



# Lowther

## *We love learning at Lowther*

### Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome back! We're delighted to be writing the first newsletter of the year! What a fabulous year of learning, fun and opportunity we've got in store for your awesome children.

It's been truly brilliant to see all of the children back at school, and we must say they have come back to school superbly. All of the team here at Lowther have been so impressed by our awesome pupils and their spot-on attitudes to learning. It's looking like it's going to be another amazing year of learning and discovery!

As well as the buzz in the classrooms we've certainly been busy in the office too, giving out Bling Blings and certificates aplenty already! Long may that continue!

There's lots to catch up on in this month's newsletter so we hope you find it useful. There's the usual mixture of all the class reports, the book recommendations and school news. We'd also like to draw your attention to the fantastic academic achievements of our pupils which are highlighted in the newsletter too. Children at Lowther do exceptionally well because they are well taught, have great attitudes to learning, enjoy school, work hard and are happy. We're extremely proud of them.

I'm sure we'll all work together this year to make this school year another truly fantastic one at Lowther! Thank you for your wonderful support in making this happen.

Here's to a fantastic year at Lowther!

*Mark, Alastair and Hannah*



We love learning in lots of different ways at Lowther. As you can see from the photograph the children are happy to be back with their friends and engaging and enjoying their learning..



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Please like our  
Facebook page

## STAY CONNECTED

Check our  
website

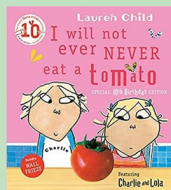
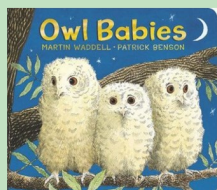
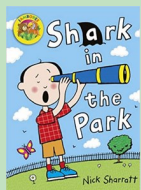
## Exciting Reading News!

# The Lowther Reading Spine

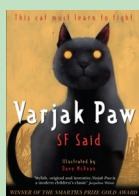
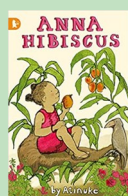
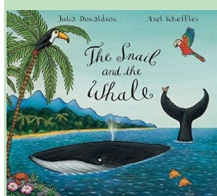
The Lowther Reading Spine, a core of books which will create a living library in children's minds. Working together, children, parents, carers and staff will use the spine to ensure that Lowther's pupils are introduced to a wonderful selection of high-quality books during their journey through the school.

Teachers from each year group have chosen key texts which will inspire, excite and motivate children as readers. Whether they are reading a story independently, listening to an adult read to them, studying a book in class or reading in a small group, our children will find that the books on our Reading Spine have been chosen to fire their imagination and foster a love of reading that will be with them throughout their lives.

The idea of a Reading Spine was created by Pie Corbett, the renowned English guru, to help schools build a store of the very best books for children. Our selection includes classics, new titles, poetry, works from authors with diverse backgrounds and challenging texts that will help children engage at a deeper level with reading, the most crucial and liberating of all skills.



*Let's get reading!*



## A Lowther HAT-TRICK!

A huge thank you to all the children, parents and staff who knitted and crocheted mini hats for Age UK as part of the Innocent Smoothies fundraiser. Between us we have made 212 hats! What a super effort for such a good cause



## Could you foster?

Nexus Fostering is a well-established and highly regarded fostering agency, based in Harrow, who are urgently seeking full-time & respite foster carers throughout the area. The agency is rated Ofsted 'Outstanding' in all areas and place a high premium on the quality of support and care that they provide to every one of the foster carers and, in turn, the children and young people placed with them.

To find out more about becoming a foster carer or a respite carer in London and surrounding areas please call 0800 389 0143 or email [foster@nexusfostering.co.uk](mailto:foster@nexusfostering.co.uk)

Contact us with any questions  
Tel 02087483984  
Email: [info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk)

## Academic Results Update



At Lowther we pride ourselves on many things—one of which is just how well our children do academically. Normally there are national assessments at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) and the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6). However, the last two years these assessments have been cancelled. We however, continue to track and monitor our pupils achievement and progress. The results for last years Year 2 and 6 are illustrated below alongside the national averages. As you can see our pupils have done very well indeed!

(Note EXS = the national expected standard.

