



Lowther

We love learning at Lowther

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,



The first thing we'd like to do in this, the January edition of the newsletter, and that's say a huge well done to all of you for the amazing work you've all been doing at home. We've all been so impressed with how awesome the children are being with their home learning—they've done a great job. We're also very grateful and blown away by how well you, the parents, are managing it all. We really do know that home learning is not easy for families. Our message is the same, we really hope you can access all the learning and join in all the live sessions but if things are difficult or you just need a break then please do not worry. Your class teachers are there to help and so don't hesitate to drop them, or us, a line and we'll do our very best to help you. You can contact either of us headteacher@lowther.richmond.sch.uk.

We have now completed 4 weeks of home learning and there are 2 weeks to go until the February half term. At the time of writing this we hope to be able to re-open in some form from the 8th March. We are all working hard to make sure that the home learning is great and that the children are still enjoying the social and creative side of school as well as the academic.

Thank you all for your kind messages of encouragement and support to us and our awesome team of teachers and support staff. We all feel very lucky to be part of the very best community around.

We all really hope you get to enjoy the February half term and take some time away from home learning. Thanks again for all your amazing support.

Mark and Dermot

Please like our Facebook page



Please follow us on Twitter

The Lowdown

We are very pleased to introduce the Virtual School Library!

Oak National Academy and the National Literacy Trust have come together to launch our Virtual School Library to keep children reading during lockdown.

Every week, a popular children's author will become our 'Author of the Week' and provide a free book or audiobook and exclusive videos and activities aimed at primary school children, all available at library.thenationalacademy

This week, our featured author is Nizrana Farook, who talks about her favourite character creations, offers exclusive activities and recommends her top reads to check out. The Girl Who Stole an Elephant is also available to read for free for a week. We hope this is an additional resource that you can all enjoy.



Awesomeness!

Joseph in Year 3 has been concerned about the environment and so he decided he wanted to do something about it! Along with his sister Alice (Reception), they decided to show their love of nature by doing 'The Big Winter Wander' for WWF. Joseph walked an incredible 5k in the snow and cold, Alice also did as much as she could. And all in the cold and wet! Amazing. Between them they managed to raise the fantastic sum of £580 for WWF. That's truly awesome!



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

Home learning update

You will have seen, I'm sure, the Prime Minister's announcement that the earliest pupils will be able to return to school is the 8th March 2021. This is the target date and one we very much hope, if it is safe to do so, that we will be able to achieve.

As it stands, we understand that whilst the date of the 8th March is not yet confirmed, as it depends on the vaccination programme meeting its targets, we do hope to be able to offer pupils a return to school as soon as is safely possible. We also know that this is the date they're hoping to begin the return of pupils to schools, we don't yet know what year groups this may be or how this will be done.

The team and our governors here at Lowther are all in agreement that our values grounded in ensuring consistency, safety and happiness for the children will mean that when we return to school it will be a safe and smooth one.

In the meantime we will continue to work hard to provide your children with a high quality home learning offer. This will continue for at least the next two weeks and then the two weeks after half term. The government have also said they will give parents and schools at least two weeks notice of a return so we expect to be able to give you a further update around the middle to end of February.

We are fully committed to you and your children, and will continue to respond flexibly and openly to the situation as it evolves.

Families at Lowther have been SO supportive of the school, please continue to work with us with the home learning and as we hope to embark on the next phase towards the eventual full-reopening of our wonderful school.

Contact us with any questions
Tel 02087483984
Email: info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk



Lowther looking beautiful in the snow

Did you know?

We did our first Tweet exactly 8 years ago! We've now done 1993 tweets and have 902 followers! Thank you for all your amazing support on Twitter—we have one of the most engaged parent communities I know of on social media!



Awesome Attendance

96.4%

Yes! We did it!

Our attendance figure for the whole school for the Autumn term was 96.4% which is above our minimum expectation of 96%. This is also our highest whole school attendance figure for a term for three years.

