



Lowther

We love learning at Lowther

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

As we begin the second half term of another exciting school year at Lowther it's always good to reflect on the success of the previous half term. We hope you have enjoyed seeing your child settle in to their new class and year group and continue their educational journey at Lowther. We're delighted with the start the children have made to the school year. A special mention must go to our fantastic new Nursery and Reception children who have been marvellous in the way they've settled in to Lowther life.

In this newsletter we would like to draw your attention to the amazing academic performance of the pupils that come to Lowther. I shared some of this information with you at the "Good to be back" assembly but really wanted you to know just how well our pupils do. These high standards of academic performance stretch back years—indeed I remember one of my first classes helping Lowther coming in the Top 100 of schools nationally. Our pupils thrive academically because they work hard, are superbly taught and are well supported in all aspects of school life. As with all data there is an important narrative that accompanies them so I would encourage you to look at the information on the data page on the school website and to come and see any one of us and we'll gladly talk you through the numbers.

Thank you for coming along in such great numbers to support the children in their assembly performances last half term — we loved listening to the children and sharing with you the excitement and happiness of performing live! again



Richmond is #1
We're one of a family of schools in the **TOP** attaining borough in the **COUNTRY!**

Mark, Alastair and Hannah

This table shows the number of pupils attaining the **higher level** in the SATS. Impressive work by our pupils.

Academics at Lowther

HIGHER LEVEL	LOWTHER 2018	LOWTHER 2019	LOWTHER 2020	LOWTHER 2021	National Average	Richmond Average
Reading	38%	57%	37%	47%	27%	45%
Writing	32%	36%	22%	32%	20%	28%
Maths	59%	36%	45%	49%	36%	56%
Maths, Reading, Writing Combined	22%	20%	22%	36%	11%	21%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS)	62%	55%	57%	47%	27%	47%



Please like our Facebook page

STAY CONNECTED



Please follow us on Twitter

Check our website



Lowther More News

Let's get reading!

Our current assembly theme this half term is a focus on Reading. Reading is such a huge part of Lowther life. We love books and one of the great pleasures in teaching is seeing a child make fabulous progress with their reading.

We have lots of challenges lined up and ideas to further engage the children in the wonderful world of books. As you know, for example, we have our monthly book recommendations here in the newsletter. We also now have the fantastic Lowther Reading Spine and we're also looking at ways we can further develop the places children can read in comfort at Lowther.

We recently surveyed the children in Key Stage 2 about Reading and we'll share the results with you in due course. One of the areas that we were pleased with is that 100% of pupils in Y3/4/5/6 now read at home. Great stuff!

This week we have set the children the challenge of recommending a book to a friend. We are also encouraging children to share their favourite book and bring them in to school to share too.

At Lowther we **love** Reading!



We were delighted to be invited to be part of the awesome "Barnes Golden Retrievers" annual calendar. What a treat to have such beautiful dogs come and visit us! The children loved it! The calendars are available to purchase at school and other local shops such as The Barnes Bookshop.



The 3 core principles of our Behaviour Policy are for all of our pupils to be Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Did you know?

The last time there were national tests (pre-Covid in 2019) Lowther ranked in the **Top 6% of schools nationally** for the scores the pupils achieved in Reading and Maths. That's incredible!



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

Academics at Lowther



I hope you enjoyed hearing about how well the children had done academically at Lowther last year during our "Good to be back" assemblies. The tables below illustrate just how well our children achieve. These results indicate the academic performance of pupils in the core subjects of English and Maths. These subjects underpin all the work that we do at Lowther to develop outstanding learners. Richmond Borough is the top achieving borough in the country and these local results blow the national average out of the water! Lowther is very much on point with what other schools in the Borough are attaining — often with very different cohort demographics. These first class results are achieved through fabulous attitudes to learning and consistently first class teaching over time alongside excellent support from home.