GDS = is the higher national standard, also known as “greater depth”

### Year 2

<b>Subject</b>	<b>EXS+</b>	<b>National average EXS+</b>	<b>GDS</b>	<b>National Average GDS</b>
Reading	83%	75%	22%	25%
Writing	78%	69%	19%	15%
Maths	78%	76%	24%	22%
Combined	73%	65%	17%	11%

### Year 6

<b>Subject</b>	<b>EXS+</b>	<b>National average EXS+</b>	<b>GDS</b>	<b>National Average GDS</b>
Reading	89%	73%	47%	27%
Writing	83%	78%	32%	20%
Maths	92%	79%	49%	36%
Combined	83%	65%	36%	11%
Grammar	87%	78%	47%	27%



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# Lowther *More News*



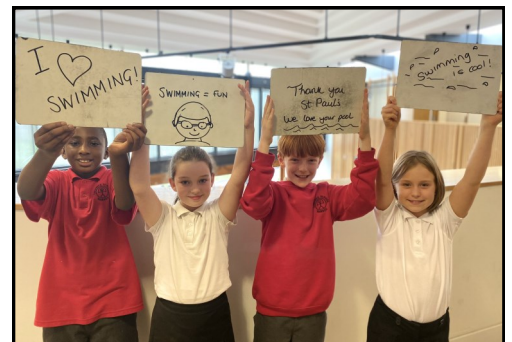
Our fabulous new canopy, as paid for by fundraising through the PTA is now providing our youngest children with year round outside learning. We love it!



Cooking is up and running at Lowther. Chef Sarah and Chef Clare continue to work their magic with the children. We definitely enjoyed the apple crumble we were served by Year 6 in the office the other day!



Not many schools can say, we had Stormzy come to our school! But we can! It was fantastic, inspirational afternoon with him. We're hoping, maybe one day he'll come back and do some poetry with us. Fingers crossed eh!



We love swimming! Thanks to our partnership with St Paul's our children in Key stage 2 continue to receive regular swimming lessons at St.Paul's.



Year 3 became the first Lowther class ever, that we know of, to visit Stonehenge! What a fantastic trip. We're looking forward to giving all our children the opportunity to learn in lots of exciting ways, including many more trips and learning adventures.

## STAFF UPDATE

As you know some of our teaching assistants have recently moved on from Lowther. We continue to have an extremely high adult to pupil ratio as our average class size is only 22 (the norm is 30) Not only that, but each and every one of our teaching assistants is experienced and highly skilled in their role. The teaching team we have at Lowther currently is exceptional. There is a fabulous wealth of skill, knowledge and experience.

Perhaps, most importantly, all of the team here at Lowther have chosen Lowther and have a genuine love of their job and our school.





## Did you know?

Lowther's centenary is fast approaching! The school is now 91 years old.

The main building still stands as the centre point, with the site being developed further since 2009 with the addition of our two modern extensions when the school moved from 1 form entry to 2 form entry.

## Policy update



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

This year we have launched our new behaviour policy. This centres around three core elements of all children being ready, respectful and safe.

Behaviour at Lowther is excellent and attitudes to school are first class. We believe the changes made to the policy will give even greater clarity and consistency to all — teacher, pupils and parents.

If you would like to view the updated policy you may view it on the school website via the Parent drop down menu.

Thank you for supporting us so brilliantly with great attendance last year. We hit our minimum expectation target of 96%.

It's been a tough start to the school year with Covid cases in some of our year groups. Please help us bring our figures back up to their usual high standards by ensuring your child is at school every day.

Congratulations to Reception who have the best attendance at school so far this year!

## Attendance Update!

For the period from the start of the new school year

Group	March to present
Reception	95%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	89%
Year 4	91%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	91%
<b>Overall school attendance</b>	<b>92%</b>

# Lowther Literature



*We recommend these books as a super read.*

All the books this month are taken from the rather fantastic Lowther Reading Spine.