Great job everyone! We very much hope to beat that figure when we return to school!

Community

We are delighted to announce that we are hoping to reinvent the outside play and learning space for the Reception and Nursery children.

We're currently working with the PTA to talk through the plans and to see how we can raise the money to further develop this important part of our school.

We've already started some of the work ourselves by putting new and improved screening at the front of the Nursery. This provides better privacy for the children and also creates a lovely sharp appearance to the front of the school too.

We hope you'll all be able to help support this important work as we work towards continuing to develop and improve our school provision. Watch this space for further developments and updates soon.



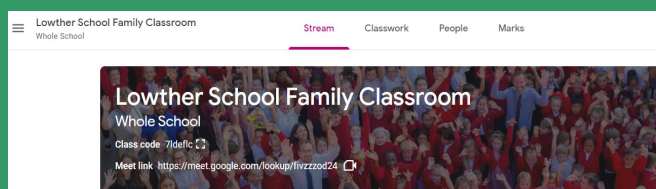
Our new, smart looking front entrance to the Nursery

Whole School Activities

We now have a whole school Google Classroom called "The Lowther School Family classroom" This part of our home learning offer means that every child in the school is automatically part of this classroom.

Please do join us there for daily challenges and updates as well as whole school assemblies and other events such as live PE sessions and Music.

It should be great way for us all to share school time together. Mr Bracken and I look forward to seeing you there.