EXPECTED LEV-	LOWTHER 2018	LOWTHER 2019	LOWTHER 2020	LOWTHER 2021	National Average	Richmond Average
Reading	93%	87%	87%	89%	73%	87%
Writing	91%	84%	83%	83%	78%	88%
Maths	91%	95%	89%	92%	79%	90%
Maths, Reading, Writing Combined	84%	78%	80%	83%	65%	80%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS)	93%	89%	87%	87%	78%	91%

HIGHER LEVEL	LOWTHER 2018	LOWTHER 2019	LOWTHER 2020	LOWTHER 2021	National Average	Richmond Average
Reading	57%	38%	37%	47%	27%	45%
Writing	36%	32%	22%	32%	20%	28%
Maths	36%	59%	45%	49%	36%	56%
Maths, Reading, Writing Combined	20%	22%	22%	36%	11%	21%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS)	55%	62%	57%	47%	27%	47%

Academic attainment commentary to accompany the tables of results

The results above are all from key benchmarks that are used to assess how well a school is performing and supporting it's pupils. We have included data results from both the national and local picture. This is helpful as the demographic profile of Lowther is broadly similar to the national average context. You will be able to see that across the board we compare very favourably against this context. We also include the data from Richmond borough. This is included as this is our local context. It is important to note, that at primary level, Richmond is the top attaining borough/local authority in the country. Again, our data is very favourable and competitive within this context. What is particular impressive is the number of children at Lowther that attain at the higher standard — this is evident in all year groups from Reception through to Year 6.

Examples include the number of children in Early Years attaining at the higher standard in Shape, space and measure is in the Top 15 in Richmond and Kingston borough (a total of 65 schools) At Key stage 1 29% of children attained the higher standard — the national average is 25%.

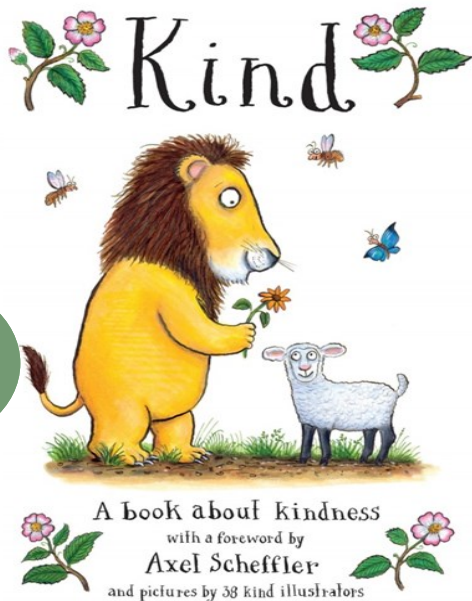
Contact us with any questions
Tel 02087483984
Email: info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Lowther Literature



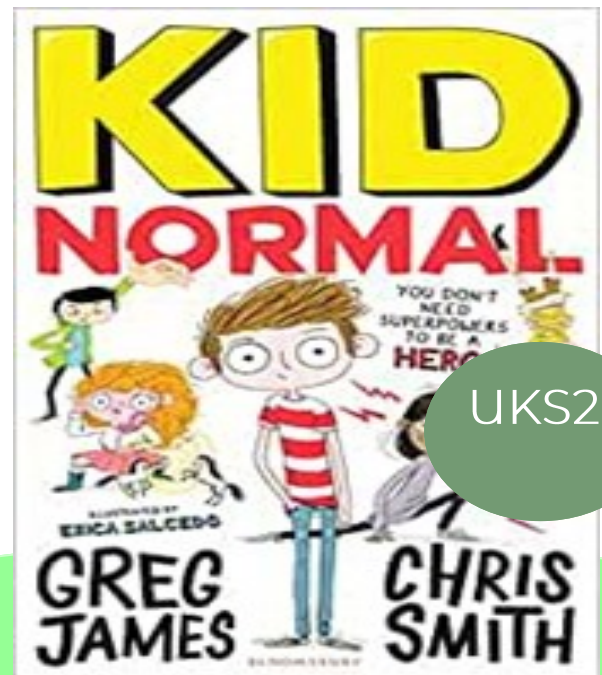
We recommend these books as a super read.

EYFS



LKS2

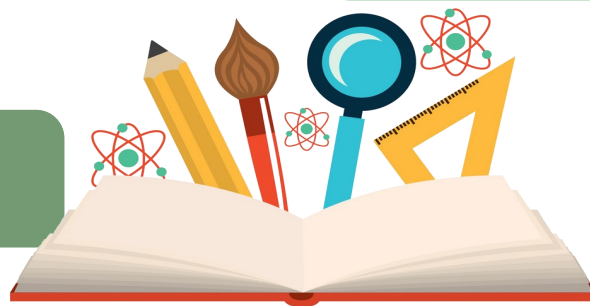
KS1



UKS2

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

Year Group Updates



Nursery

What a busy time we've had in Nursery. We have spent time learning about using all of the resources available in our self help creative area.