EYFS



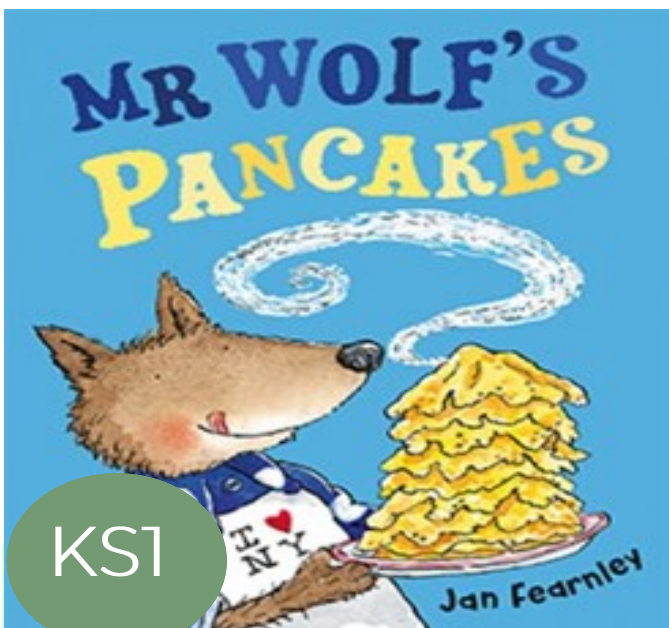
LKS2



UKS2



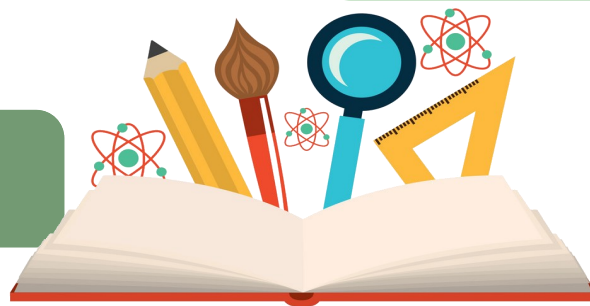
KS1



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# Year Group Updates



## Nursery

We've been delighted to see that the children in Nursery have all settled well and have been learning the Lowther Nursery routine. Impressive work children!

We have spent time learning to share and take turns. We have introduced a self help snack bar which, as you can imagine, is proving popular.

We have had great fun using our amazing new covered outside area. Huge thanks to parents for helping to make this happen. We are also thoroughly enjoying using our new extended play space (which is huge!) once the gates are closed each morning.

We love reading in Nursery and so our book recommendation is My Mum and Dad Make Me Laugh by Nick Sharratt. Check it out, it's a great book.



## Reception

We couldn't be prouder of the way the children have settled into life at big school!

The children have had lots of fun exploring the many areas of their new classroom. Learning how to safely use a hammer in the woodwork area to paying for their fruit in the snack shop and enjoying eating it with friends. Oh and outside too, creating delicious dinners in the mud kitchen and potions in the potion area. On windy days the children have made their own kites and have enjoyed physical challenges from basketball to tennis, climbing and creating obstacle courses.

In Phonics we have been working on our oral blending and segmenting skills. We have been super impressed by the children's ability to listen carefully to all the sounds in a word (e.g. p-e-g) and then 'blend' or 'put' the sounds back together (e.g. a child hears p-e-g and says peg).

The children have then had the challenge of segmenting words, breaking them up to say each individual sound. We have enjoyed playing lots of games such as I spy, silly soup, cross the river and Kim's game to practise these skills.

In Maths we have explored the concepts of matching, sorting and counting. We had lots of fun matching objects like socks and animals. We moved onto sorting objects into categories such as food, not food, yellow and green as well as the children creating their own categories

and playing 'guess my rule' when sorting objects. The children have loved playing the beanbag game, skittles and having a basketball shoot out to practise the skill of counting remembering our two special things putting objects in a line and using our pointing finger to touch each object as we count.

The children have done a super job at sharing as well as listening to peers share their 'All About Me' bags. It has been a delight to hear and see the children so proudly show favourite books and toys, family photos and importantly their favourite food! We have really enjoyed reading Michael Rosen's We're Going on a Bear Hunt. In preparation for going on our very own Bear Hunt around school, we have retold the story with actions and props, created bear crafts and even made them some dens (in the small world area).

