes that have the same area but different perimeters, and vice versa.

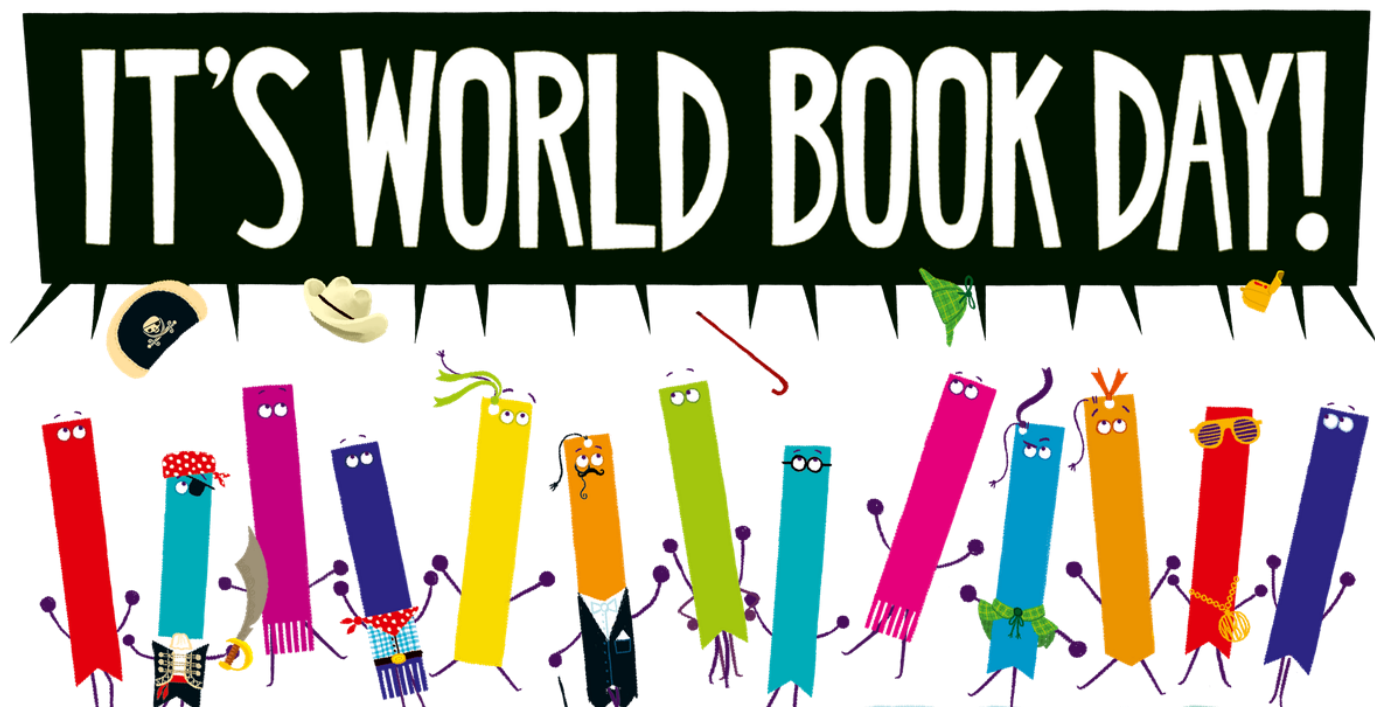


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lowther Loves Reading



Officially it's World Book Day on Thursday March 4th 2021. Well here at Lowther we thought it would be much better to do our own official World Book Day on...

Thursday 11th March 2021

when all of the children are back at school.

So get thinking about what character you could come dressed up as and what book you could bring in to share with your class mates. I've already got my costume lined up—it's a new one after Mr Bracken and I were Bear and Duck last year from one of our favourite books "Goodnight Already"

It promises to be a really fun day of enjoying the magic of books and reading.

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