



Lowther

We love learning at Lowther

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022! We'd like to kick off this month's newsletter by wishing a Happy New Year to the whole Lowther School Family (and Gong Hei Fat Choy too!)

2021 was another hugely successful year for our school and rest assured we'll be working hard to make further improvements to our fantastic school this year. Our commitment here at Lowther, to all of you, is to ensure we provide your children with the very best opportunities to learn together in exciting, creative and challenging ways. 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.

The new year always fills us here at Lowther with excitement. It's the start of more opportunities for all of us to learn and develop. It's exciting to think that your child is going to learn to do things they've never been able to do before. Isn't it incredible to just imagine that 2022 could be the year that they...

- Read their first story book independently
- Learn to swim
- Learn and use new vocabulary
- Learn how to programme and code
- Be able to multiply large numbers
- Be able to recall all of their times tables
- Spell a whole host of new words
- Represent one of our school sports teams for the very first time

What a fantastic thought, eh? 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. The sky really is the limit!

Mark, Alastair and Hannah



We love to give our children the opportunity to learn and explore in lots of different ways. There's been some amazing learning going on this January!



Please like our
Facebook page

Please follow
us on Twitter

Check our
website

School Improvement

Governors have been busy working with the school's leadership team on a number of different key areas of school life. We also simplify the language of our Top 5 priorities for the year to ensure children, staff and the community have ownership of our targets for school year 2021-22. The key priorities for the school this year are:

- Children at Lowther will have an exciting **curriculum** which allows their learning to progress each year
- All children will have an enjoyable and successful **reading** journey at Lowther
- Everyone will have exceptional **attendance** at Lowther
- We will rewrite the school's **values** statement
- The changes to our **staff team** will be made smoothly



Community News

Listed below are some things that are happening locally that you may be interested in. The children's centre offers services from Lowther every Tuesday and from Mortlake the rest of the week. Do check their webpage for their latest programme.

Welcome to Richmond's children's centres

Our children's centres are places where all families with children under 5 years, expectant mothers and fathers, can go to help their children to get the best start in life.


Our aims

- ♣ To promote high quality inclusive education and care from birth to 5 years.
- ♣ To provide all-inclusive opportunities for parents and carers to meet and support each other.
- ♣ To offer support, advice and information to parents, carers and families, through multi-agencies e.g. health visitors, midwives nurseries, pre-schools, schools and family support workers.
- ♣ To support and develop parents and carers awareness of how to become a 'play partner' for their children and how to help their children be ready for school.
- ♣ To promote and support parents and carers in healthy lifestyles and preparing their children for school.

Our objectives

- ♣ To provide well planned age appropriate, all-inclusive sessions and activities to extend children's learning through the Early Years Foundation Stages.
- ♣ To provide an environment that is friendly, relaxed, supporting and welcoming to all families.
- ♣ To have staff who will lead by example and model good practice.
- ♣ To make information available that is clear for parents.

All children's centre sessions have a suggested voluntary donation of £2.50 per family unless otherwise indicated. There is an honesty pot in the children's centres receptions for all sessions. Play passes are available for families where cost may prove difficult, please speak with a member of the team.



Please join us for an hour to read and discuss a short story

Tuesdays 10:45am – 11:45am

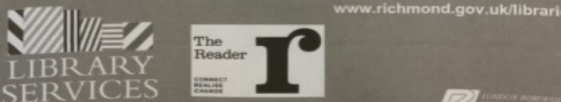
Castelnau Library

Bring your coffee and friends.

There is no need to read anything in advance. Just join the sessions ready to explore new stories. A pleasant way to start your morning.

Vivienne Birshan & Jo Dallal

Find out more at www.richmond.gov.uk/libraries



POWER YOGA FOR LOWTHER



**EVER MONDAY
DURING TERM TIME**

9am-10am at Lowther Primary School, Old Hall

Book now at
pta-events.co.uk/lowther

£15 for drop-ins
£50 for 5 sessions
£100 for 11 sessions

Lowther More News

Did you know?

9 is the magic number! We asked nine 9 year olds to come and help us share Lowther has now been on Twitter for exactly 9 years. We now have nearly 1000 followers and many of our videos and tweets get views in the thousands. Thank you all for your amazing support, the likes, the nice comments, the re-tweets and your support of all things Lowther. We hope you've enjoyed us sharing our news with you!