At the end of the day we have been busy with our five minutes of fine motor fun from paper scrunching to peg dancing and next week we will start dough disco. All with the aim to strengthen our fingers for writing! Finally we have loved our brand new 'singing and rhyme time', having a fantastic time singing familiar songs as well as learning new ones. Phew we have been busy! We know the coming month will bring more blossoming friendships and we can't wait for more adventurous exploring and wonderful learning!



# Year Group Updates



## Year 1

Beech and Pine Class have had a really successful start to Year 1. The children were delighted to see each other after the long summer break and have reformed some great friendships in their new classes. The children have taken on the greater expectations of independence, listening and attention skills.

Our first topic of the year is All About Me. This is a great way to get to know the children and we explore the topic through the Charlie and Lola book series by Lauren Child. So far in English, the children have been working on sentence writing. This involves planning their own sentence, counting out the words in the sentence, segmenting (hear/say) the sounds in the words and forming letters correctly. We have also been working on using punctuation like capital letters, full stops and finger spaces.



In Maths, the children have been revising their mental maths skills doing speed counting challenges. We then worked on counting in twos and understand the concept of pairs of objects. We then moved on to comparing skills; comparing greater than, less than and equal amounts or quantities. This week, we are working on addition skills and finding number families using The Part Whole Method. If you want to see how the children use a Part Whole Model watch this clip: <https://vimeo.com/461356119>

In Science, the children have been out and about on Nature Trails around the allotment exploring Autumn and seasonal changes. They have been collecting autumnal objects to discuss in class and even learning an Autumn Song in Music lessons. In Computing, we have been discussing what makes a machine, we have been using iPad to draw pictures and access QR codes. In P.E. the children have been working on their safety skills, independence getting changed into their kit and beginning their work on Gymnastics this term where we develop balance and coordination. Finally, in R.E. the children have been discussing their own family values and discussing how we show respect to different beliefs and ideas.



Well done Year 1 for a fantastic start to the year!

## Year 2

Year 2 have made an excellent start to the school year! We have dived straight into our learning exploring all things 'London'. Want to know who built St Pauls Cathedral? Or why the Waterloo Bridge is also known as 'The Ladies Bridge'? Ask our Year 2 experts!

In Maths we have been focussing on place value and learning to count in 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's. We have also been thinking about fact families to and beyond 20 and representing 2 digit numbers in different ways.



We loved our trip into London. We set sail on a boat down the River Thames and saw lots of London monuments including The London Eye, Tate Modern and The Shard. We also saw a big lion statue near Westminster Bridge which was just like the one from 'Katie in London'.

In Art we have started to explore colour and have thought about what the primary, secondary and tertiary colours are. We have learned about warm and cool colours and have created our very own 'warm' and 'cool' paintings.

We have also been learning about The Great Fire of London and have had fun exploring the similarities and differences between London in 1666 to the present day.

Contact us with any questions  
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Email: [info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk)



# Year Group Updates



## Year 3

Year 3 have had a very busy start to the year!

We celebrated Roald Dahl day with craft, science experiments, reading and of learning about Roald Dahl himself! Roald Dahl Day was an exciting start to our English unit studying poetry. We have been focussed on developing our understanding of poetic devices and creating poems that are entertaining for the reader. The children have learnt about amazing alliteration, onomatopoeia and rhyming couplets. We are very excited about sharing the poems we have created in Performance Poetry Assembly. Along with English, the children have been extremely engaged during History and Art lessons.

We have been studying Stone Age in history. This was complimented by art lessons where we learned about rock and cave art. We have used charcoal, chalk, pastels and shading pencils to create art work inspired by the Stone Age and art created in the Stone Age. The children have displayed their curiosity and interest to learning about the past when doing observational drawings. They practised their observation in preparation for drawing Stonehenge and the Neolithic houses near Stonehenge. Our Stonehenge trip was a huge success with children learning lots about how stone age people lived. The children were especially impressed by the sheer size and structure of Stonehenge!



## Year 4

What a start to the new year! Year 4 have been very busy, truly throwing themselves into our topic of Rainforests!

In Geography we have been using maps and keys to work out the differences between climate and weather in different locations, whilst in science we have looked closely at the animal kingdom – finding different ways to group our world's creatures.