We have been learning about different shapes, a square, a circle, a triangle and a rectangle, learning about their properties. Doing lots of counting of their edges. We are looking forward to going on a shape walk around school.



We had lots of fun going on an early Autumn walk to collect some orange, yellow and red leaves from around the school. We are enjoying using our new stage area outside for making music by playing our instruments and dancing with scarves. We are also using our new outside book area for sharing stories with friends.

The children have had a superb first half term in the Nursery and have settled in so well. We can't wait to see them continue to grow and flourish.



Reception

What a superb half term! We can't quite believe we have come to the end of our first half term in Reception!

We started the month learning about Africa, this coincided with Black History Month. We read the story A is for Africa to learn about culture, traditions and animals. Then we moved onto another story 'We're Going on a Lion hunt' the children loved the familiar language of the story and the adventures the two little girls went on! This was followed by reading the story 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Brown. The children absolutely loved retelling the story using actions and then props.



The children have made wonderful progress with their phonic knowledge and are enjoying the challenge of blending words with taught phonemes we have learnt and are starting to read short sentences. They are certainly feeling very grown up taking home their own super jazzy Word Sparks books to share with grown-ups. Over the last few

weeks we have started our writing journey first writing posters about footprints we had found in the allotment and then shopping lists for Miss Tittle and Mrs Hughes to get at the shops in preparation for making a fruit salad!

We have continued exploring our environment learning how to make toast in the cooking area, mixing our own powder paint in the creative area and

Our final topic of the half term was Autumn. We completed a reading trio with the story 'We're Going on a Leaf Hunt' and went on an Autumn walk. The children got busy making autumn themed crafts from crowns, to making leaf rubbings and their very own leaf people!

We rounded off this wonderful half term performing in our very first whole school assembly. We enjoyed learning our songs Dingle Dangle Scarecrow and the Lowther classic Big Red Combine Harvester and LOVED performing them in front of the big children and grown-ups!

Next month we are looking forward to learning about Halloween, Bonfire Night and Diwali. We can't wait to get cracking again after a well deserved half term break!



Year Group Updates



Year 1

Well done Year 1 for a very successful start to the year. In English the children have been exploring the Charlie and Lola series by Lauren Child and recently have been writing their own stories. We have seen some wonderful creative writing.



In Maths, the children have been using part whole models to develop an understanding of addition and subtraction. We have been introducing the

symbols for addition and subtraction and the children have begun to record their practical learning.

In Geography, we have been mapping our local area and finding out about local landmarks. We have discussed mapping keys and different styles of maps. In History, the children have been comparing old and new photographs of their local area and exploring how Barnes has changed. In computing the children have been using the computing suite and have been practising their mouse control skills. Also, in P.E. the children have been working on gymnastics and they have been developing their balance skills by walking across raised beams, remembering to have arms out straight and eyes on a steady object.

This month has also been Harvest Festival and Black History Month so there have been even more projects on the go! We have been learning about the history of Rosa Parks and the children learned to recite a wonderful poem called Rosa's Ride. As part of their Music and Harvest celebration they have also learned a song called 'Autumn is Here Again'.

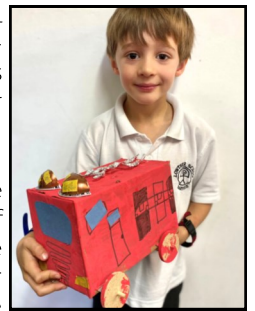
We have had a really busy, fun-filled half term and the children have worked incredibly hard. What a successful half term!



Year 2

What a great first half term we have had in Year 2! We have lived our London topic to the full writing our own information leaflets all about St Paul's Cathedral. Did you know the current cathedral is the fifth St Paul's? We enjoyed a wonderful messy day designing, making and evaluating our own fire engines. Using all our creative energies we up-cycled cardboard boxes, coffee pods and foil to make some incredible machines!