The Queen's Bank Holiday

As you may be aware, an extra bank holiday was announced for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We wanted it to feel like a special bonus Bank Holiday and so have agreed that our "extra day" will be on **Monday 16th May 2022**. This means school will be closed on this day. This has been updated on the school website, where you can find all of our term dates.

At Lowther we are....



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Attendance Update!

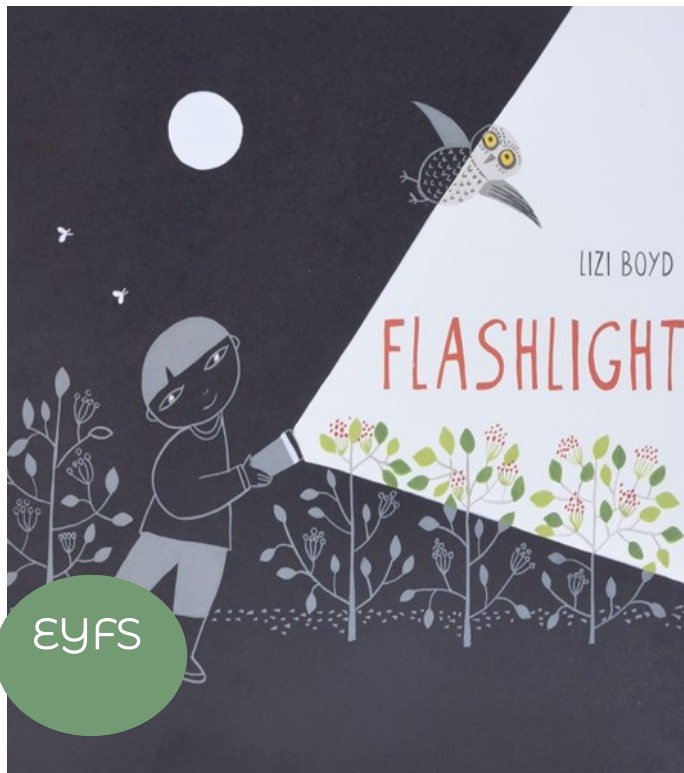
The language we use for school attendance is a "minimum expectation of 96%". We expect all children to have excellent attendance at Lowther. Indeed, it's one of Top 5 school priorities this year. At the moment attendance is lower than our expectation. This is disappointing, but we do understand this is also similar to the overall national picture of attendance, which is around 93%, which is lower than normal. The reasons for this nationally are well-documented. We will be striving to increase these figures with your support in 2022.

Class	Attendance %(school year to date)
Rec	93.7% - below minimum expectation
y1	91.8% - below minimum expectation
y2	93.3% - below minimum expectation
y3	93.3% - below minimum expectation
y4	93.1% - below minimum expectation
y5	93.1% - below minimum expectation
y6	91.1% - below minimum expectation
TOTAL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE = 92.9%	

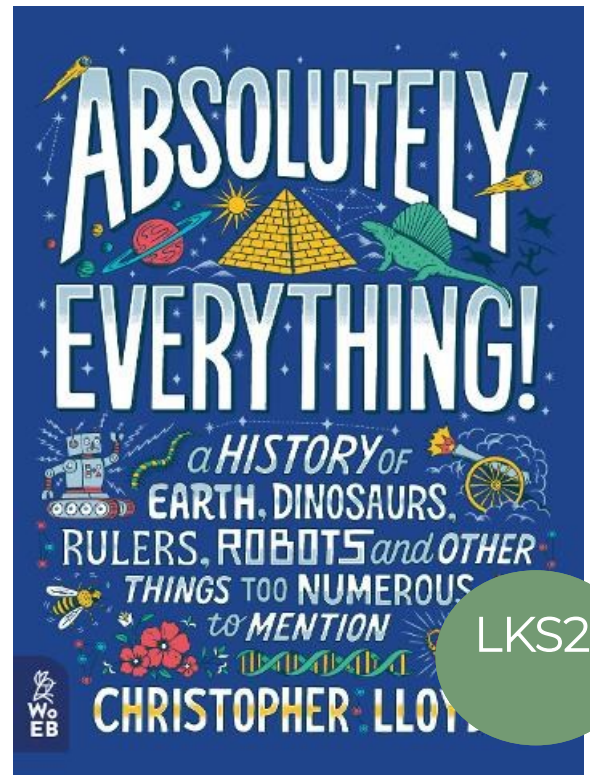
lowther Literature



We recommend these books as a super read.



