



Lowther

We love learning at Lowther

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the March edition of our newsletter. There's certainly plenty of great news to share with you regarding so many different aspects of school life here at Lowther. We love enriching your children's learning and providing them with opportunities to learn in different ways.

It's been such a pleasure this school year to have events, sporting fixtures, shows and more all fully integrated back into Lowther life. There's always something happening to further enhance children's learning and experiences. Here at Lowther All the team are fully committed to providing learning for your awesome children in a wide range of exciting and engaging ways.

If you haven't been on the school website or one of our social media platforms recently please do check them out. The website is mobile friendly and there's some great content on there. Some of the new additions include updated galleries, videos and our curriculum offer.

Our school Twitter account is also embedded into the school website and so no logging in or signing up for an account are needed. Those of you that do follow us on Twitter I'd like to say a huge thank you for your support and interest in the school. We have a high level of engagement in our tweets. We will continue to post new content on our different online platforms. We hope you like the plans.

Whilst we will continue to produce the traditional monthly newsletter we increasingly use our social media platforms and website, alongside Parent mail for delivering all the latest Lowther news.

We hope you enjoy this months newsletter, we wish you all a very happy Easter!

Mark, Alastair and Hannah



We want all children to enjoy their learning at Lowther and to have happy, positive experiences.



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 March! Here (above) Year 4 replicate Roman soldiers protecting themselves as part of their History topic.



Please like our
Facebook page

Please follow
us on Twitter

Check our
website

Science Week

We had a fantastic week of Science for our annual Science week. Mr Ripley launched the week in assembly, with our theme being "Growth"

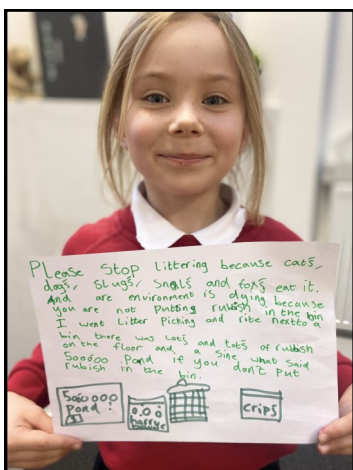
Children conducted a wide range of fascinating investigations and scientific enquiry from teeth, to plants, to tadpoles, to hearts and the human body.

The week culminated in the rather super Science Fair where children from each year group shared what they'd be studying with the rest of the school.

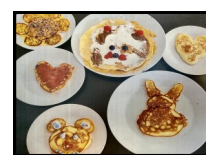
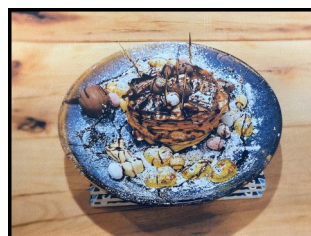
We were also very pleased to welcome the Head of Science outreach, Dr Ben Still, from St Paul's to the Fair too. He was very impressed, and so were we!



Community News



Mr Ripley has re-established our school council this year. The council is made up of 2 representatives from each year group and meet with Mr Ripley (and other teachers) regularly to discuss how we can make things even better for our pupils at Lowther. We are proud of the way we listen and respond to our children and the school council provides us with another great conduit for listening to the views of our children and ensuring pupil voice continues to be strong at Lowther.



The school council recently worked with environmental champions Sustrans to conduct a local litter pick recently around the Barnes area. We are proud of our community and it was great to give something back.

Great job children!

Pancake Fun! We had so many awesome entries into the PTA's fantastic pancake competition. It was almost impossible to decide the winners. We hope the pancakes all tasted as good as they looked! Huge thanks and well done to all the families that took part.

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

Dads Basketball

A small group of dads meet each Monday for a friendly and fun game of hoops here at Lowther. We're always on the look out for some new players of any ability. We play from 7.30pm until 8.30pm, inside the hall if it's wet or out-side on the astro pitch in the better weather, It's free to play, you don't need to book, just turn up. If you're interested drop me an email (headteacher@lowther.richmond.sch.uk) and we can add you to the WhatsApp group. You do not need to be a Lowther parent to come and play so please do spread the word!

Lowther More News



Did you know?

We have a revised school behaviour policy in action at school this year. Behaviour of pupils at Lowther has consistently been recognised as excellent. We wanted to make the policy clearer, simpler and fairer for all and so we use the 3 core values of being Ready, Respectful and Safe to further support top notch behaviour at Lowther.

The policy is available for parents to read on the school website.