Lowther Literature

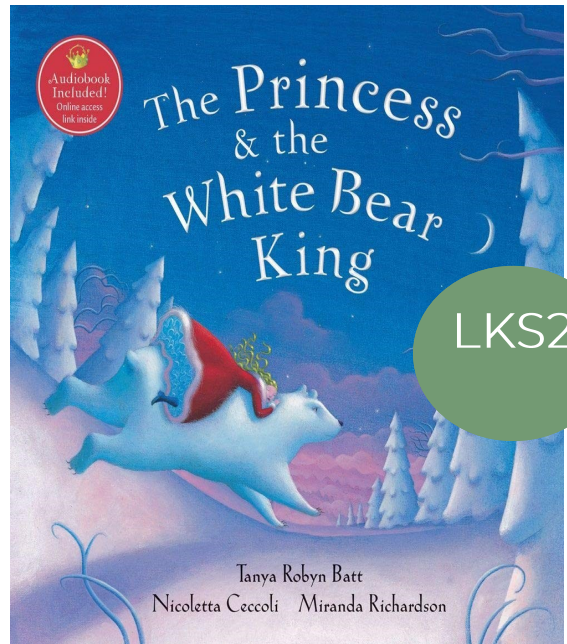


We recommend these books as a super read

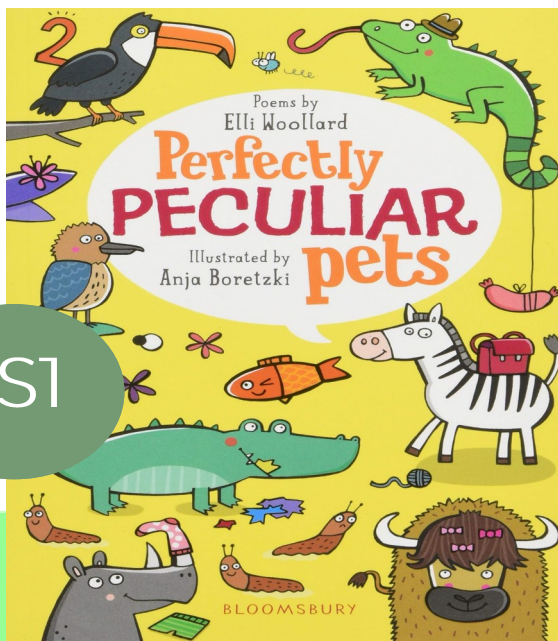
EYFS



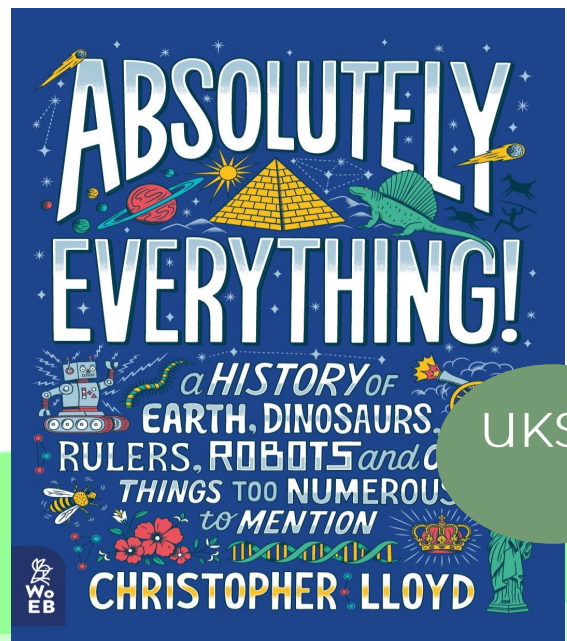
LKS2



KS1



UKS2



Perfectly Peculiar Pets by Elli Woollard: These beautifully illustrated bite sized poems introduce poetry in a fun way with a great play on words. Forget about Hamsters and cats have you ever heard of a pet bison or perhaps an armadillo?

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lowther Online



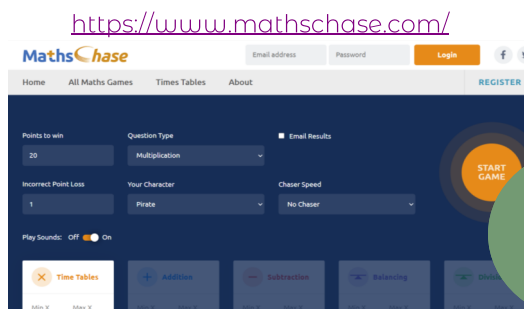
We recommend these websites as a great resource for home learning

EYFS

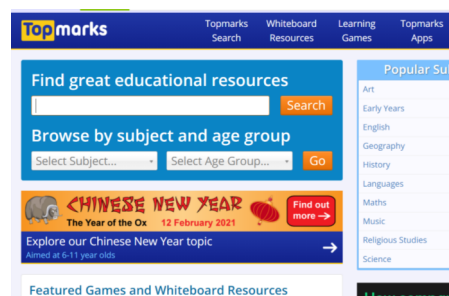


<https://www.busythings.co.uk/lgfl-login/>

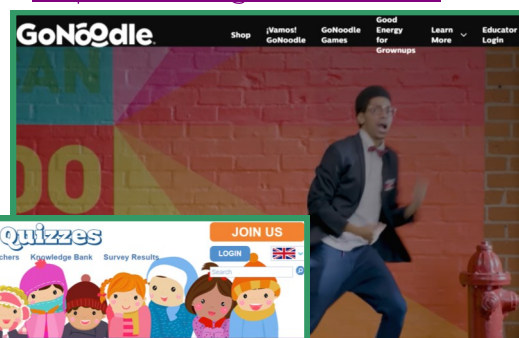
LKS2



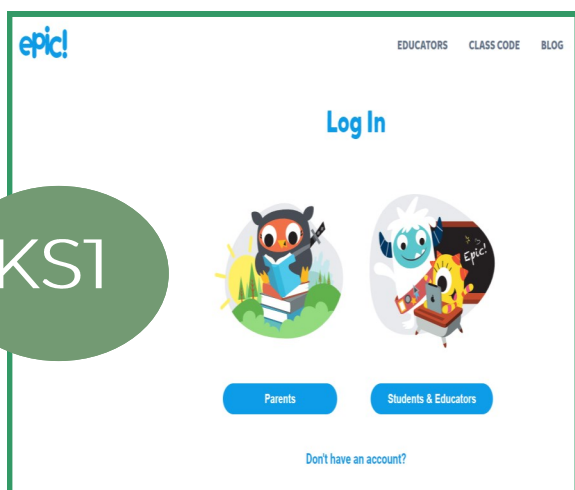
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>