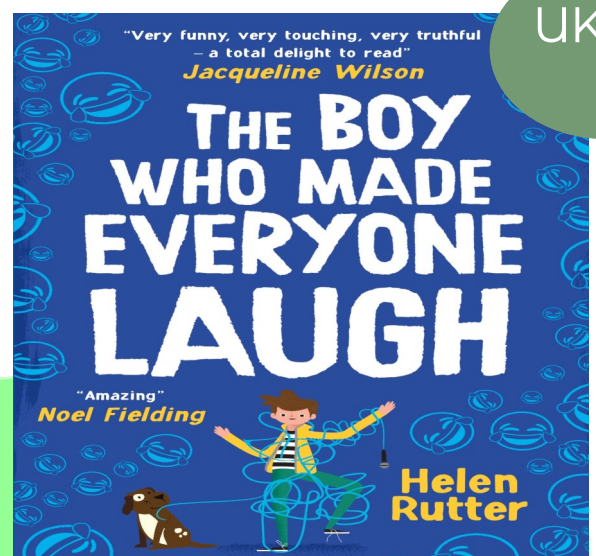
EYFS



LKS2



KS1



UKS2

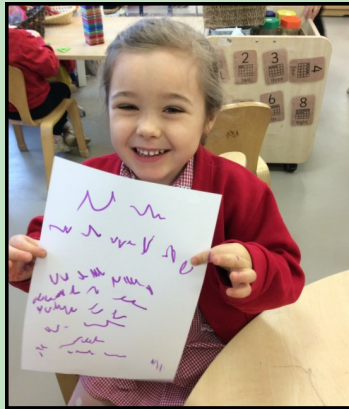
Contact us with any questions
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Year Group Updates



Nursery

last few weeks and until the half term break we have enjoyed focusing on our Nursery Adults favourite stories. We have done lots of activities linked to them. We have read Shark in the Park, Each Peach Pear Plum and Snake Supper so far and have Dear Zoo and the Gruffalo for the last 2 weeks. We made telescopes and went for a walk around the school to spot sharks! We made mini puppets with the characters from Each Peach Pear Plum and are starting to make snakes from Snake Supper. We have exciting activities planned for the last 2 books.



We have been cooking Cheese and Parsley scones this half term. The children have cooked in small groups and only the chefs took home scones, this has been character building for the other children!



The children have been doing lots of mark making especially of their names. We have done tracing with some children now doing a recognisable form of their name independently.

The creative area has been very popular with children now able to ask for resources that they would like to use but have run out in the drawers.

The children really enjoyed playing with the magnets in the Nursery, finding what was and was not magnetic. We discovered that not everything that looks like metal really is.



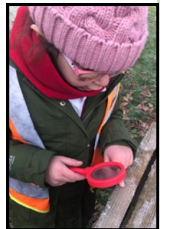
Reception

January has been a very busy month for us in Reception. We hit the ground running in 2022 learning about the season of Winter. We went on a Winter walk to the allotment where we lit a fire to inspire thinking of vocabulary linked to Winter. On very cold mornings, we loved finding ice and inspecting frost with magnifying glasses.

Next up, we started our first topic of 2022 'Animals'. We used the story Owl Babies as a stimulus for the topic, reading the story a little at a time. We began by looking at the front cover and first page in a dark room with woodland sounds! The children blew our socks off with the brilliant words they used to describe the owlets feelings when their mummy went and returned! After writing mummy owl a letter, she made a visit to our classroom! We learnt how to navigate a tablet to take pictures of the clues she left.

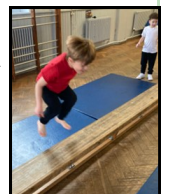


Shortly after this, we got stuck into planning our very first Screen Your Story competition. We used the theme 'Saving the Planet' to investigate problems our woodlands face. The children then planned a story thinking of a character, problem and a way to save the day. We may be a little biased but we think Reception stories are the BEST!