At Lowther we are....



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.

Attendance Update!

Excellent attendance for all pupils is a key priority for Lowther, and all schools. There is a clear link between good attendance and good progress at school. We know, as well as Covid, there have been lots of nasty bugs around this year, but we hope with summer approaching we can all work hard to achieve our 96% minimum expectation in each and every year group. Thank you in advance for supporting super attendance at Lowther. Illustrated below are the most recent attendance figures up until 22/3/22.

Class	Attendance %(school year to date)
Rec	94.2% - below minimum expectation but improving
Y1	93.3% - below minimum expectation but improving
Y2	93.4% - below minimum expectation
Y3	93.3% - below minimum expectation
Y4	93.2% - below minimum expectation
Y5	93.1% - below minimum expectation
Y6	91.7% - below minimum expectation but improving

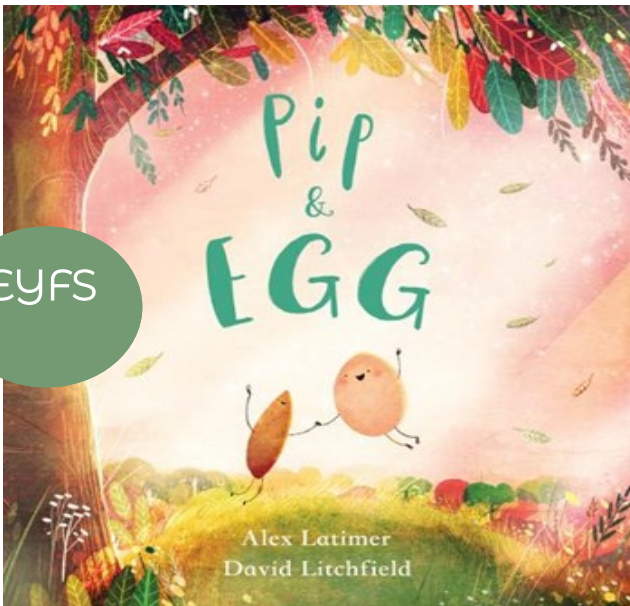
TOTAL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE = 93.2% (up from 92.9%)

Lowther Literature



We recommend these books as a super read.

EYFS



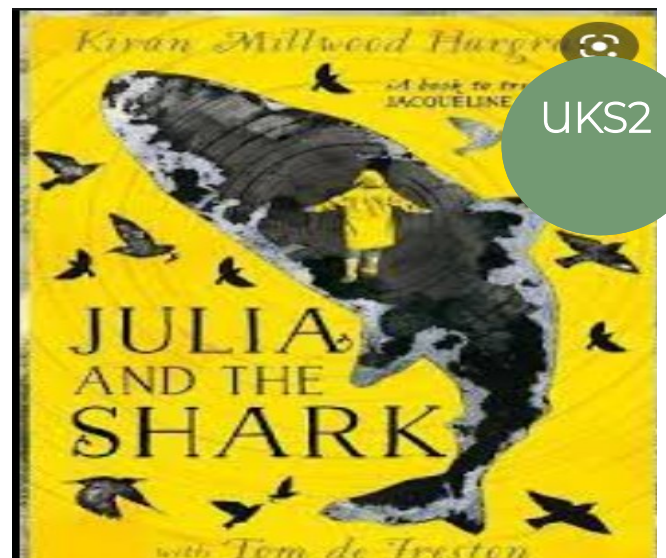
LKS2



KS1



UKS2



We  Reading at Lowther!

Contact us with any questions
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Year Group Updates



Nursery

The nursery children have had lots of fun learning about all of the different 'People Who Help Us' which links to our Topic. We have learnt about lots of different Emergency Services, Shop workers, Cleaners, Postmen, Dustmen and are moving onto learning about People Who Help us at Home and at Nursery/School over the next few weeks. We had lots of fun dressing up for World Book Day as characters from stories we had read about. We read different stories each week, sometimes listening to stories on cd's with no visuals and also sometimes on our giant computer screen. We have been so pleased to see both parents and children using the Nursery Library box on a Monday. We hope that you are enjoying reading together at home.

We continue to cook with a group of children each week and are currently making Carrot and Raisin Muffins.

As the weather has improved we have made some changes to our outside area which the children have enjoyed being able to access independently. We have a new small world area with a table and 2 benches kindly given to us by St Paul's School. We have added AstroTurf which the children love adding animals to. We have also taken the parachute outside and played some games. We are looking forwards to seeing more evidence of Spring and to begin doing some planting.