<https://www.gonoodle.com>



KS1



<https://www.getepic.com/sign-in>

UKS2



<https://www.educationquizzes.com>

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Year Group Updates



Nursery

The children in our Nursery have been learning about ice and what happens when you put it outside and inside. There has been some great language with words such as 'melted, disappeared and dissolved' being used. The children made some great scientific predictions. We are starting to learn about 'People Who Help Us'. Everyone has been encouraged to help make their own lunch with some great results. We are still practicing listening to stories and singing along to Mrs Blaxland playing her Ukulele. The physical activities have been fun with everyone enjoying 'Cosmic Yoga'.



We love sharing our recommendations and a great book to read is - 'While We Can't Hug' its a Hedgehog and Tortoise story. Authors Eoin McLaughlin and

Polly Dunbar. In addition a useful story website you may be interested in is called 'Oxbridge stories'. Here's an example

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=oxbridge+stories

We've been busy doing other activities too—such as going on exciting scavenger hunts in the Nursery and at home. We have found lots of objects that are different shapes, different colours, food we eat and clothes we wear when it's cold. We have drawn and decorated some heart shapes to put in our windows to make people smile when they see them.



A huge thank you from the Nursery team for all the work parents are doing. It's great to be able to see what the children are doing at home. Everyone (parents included) are working so hard!

Reception

The children in Reception have been amazing learners this month and have really taken the challenge of online school in their stride!

We began the month learning about the season of winter and the children enjoyed going on their own walks around Barnes, looking closely for signs of winter all around them. We then read the story of 'Naughty Bus' and the children were shocked to discover that the Naughty Bus had been on the loose in Miss Tittle's house! They did a fantastic job creating 'Wanted' posters to warn people about him and then created junk models of their own Naughty Buses.



At the end of the month we became authors and had a go at writing our own stories for the first time!

Next month we are looking forward to continuing some brilliant Maths and Phonics learning, looking closely at our local area of Barnes and exploring the festival of Chinese New Year.

Awesome learning in Reception never stops!

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Year Group Updates



Year 1

This has already been a very busy half term for everyone and the children have adjusted to home learning like 'Superheroes' - which also happens to be the title of our new topic! Our curriculum is still jam packed and it's been incredible to see the quality of work being sent in to us.

In English, we are very excited to remain part of the Screen your Story competition through home learning this year. The children have been working hard to develop their skills in writing adjectives, using tenses and suffixes to really make their stories shine! Last term, our English focus was letter writing. We wrote to No. 10 Downing Street to express our concerns about the environment and at the start of this term we actually received a hand-written response from the Prime Minister himself!



In Maths the children have been working on developing number skills. They have been practising number bonds to 10 and 20, comparing number sentences (e.g. $4 + 7$ and $19 - 6$) to find which is greatest and working on our problem solving and reasoning skills.

In P.E. our theme for the half term is Dance. The children have been working on choreographing their own Super Hero dance. They have been exploring different styles of dance/music from around the world and developing skills to make their routine fluid using canons and counting the beats/actions in the song carefully. In Music, the children have been creating their own percussion instruments and we have seen a great array of shakers being designed at home! In R.E. the children have been exploring 'Special Days' and discussing which days are important to their family and why. The children have been exploring calendars and building up their computing skills by making word clouds. In Science, the children have been very busy out and about exploring and investigating the flora

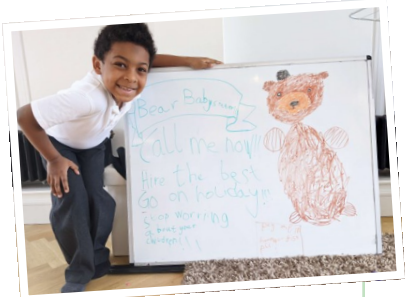


around us; Finding out about wild plants in the area, recognising plants which grow in winter and will be developing their identification skills of the parts of a plant as well.