Our maths learning has kept us on our toes, starting the month learning about zero and comparing numbers to 5. We moved onto comparing mass and capacity. A definite highlight was making balance scale cupcakes. Yes Chefs! Back to number learning we explored the numbers 6,7 and 8.

In PE, our focus has been and will continue to be developing confidence in fundamental movements. Experience jumping, sliding, rolling moving over and under apparatus and develop coordination and gross motor skills.



We finished the month learning about, preparing for and celebrating the festival of Chinese New Year. More to follow in next month's edition!

Year Group Updates



Year 1

This has already been a very busy term for everyone and the children have loved our topic 'Superheroes'!

In English, we are very excited to be part of the Screen your Story competition again 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! The children have now created some incredible stories about amazing Super Hero rescues around the world. The theme this year is Save the Planet and so the Super Hero characters in their stories have been saving the world from forest fires, pollution and even logging!



In Maths, the children have been working on developing the understanding of place value. They have been partitioning numbers into tens and ones and using part whole models to solve problems.

We have been especially proud of the children's computing skills this term.

The children have been learning to code and have been programming a character to make it dance. This has meant they have needed to practise their hand-eye coordination skills and have learnt to drag and drop using a mouse

Well done Year 1 for another very successful month!



Year 2

During January we have 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 investigating the different styles and purposes of hats.

We have also started learning some sewing techniques and have put them to good use in designing and making a hat for our teddy bears.



In English, we have been thinking about the difference between fiction and non-fiction texts and have got stuck into writing our own non-chronological reports.

In Maths, we have been exploring multiplication and division and have worked on developing our 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Science has also been a hit learning all about animals. We have been classifying animals and have thought about the six main animal groups; Reptiles, Amphibians, Mammals, Fish, Birds and Insects. It's all go in Year 2! Bring on February!



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Year Group Updates



Year 3

Year 3 started this year with a fun-filled day at the **science museum**. We had a fabulous time there, learning practically in the wonder lab, and being shown a number of different experiments. We also watched a science presentation about explosions, which were very loud and exciting to watch! Year 3 were brilliantly behaved throughout, and thoroughly enjoyed their day.

Computing- Children in Year 3 have begun learning how to create codes using the Logo j2code program. They have used programming language to create specific shapes, such as squares and rectangles, and used their creativity to create more complex drawings, such as houses or cars. This unit also allows the children to practise maths vocabulary, such as left, right, forward and explores degrees of turning. They are beginning to use word commands to direct the object along a given path and must debug their code if the code does not produce the desired outcome.

Screen Your Story and The Iron Man- children have been creating, planning and writing their own stories. We have written a story about saving the world, where we learnt lessons about the impact waste is having on our planet. Then, we started our new English topic, Iron Man, in which we created our own characters based on Iron Man, and have planned, written and edited our own stories.

Maths- We have delved deeper into Multiplication and Division this term, with Year 3 learning their times tables, and now beginning to multiply and divide 2 digit numbers by 1, using a formal written method, and concrete resources to support our progress.

History topic- Bronze Age- In history, we have moved from the Stone Age into the Bronze Age. We have already recognised the social changes that resulted in this historical change, and we will continue to develop our knowledge of this topic, understanding the importance of monuments, both historically and currently and understanding Bronze Age ceremonies and their significance. We are excited to teach this new topic to Year 3!



Year 4

Learning has got off to a good start in Year 4 this month! The children have really settled into Year 4 life and it has been lovely to see them embracing new topics and challenges.

In English they are on the way to becoming the next generation of best-selling authors and environmentalists, building some truly fantastic stories about saving the planet!

In Maths, we have continued our 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 our weird and wonderful methods – like times table themed karaoke!

In the wider curriculum we have started Swimming every week and our first History topic of the year – the Romans! The children have enjoyed the range of the topic - one week looking at sources and historical evidence, the next designing a Roman Shield and finding out what it would be like to be a real Roman soldier.

In Science, we have moved on to electricity, with all the fun of creating circuits and experimenting with different materials, and in R.E. we have been learning about Sikhism and the 5 K's.

It has been a packed term already – and it's only the end of January! Keep up the excellent learning Year 4!