We have been really busy practicing writing our names and lots of children are now able to do a good representation without using their name card for copying. Most nursery children are now able to find their own name from the board when they enter nursery for self registration.



Reception

Well February and March just went by in a flash!

We started February with our next key text 'Blue Penguin' by Peter Horacek. The children enjoyed holding ice, as well feeling different types of material, to inspire them to create a Word Bank to describe the setting of this story, Antarctica. The children blew our socks off with their thoughtful responses to the penguin being different as well as some awesome knowledge of Penguins. We enjoyed using information texts to find out more facts and the children even wrote their favourite facts down.

We had a wonderful time celebrating Chinese New Year with the help of some amazing mummys! The children learnt to say special greetings and all about the animals in the Great Race story. They created their own and hung up beautiful decorations all around the classroom and tried some delicious steamed buns. Oh, and we can't forget our dragon dancing where the children got to parade around school in the wonderful dragon they helped make, holding instruments or lanterns!



We continued to develop our marvellous Maths skills learning to combine groups. We used some new vocabulary to compare and describe the height and length of objects. We then started some new learning all about building the numbers 9 and 10.

The children came back from Half Term raring to go with our new topic Growing! We started looking at people. We absolutely loved looking at pictures of ourselves as babies – thinking about what we could do then and what we have learnt to do now, as children. We read the hilarious story '15 Things Not to do With a Baby' and did a super job at organising some newly learnt vocabulary into a timeline.

Our next key text 'Errol's Garden' by Gillian Hibbs got us in the mood to create our very own Reception container garden. We enjoyed talking about plants and experiences of planting at home and what seeds need to grow and how to keep plants alive. The children picked from a variety of types of sunflower as well as helping to plant vegetables in the growing area in the Outdoor Area.

We just love our PE Fridays and the grown-ups think we are mighty movers! We finished our Gymnastics skills and began a new unit. We have started and will continue to learn to move forwards and sideways at speed, demonstrate agility in a variety of games, participate in chasing games safely and with control and perform as part of a team in running games.

Year Group Updates



Year 1

This month, we have been developing skills in maths counting in twos, fives and tens. The children have been identifying patterns on number grids, comparing, discussing place value and numerical order and working hard on some problem solving and reasoning challenges.

In Phonics, the children are working on Phase 5 sounds in preparation for the forthcoming Phonics Screen Check. This will take place next term. We have been developing skills segmenting more challenging words in their writing. It is great to see children using their word mats and toolkits to help them with trickier character or specific word spellings. We have been focusing our writing on our topic Moon Zoom, writing information books about planet Earth.



In R.E. the children have been working on the theme 'Special Foods'. We have been specifically looking at the Hindu Holi celebration and the foods that are used to

make the day special. This has led to an exciting session throwing the traditional Holi paint powders at the teachers!

In our P. E. lessons the children have been working on their throwing and catching skills. The children are beginning to play team games and have also been learning to hit/field with a bat and ball.



Year 2

What an awesome month March has been for Year 2!

We have loved learning about all things Arctic and Antarctic. In English we have been learning about the 'March of the Penguins' and have been writing 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.

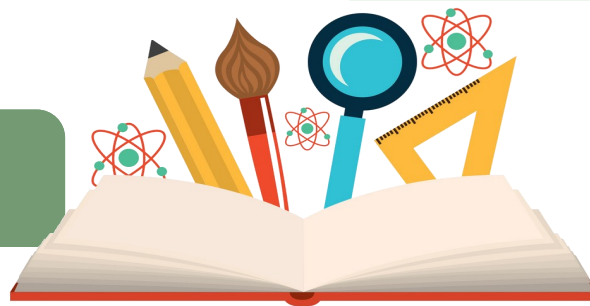
In Science we have been busy investigating. We arrived in our classroom to find some penguin ice eggs! To set the penguins free and send them on their way back to their Antarctic habitat, we have to decide the best way to melt the ice. Ask us which method was best!

Next term 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.



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

Year Group Updates



Year 3

We have had an excellent start to the second Spring Half term. We had superb engagement with parents evening, and we felt the meetings were positive and informative.

We have started a new topic in English, within which pupils were able to visit the Lowther Museum. Students were able to see amazing, ancient artefacts. However, there was a problem. The Shield of Zeus went missing! Now, Y3 are writing their own stories based on these events. Y3 have shown a great understanding of how to structure a story, and we can't wait to read these stories when they are finished.