In history we have learnt all about the Great Fire of London. By using sources such as diaries and pictures to search for clues we have discovered how and where it started, how and why it spread and the effect the event has had on the history of London. We have also become map makers and used our knowledge of symbols to create our own maps of London.



Beginning to learn joined up handwriting has been a major focus for us these past couple of weeks, we have been practicing letter formations and joins every day in preparation for using cursive writing in our everyday work. You won't recognise our writing by Christmas!

In Maths we have been consolidating our knowledge in place value and have started to think about adding and subtracting 1 and 2 digit numbers. The children have explored using base 10, tens frames and number lines.

The children have also loved our dance lessons this term. They have been listening to music from a range of artists and thinking about different ways to move to music. We selected some songs by musicians that have been nominated for the MOBO awards and learnt a dance routine. We loved performing our dance in assembly and we hope you liked it too!



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

Year Group Updates



Year 3

October was another busy month for Year 3. We have been learning about Light and Darkness in Science –we have been fascinated by how light travels. We have challenged our own understanding of what is light and now know that light is more than “just electricity” (as commented by a 3P student). We have learned that light travels in straight lines and can be reflected or absorbed depending on the surface it interacts with. We have carried out various experiments investigating how we can change the direction of light and have learned that some surfaces are better than others to change the direction of light.



Science is not the only subject where we have been exploring different concepts and challenging our prior understanding. In Maths, we have completed our Place Value unit and are learning how to add and subtract using 3-digit numbers. We are developing our

understanding of what happens when we add digits that have a total of more than 10. We are developing the skill of using part-whole model and the number line to solve these calculations. We are excited about learning how to use the column method to solve such calculations more efficiently and quickly.

October was also Black History Month and Year 3 was not left in the dark! Ms Palmer set the challenge of learning the 54 countries in Africa and enticed us with a Prize for the person who learned the most countries. Not only that, Year 3 also learned about 5th century trade links between England and the Gold coast. We learned about the significance of kente cloth. During Art and Design, we created our own kente cloth designs. Additionally, Year 3 learned a dance, which we performed in a whole school assembly. The dance used ballet and African dance.

Year 4

It has been an incredibly busy and creative half term in Year 4! The children have truly thrown themselves into our topic of Rainforests and have been thoroughly enjoying the work that has been inspired by it.

In English the children have been looking in detail at how to build descriptive settings, characters and dialogue – with the rainforest as our backdrop. They have worked hard to use exciting vocabulary and interesting imagery and their creative pieces have been wonderful.

In P.E. we have worked on our agility and rugby skills, continued developing our understanding of different animal groups and food chains in Science, and in Art we have continued our work using natural resources. Most recently we have been using clay to create leaf-bowls – and they are truly stunning. The children are really looking forward to bringing them home and giving them to someone special!



In Maths we have been consolidating our understanding of the foundations of Maths, with place value, and addition and subtraction – using both mental maths techniques and column method. Next term we will be adding in multiplication as a focus area.

We have completed lots of extra-curricular activities this month, with performance poetry and our work for Black History Month as special highlights. We were also lucky enough to celebrate our Rainforests topic with a brilliant ‘Rainforest Day’ at the beginning of October. The children were able to release the butterflies they had raised and enjoyed the chance to dress up as various rainforest creatures and take part in lots of different activities.



What a term we’ve had already! We hope you all had a lovely, well deserved rest this half term – we can’t wait for what November has in store!

Contact us with any questions
Tel 02087483984

Year Group Updates



Year 5

Black History Month was celebrated enthusiastically by Year 5, who as a typical multicultural Lowther class were keen to learn about one of Britain's oldest multicultural communities. We studied the history of Tiger Bay in Cardiff, where immigrants settled from the 1850s, and learned how one of its most famous daughters, Betty Campbell, overcame prejudice and adversity.

The children learned about Betty's remarkable achievement in becoming the first black head teacher in Wales and wrote poems to celebrate her accomplishments. They also drew some very good sketches of the statue which was unveiled in her honour last month and delivered an excellent presentation about their learning in our Welcome Back Assembly.

In English the children worked hard on an extended piece of writing as they created their own Greek myths, while in Maths they did well in statistics, drawing line graphs and learning how to read timetables.

Our study of Space and the Solar System in Science was reinforced with some cross-curricular learning in Computing lessons, when the children enjoyed using Scratch to create and programme their own animations featuring rockets heading to distant planets.