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Year Group Updates



Year 5

Year 5 have been learning about fractions and decimals in Maths, helped by the use of some post-Christmas Terry's Chocolate Oranges. With 20 segments per orange, combining two of them offered an ideal way of demonstrating improper fractions and also managed to sharpen the focus in the classroom to impressive levels... Using physical resources is an important part of the White Rose maths scheme which the school follows and that, together with the pictorial and the abstract, has helped the children to gain an impressive understanding of fractions and decimals. Later in the term we will move on to percentages and learn how to combine all three systems.

In English, we paused our study of The Highwayman to take part in the Screen Your Story competition, with a concentrated focus on writing. The children responded enthusiastically to the theme of Saving the Planet, and applied themselves well to researching, planning, drafting and editing their 500-word stories. The standard was high and there looked to be a number of possible winners among the class entries, so we will look forward eagerly to hearing the results in the spring.

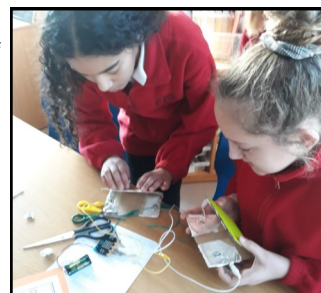
We have begun to learn about classifying, mixing and separating materials in Science, as well as taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch for homework, and have produced some fabulous murals in Art to tie in with our study of the Mayan civilisation in History.

Chocolate challenge: Year 5 show a definite taste for Maths lessons on fractions and mixed numbers



Year 6

Year 6 have been fantastic in their start to the 2022 Spring Term. 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. 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 very soon!



In maths, we have learnt about the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages - exploring this through the 'Chocolate Percentage Challenge'. 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 are now

moving on to our measurement topic, exploring unit equivalents and have successfully applied this learning to real-life problem solving scenarios.

Our first trip of the year was to the excellent Design Museum; giving us a great insight into the role technology has played in our lives, and importantly, the materials and resources we have used to create them during this century and the last.

Using this experience, together with our learning in both our previous electricity topic in science and our programming skills - and our knowledge of Boolean Gates - in Computing we created our very own working reaction games. We then designed the exterior as a further extension to a highly successful DT project.

Home learning website recommendations:

<https://family.gonoodle.com/>
<https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks2/science/>
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/play-and-learn/>

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Chinese New Year

We have loved celebrating Chinese Year with all our pupils. We also held a fabulous assembly for all the children who have learnt songs, made dragons, paraded around the school, performed dances and learnt more about Chinese culture.



Sport at Lowther

We are having a really positive year in sport; mainly because we're actually getting to play some matches! We've won some, lost some but always given 100%. The willingness to try out for the "squad" is remarkable. Highlights recently include our Y56 boys footballers securing a last gasp (but very well deserved) win vs St Osmund's after Kasey found the bottom corner of the net. The girls team also performed with great skill and determination to earn a draw vs St Osmund's (including a fantastic penalty save by Lexie). We are looking forward to seeing our children shine in many more sports during the remainder of the year

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 fitforsport.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

Lowther News

Secondary School 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 has now passed 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:

- NO Lowther sports hoodies to be worn to school please — these are just for PE lessons in the winter months.
- ALL uniform (including coats and hats) to be named please. I 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).
- No shoes with logos that are not in black.

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 other 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.

Amazing Homework

Year 2 have been learning about the Titanic and their homework has been fabulous. Just one such example is this amazing model of the Titanic by Emilia. We are constantly blown away by the amazing work parents do with their children at home. Thank you for your incredible support with their learning.



Christmas Thanks

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas time and enjoyed the festivities and spending time with your families. On behalf of all the teachers and staff at school we'd like to say a huge thank you for the very kind gifts and cards that were given to us by you this Christmas. It is always really appreciated and also satisfying to know that our community is thankful for our efforts, but really a smile and a thank you genuinely are the best presents!

Thanks again for your kindness and generosity.

Did you know?

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

Lowther News

Lowtherness Live 2022

It's back! After a year off we are delighted to announce it's time again for Lowtherness Live! We're now in our tenth 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. Auditions are **Wednesday 9th February** and **Thursday 10th February**.

The grand final, which of course we'd love you to come and watch, is on **Friday 25th February 2022** between 1:30pm and 3pm. It should be masses of fun! Good luck to everyone entering!

Auditions: Wednesday 9th February 2022

Decisions for finalists: Friday 11th Feb

Live Final:

Friday 25th February 2022



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