We have now moved on from multiplication and division in maths and are now learning about....MONEY! Building on what children have learned in Y2, Y3 are now converting pence to pounds, adding and subtracting money, and even giving change! What amazing learners.

Our new Humanities topic is 'Florida'. In Geography, we delve into the Magic Kingdom, understanding why it's a special and popular place to visit. We have researched different states, and will be further exploring what makes Florida unique- including learning about the Kennedy space programme!

Cooking

We are extremely lucky to have cooking this half term, with Chef Sarah and Chef Clare. Cooking this term is linked to our Geography unit of Florida and our dishes are inspired by the USA, especially the Deep South. We have already eaten a Cuban sandwich- which was delicious- and we will be cooking (and eating!) different Floridian treats as the weeks go by.

Swimming

Firstly, we would like to apologise for the false start in swimming. It was out of our hands, as St Paul's had some works being done on the pool. We are expecting to start swimming this week (10/3/22), and are looking forward to it!

Year 4

Wow, we have certainly had an action packed start to this half term. Rehearsals for our year 4 play 'The Greatest Show' are well underway. Children are doing an amazing job of learning their lines and songs and we are really excited about performing it in a few weeks' time. However, there has also been plenty else going on. In maths we have been learning all about fractions, building a fraction wall and learning about equivalents. In English we have been reading Malorie Blackman's 'Cloud Busting' using a scene in the book to write our very own play script as well as a diary entry in character.



In History the children have been learning about the Romans and how they changed Britain. They have told the story of Boudica, researched why Hadrian's Wall was built and tried their hand at being soldiers and making Roman battle formations - something that they thoroughly enjoyed! Children have loved making their own operation games in Science, using all of their knowledge about electricity, conductivity and circuits. In art we have been learning about David Hockney and different paint techniques. Next we will be moving on to make the Roman shields that the children have designed. Last but not least, we are of course all very excited about our upcoming P.G.L. residential trip now just a few weeks away!



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Year Group Updates



Year 5

The Spring term has brought a welcome return to some of the activities that have been on hold for so long and the children have thoroughly enjoyed getting out and about and trying new things. We had a great day at the River Thames in support of our learning about rivers in Geography and the steady afternoon rain did not dampen spirits at all. The children loved the hands-on learning and carried out an assortment of scientific tests before finding so many creatures living in the shallows that they could definitely conclude that the Thames was a clean and healthy habitat.

World Book Day was celebrated in style with a fabulous range of characters and two joint workshops with Year 6 delivered by author Georgia Byng. The children listened intently to her tips on describing characters and loved hearing ideas about how to improve their writing from a highly successful author. Georgia's Molly Moon books have sold millions of copies around the world and it was touching to be shown a Ukrainian edition of one of the books which had been illustrated by a local artist. The day also featured a Lowther first: a Book Tasting session. The children enthusiastically moved around the classroom trying different genres of books on different tables and several new books were later being read as a result.

We have also been rehearsing hard for our appearance in the Barnes Music Festival and are grateful to Mr Gradidge for giving Year 5 the opportunity to take part, rather than sending the school choir. It has been lovely to see and hear every member of the class singing well and it should be a great experience for them to perform in front of a large audience at St Paul's Wathen Hall.

Mudlarks:
Year 5 enjoy
looking for
creatures liv-
ing in the River
Thames



Year 6

Year 6 have been both brilliant and resilient in their learning this term and we are so proud of them! Engagement has been terrific and we have seen fantastic attitudes from the children.

In our English learning, we researched and wrote adventure stories about Natural Disasters; building suspense for our readers and using different devices to advance the action in our stories. All of our excellent research and investigating into volcanoes was used in designing and building our own websites about disasters too. We considered the content, design and usability of websites to create our sites where you can explore, watch and learn all about hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural phenomena!

In Science, we have been looking at the importance of diet and exercise in keeping our bodies healthy. We investigated the different food groups and the importance of a balanced diet, together with 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 areas and perimeters of different shapes; applying our learning to a range of triangles, quadrilaterals and compound shapes and stepping up to calculate the volume of these shapes. These formulas then formed an introduction to our next topic of algebra! Code breaking at its finest!



Home learning website recommendations:

<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/virtual-tour-science-museum>

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Lowther News

Secondary School Offers

The first round of offers for secondary schools comes out at the start of March. Please don't worry if your child wasn'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.