Year 5 have had an excellent start to their year, we're looking forward to continuing the great work.



Year 6

Year 6 have continued learning and working at a rocket pace and are having a brilliant start to the year! We have begun swimming at St Paul's and also visited Holly Lodge to learn about Richmond Park during WW1.

As part of our WW2 topic, we have been learning about the countries involved in the war and their leaders, focussing especially on the commonwealth countries that supported Britain and her allies. This was further explored during our Black History Month learning, where we learnt about the Windrush and the impact that this important vessel had on changing British society in the post-war years.

We presented our learning during the diversity assembly, and you can view our fantastic presentation (and more of our learning!) on our year group webpage on the school website :)

Our Holly Lodge trip was great fun, and we learnt how to dig for victory, send signals by semaphore, as well as bandage wounds! The guides explained to us the important role that Richmond Park played during both WW1 and WW2, and we saw at first-hand how the country changed during this period. We also used our time in the park to conduct a fantastic maths investigation, measuring the height of trees and estimating their ages.

In Maths this half term we have been learning about place value and operations, and applying these into different reasoning and problem solving contexts. We enjoyed learning about BODMAS – the order of operations to solve difficult problems – and using this knowledge to crack codes and break down multi-step challenges. This learning, along with long division (!) and the high expectations in Year 6, has been challenging at times, but we have seen great resilience from the children and a real appetite to succeed!

We have continued to learn about Light in our science lessons; investigating how light is refracted in a prism and how shadows are formed and can change size. One lesson that we greatly enjoyed was investigating how the human eye functions, and proving that we all have a 'blind spot' that can seriously inhibit our daily vision!

In computing, we have introduced the concept of 'physical computing', exploring the potential of Micro:Bits as hardware we can code and program to carry out a function in reality. We have been coding on the screen, using different instructions and computing languages, and then flashing this to the hardware to observe out algorithms come to life!

We are looking forward to more upcoming trips, including the National Army Museum and a special Science, Technology and Engineering day at school, as well as all the magic that Christmas at Lowther has to offer! :)

Suggested free day: ut: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/> The Natural History Museum is a completely free and wonderful place to spend a day at the weekend. From dinosaurs to earthquakes to crystals, the Natural History Museum has something for everyone, and is a fun and interactive way to support learning and wonder at the world around us!



Contact us with any questions

Tel 02087483984

Email: info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Lowther Leavers

Pupils successfully graduate from Lowther and go on to a wide variety of secondary schools. Most stay in the state sector and go to schools in Richmond Borough but many also go into the independent sector, successfully securing scholarships and passing entrance exams. We are extremely proud of our pupils as they graduate from Lowther and move on to the next chapter in their learning journey. We know they will continue to fly!

Look out for a feature soon on some of our Lowther alumni and what they've done since graduating from Lowther.

The table below shows the huge variety of schools Lowther graduates have moved onto over the last 4 years.



Where do our students go on to when they finish Year 6 at Lowther?

The class of 2021 <i>43 pupils</i>		The class of 2020 <i>42 pupils</i>		The class of 2019 <i>38 pupils</i>		The class of 2018 <i>46 pupils</i>	
Al Risalah Boys 1	Fulham College 1	Ark Putney 3	Putney High 1	Aschcroft 1	Chiswick 3	Ark Putney 1	Chiswick 3
Ark 5	Richmond Park Academy 12	Christ's 3	Richmond Park Academy 11	Christ's 6	Richmond Park Academy 16	Christ's 8	Richmond Park Academy 11
Arts Educational 1	Ibstock 2	Emmanuel 1	Latymer 1	The Oratory 1	Thomas's Battersea 1	Burlington Danes 1	St Paul's Girls 1
Chiswick 3	Kingston Grammar 1	Fulham Cross 6	Chiswick 2	Grey Court 1	Chelsea Academy 1	Grey Court 1	Kew House 2
Christ's Hospital 1	Fulham Cross 1	Ibstock 3	Grey Court 1	Ibstock 2	Three Rivers 1	Ibstock 1	Richmond upon Thames 7
Christ's 3	Putney High 1	Orleans 1	West London Free 3	Lady Margaret 1	West London Free 2	Orleans 1	West London Free 1
Coombe girls 1	Queens College 1	Kingston Grammar 1	Oratory 1	Abroad 2		Abroad 4	Harrodian 2
Emmanuel 1	Raynes Park High 1	Southfields 1	Harrodian 1			Radnor House 2	Instituto Espanol Canada Blanch 1
Abroad 1	Richmond upon Thames 1	Radnor House 1	Abingdon House 1			Sacred Heart High School 1	
Ryde School 1	St Paul's 1						
Swedish School 2	Claremont 1						

Do come and talk to someone on the team if you'd like to know more about the transition to secondary school or further information on any of the local secondary schools.