Through our online learning provision, we have been posting daily video extras such as a chapter a day of Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', arts, crafts and cooking videos to fill any extra time through the days at home. We have been so proud of how all of the children have adapted to this difficult time and we are constantly amazed at the work we are seeing on Class Dojo. Thank you for all of your incredible efforts!

Year 2

Despite not being in school, we've still been really busy learning lots of new things in Year 2. In history, we've started a new topic learning all about what happened to the Titanic. We have been searching photographs for clues about life 100 years ago and have really enjoyed making predictions about why Delia will need a new hat for her journey. We have carried the 'hats' theme into our DT work and have been really busy at home investigating

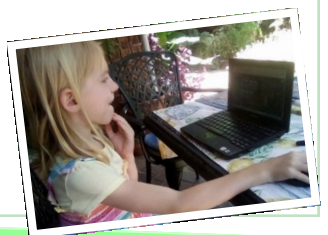


the different styles and purposes of hats. Our next challenge will be to learn some sewing techniques and put them to good use in designing and making a hat for our teddy bears. In English, we're currently becoming 'instruction experts' where we



have learnt the features of instruction texts, how to follow instructions and we're now moving on to giving and writing clear instructions. In Maths we have been learning about statistics. From pictograms to block diagrams, Year 2 have covered it! Science has

also been a hit learning all about animals. We started with classifying animals before moving onto thinking about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Our teachers have been so impressed with the huge efforts and enthusiasm we are showing to all of our home learning. The work uploaded onto Google Classroom and Dojo has been incredible! Year 2 you are awesome!



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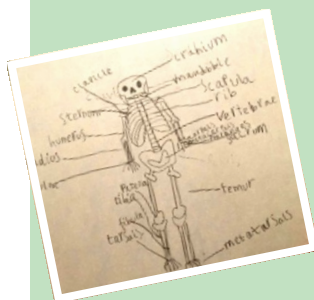
Year Group Updates



Year 3

Despite it not being the start to the Spring term we all would have liked, Year 3 have impressed us all with their engagement and eagerness to get stuck into online learning.

We kicked off the Spring term in maths looking at measurement of Length and perimeter. The children did fantastic at converting between two units of measurement and finding the perimeters of different 2D shapes. In English, we spent the first two weeks focusing on using adverbs and adverbial phrases effectively in a sentence. This really helped us when we began writing our 'Screen Your Story' stories as we worked on creating exciting sentences with a variety of different sentence starters. In science, Year 3 has been exploring all about the human body and is mastering the names of the different bones that make up our skeleton. We are continuing our pre-historic learning in history, exploring all about the Bronze age, and why this era was so important in the development of how humans live.



In art, the children have continued to wow us with their fantastic artwork from perspective art to illusionist art. The children are showing wonderful commitment to their learning and we don't forget to have a bit of fun either.



Each Thursday we have a themed day where we all follow a similar theme by wearing hats, a same colour etc. which we find puts a smile on our faces. Looking forward to seeing what other wonderful work the children create as we continue on this home-learning journey.

Year 4

Remote Learning has got off to a good start in Year 4 this month! The children have shown amazing resilience and I have been so impressed by how well they have adapted to Google Classroom and a new way of learning. In English they are on the way to becoming the next generation of best-selling authors, building some truly fantastic adventure stories.



In Maths, we have spent some time recapping our addition and subtraction skills before working on perimeter of shape. We have also continued to work on multiplication, focusing on perfecting our recall of those trickier times tables through lots of different methods.

The children are doing an excellent job of challenging themselves and trying their hand at some of my weird and wonderful methods – like times table themed karaoke!

The support from parents has been brilliant, and so appreciated as we've all adjusted to the new platform and to living and working in Lockdown 3. It wasn't what we hoped for, for 2021, but the children are showing that they can achieve amazing things, even remotely.



I can't wait until we all get to be together again, but until then - keep it up Year4! You're awesome!