All our term dates for the remainder of this academic year and next too are available online. The next half term is 6 weeks long and we're filling it with loads of amazing learning opportunities. It's going to be fantastic!

Sporting News



Y1 girls football: the team were amazing scoring so many goals and winning nearly all their matches!



Y4 boys football: the team played superbly in the St Paul's tournament and came 4th out of the 8 local teams playing.



Y6 mixed netball: in their first tournament the team played really well only to unfortunately get knocked out by one goal in the round of 16. Great effort Team Lowther!



Y6 football: the boys played extremely well as a team in the Borough tournament and were unlucky to go out on penalties. Great team spirit Team Lowther!



Y4/5 boys football: a great set of performances saw the team come runners up in the St Paul's tournament. Silver medals all round!

We are always looking to get children involved in different physical activities. Next up are some friendly matches vs. St Osmund's in both girls and boys Dodgeball and Hockey as well as further football and basketball tournaments in a number of year groups. Our children always give 100% to these competitions and we're proud of their skill, attitude and commitment to improvement. Great job Team Lowther!

Lowther News

Lowtherness Live 2022

The grand final was absolutely brilliant! We saw nearly 50 different children perform as part of 25 acts showcasing so many fabulous talents from across the school. We had amazing comedy, art, magic, dance, music, singing and more. Well done to all the children that auditioned, our finalists and of course are trophy winners. It was a brilliant display of Lowther talent!



The Greatest Show!

We are delighted to announce that it's show time again! Year 4 are currently working hard on their version of the "Greatest Show" It's going to be a fantastic pair of performances. Tickets are available to purchase for either of the two performances from the school office.

Friday 25th March - 9:30am start and Tuesday 29th March — 2pm start

Lowther Firsts



It's always a special time when the children do something for the first time. It was no exception with Reception's first school trip. The children were fantastic on their trip to Bocketts Farm and joined all the different activities so well. What an exciting time was had!



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Lowther News



SUPPORTING LOWTHER

At Lowther we really value (and need) the fabulous contributions our community makes to the school. Whether this be financial support, helping out with events, offering skills and advice, volunteering in class and trips or just being supportive of the school generally. Thank you all for the amazing way you support our school. On our website you will find some of the details of how you can support the school financially via our new donations platform "Enthuse"

Over the years the generous donations made by parents has made such a positive difference to the school, allowing us to purchase additional resources and fund exciting projects. Please do help in any way you can.

Indeed, some of our parents make monthly donations by direct debit to the school account (via Enthuse) Did you know?

£3 a month from every family across the school would give the school an extra £10,000 a year to support the children's learning. Isn't that incredible?!

If you increased that to a donation of £5 a month that would equate to over £15,000. Imagine what sort of resources we could provide for the children with those additional funds. Please do consider if this is something you'd like to do. Your support is very much appreciated.

World Book Day

We love Reading at Lowther and what better way to celebrate that by holding a marvellous celebration of books! We shared stories, enjoyed reading and making recommendations and of course all had a blast dressing up.

The costumes were amazing! Thank you for your fantastic support.



QUIZ NIGHT

Due to the spike in Covid cases the PTA have made the sensible decision to postpone the quiz until later in the school year. We're still very much hoping to host this fun event - so look out for when it's re-advertised and do come along— we're sure you'll have a lot of fun and you'll be helping support the school too!

**JOIN OUR BOARD
AND HELP US
SUPPORT THE
PEOPLE OF BARNES**

**THREE VOLUNTARY TRUSTEE
ROLES AT THE BARNES FUND**

Find out more at
www.thebarnesfund.org.uk/get-involved



THE BARNES FUND

Our friends at the Barnes Fund support Lowther pupils in lots of different ways. It's a fantastic local charity which does so much good work helping people in Barnes. They're on the look out for new trustees— please do get in touch if this is something you'd be interested in.



Lowther Steps back in time

A Little bit of Lowther history

Look out in future editions of the newsletter for some blasts from the past as we look back at the long and successful history of our amazing school.



Back in 2009 we secured our first Basketball tournament success by winning the St Paul's tournament featuring local schools from Barnes and Hammersmith. We've gone on to win many, many more trophies in Basketball!



Also back in 2009 we celebrated the opening of our fabulous Reception and Nursery buildings. We hosted an amazing event attended by the mayor, local councillors and more. The building went on to win 3 different architectural awards and was also nominated for the prestigious Stirling Prize.

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 8557 5008 Out of Hours: 020 8770 5000

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 020 8891 7570 / 07775 552675

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