Contact us with any questions

Tel 02087483984

Email: info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Lowther News

Pumpkin Fun!

A huge thank you to all our families who took part in the Pumpkin competition. We ended up having nearly 80 entries—which was fantastic. I think we may well run the competition again! Below is what we shared on the school's Twitter account. If you don't check in with our Tweets we recommend you do as it's a great way of staying connected to the school.



Mental Health support

Mental Health charity "Place2Be" have launched [Parenting Smart](#) for all UK parents and carers of 4-11 year olds. The Parenting Smart site is completely free to use and access, full of tips and advice on a range of topics including transition to secondary school, meltdowns, and sleep difficulties. Visit their full site for the latest resources.

Coat Drive

We wanted to draw your attention to the Calling London Coat Drive. With Covid-19 causing hardship for society's most vulnerable people, coat donations are needed now more than ever.

Charitable organisations such as foodbanks, Crisis, Hestia, St Mungo's and others supporting victims of homelessness and domestic violence, have seen a huge increase in demand for their services during the pandemic. Now, more vulnerable people in the capital lack the ability to afford some of the most basic things, such as food for their families and a warm coat for the winter.

Our Barnes offices will be open as donation points for unwanted winter coats throughout November. Email frances@callinglondon.org.uk

Football festival



Well done to our Y4 girls football squad who had great fun at their debut performance at the Rocks Lane football festival. Great job girls!

Prayer Group

Some of our parents would like to start a Lowther Prayer group. The idea would be that the group would meet up every half term to pray for the school, the staff, the pupils and other aspects of school life and to think about a short thought from the bible. If this is something you'd be interested in getting involved with please drop an email to Kristina Passmore kclpassmore@gmail.com.

Performance Poetry

Our annual performance poetry competition was another huge success. We had children from all the years from one to six perform poems for half the school at a time to listen to. There were individual performances, groups, raps, songs, poems with strong messages, poems which made us all laugh. It was a great deal of fun and really showcased the range of talents we have in our fantastic school. Superb job children.

Mini Basket

Our fantastic friends at St Paul's asked that we share this exciting opportunity for children to play basketball - this is a great local opportunity—and children get to try this out for free too! It definitely gets our vote.

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

Lowther News

Key contacts

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.

Urgent enquiries or Safeguarding concerns: Please ensure you phone the office so this is addressed quickly. Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are Mrs Bere, Mr Ripley and Mrs Hughes.

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 anyone of us by phone or in person. You can also email us at headteacher@lowther.richmond.sch.uk



A key area for our school is to ensure attendance across the school is excellent. The minimum expectation for all pupils is **96% attendance**. Attendance below this falls in to a category of concern. As you can see from the table that our current school attendance is below 96% in each and every year group. Whilst we understand that we have had a Covid outbreak this year at school alongside a series of nasty colds, we do expect everyone to pull together and ensure children attend school each and every day.

To put the absence into context: 5% absence would equate to 58 hours (nearly 2 school weeks) of lost learning in a year per pupil and a whopping 348 hours during their time at primary school. This is the equivalent of missing a whole terms worth of learning. In previous years we have had very good attendance so we really appreciate your support in communicating to the children that every school day counts.

The class attendance totals are indicated on the table. Please ask your child's teacher or at the office if you would like to know your child's attendance.

Attendance Update

Oak 94.8%	Willow 96.1%
Beech 95.7%	Pine 93.1%
Maple 91.9%	Elm 93.6%
3P 92.0%	3J 91.4%
4TS 93.3%	4N 92.5%
5N 93.8%	
6C 89.5%	6R 92.3%
School Total 93%	Minimum school expectation for all pupils is 96%

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