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Year Group Updates



Year 5

Year 5 have made an excellent start to the new term and taken learning from home and the new Google Classroom routine in their stride. Building on a superb autumn term, they have shown real enthusiasm for learning and tremendous maturity in the way they have adapted to working online.

The children enjoyed our study of Poetic Style in English and used techniques such as simile, metaphor, alliteration, onomatopoeia and personification impressively when they wrote their own version of Kit Wright's poem The Magic Box. They also produced some beautiful calligrams, or shape poems, in a lovely combination of English and Art.

In Maths, we have revised column multiplication to multiply 2-digit by 4-digit numbers and developed our skills with short division using the "bus stop" method. We have now moved on to equivalent fractions and mixed numbers.

We have also been studying line drawings in Art, climate change in Geography, forces in Science and Christian and Jewish celebrations in RE, as well as keeping active with PE lessons every Friday.

The Magic Box

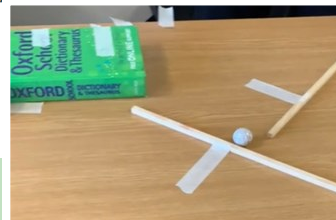
I will put in the box
A sword forged from a fearless dragon's breath,
A scale from a mermaid's tail,
An ammonite from Charmouth beach.

I will put in the box
A ring from Saturn, as cold as ice,
The flash of lightning during a storm,
The dawn of time.

I will put in the box
A leaf leaping from the oldest oak tree,
The strength of the mighty Hercules,
The club of a troll.

My box is fashioned from spider's silk and diamonds and iron
With snowflakes on the lid and memories in the lock,
Its hinges are made from the fingers of the Graee.

I shall sail in my box
Through the raging blizzards of the
Antarctic,
And come to a halt by a crackling campfire,
Under the twinkling stars.
One of many superb
versions of The Magic
Box written in Year 5.



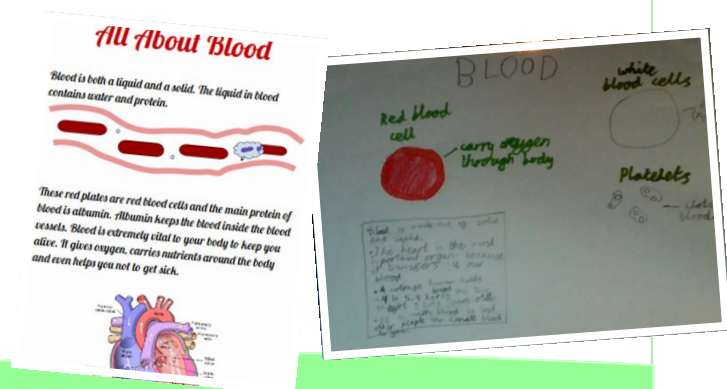
We put some of our learning about gravity, momentum and friction to good use by making our own marble runs.

Year 6

Year 6 have been fantastic in their online learning and accessing our Google Classroom. We have written very well researched discussion texts, asking: Is there too much technology in our lives today? Children surveyed friends and family and used this evidence to present the positive and negative aspects of technology in our lives. Overall, we agreed that technology was very important and - if not overused - a huge positive (especially at this time!). In science, we have been learning about the circulatory system and exploring the role of the heart and lungs. We have seen how the pulmonary system functions and helps us breathe, and the important role that blood plays in keeping us alive and healthy. We look forward to conducting our circulatory dissections when we return to school!

In maths, we have learnt about the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. We have been calculating percentages of increasingly difficult amounts while consolidating our place value knowledge and working toward a thorough understanding of equivalences between the three. We have also successfully applied this learning to real-life problem solving scenarios.

Finally, we took part in an excellent virtual trip: Richmond Junior Citizens. This scheme gives young children the skills to deal with a wide range of emergency situations, including using public transport, basic first aid, safety by water, road safety and health issues. It was very informative and useful, and enjoyed by everyone in Year 6!



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