We have also linked the Rainforest topic closely to our English, Computing and Art/DT units. In English the children have been looking into a selection of rainforest creatures in great detail, working on up levelling their descriptive vocabulary, using thesauruses and writing kenning poetry based on their animal! In Computing we have been practicing our digital literacy skills – using Microsoft PowerPoint and careful research via search engines to create informative slideshows on our animals.

In Art our focus has been on the use of using natural resources. The sketches and leaf-prints made by the children have been stunning and showcased their creative flair! In Maths we have been consolidating our understanding of the foundations of Maths, with place value in 4-digit numbers being our main focus. The children have partitioned numbers in different ways and shown a growing understanding of how these can be placed on a number-line.

Finally, we have been lucky enough to take part in the wonderful Roald Dahl Day again this year - alongside Year 3 - which was a day of fun activities and crazy costumes! Last week also saw the arrival of our Year 4 caterpillars, which are growing fast. The children have named their little ones and are enjoying watching them change. Hopefully they will be ready for release by our themed 'Rainforest Day' next month!



Contact us with any questions  
Tel 02087483984

# Year Group Updates



## Year 5

Year 5 have started the year with great enthusiasm and really thrown themselves into our work on Ancient Greece. Learning about Greek myths and legends in English allowed the children to show off their excellent acting skills with performances of Theseus and the Minotaur in class. They then moved on to write their own playscripts telling the story of Daedalus and Icarus, the boy who flew too close to the sun. In History we have learned about the rivalry between Athens and Sparta and the Greek gods and goddesses, while the quality of the many models made as homework has been tremendous. The children have also been enjoying listening to our class novel, Who Let the Gods Out by Maz Evans.

In Maths we have been consolidating our understanding of number and place value and are now moving on to formal methods of calculation.

Our Science work has included learning about the orbits of the Earth, Sun and Moon while in PE we have improved our passing and movement skills in netball. There has been plenty of active learning, with the children working to improve their fitness in the Daily Mile and relishing the return to swimming at St Paul's for the first time since Year 3. After that long a gap there were understandably a few nerves before our first session, but the way the class worked together and encouraged everyone to do their best was superb.



## Year 6

Welcome back! We have had a busy start to the new school year: we have already been on two trips and eagerly started new learning and new routines!



Over the autumn term, our learning will focus around World War II. We will firstly look at the outbreak of war and what life was like throughout it, particularly for those living in London during the Blitz. Our English work this term will link closely to our theme on World War II and will include descriptive writing, writing newspaper reports and information texts.

We have visited a local air-raid shelter in Sheen and learnt about our local area, and spent an instructive day exploring the Imperial War Museum. Children (and adults) greatly enjoyed investigating the many vehicles, machines and artefacts on display!

We continue with the theme of war and espionage with our unplugged Computing lessons on Cryptology and how we can create our own codes using algorithms and different types of cyphers.

In Maths, we are ensuring our understanding of place value and operations are spot on, while our Science topic for the term is Light, and we have begun investigating how light travels and how we see colours. We have conducted a number of experiments around code-breaking, creating shadows and proving that light travels in a straight line. We are looking forward to building periscopes and finding blind spots in the coming weeks!



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# Lowther Loves Events!

We're not sure we can organise many events that quite match Stormzy coming to assembly at Lowther but we'll certainly have a good try!

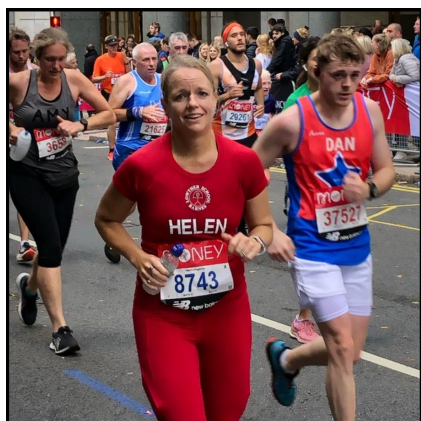
We really believe in trying to make school a happy and memorable experience for all of our children alongside the high academic standards we have for our pupils too. It's been tricky to have lots of events in Covid times but we're planning on trying to get back to our usual routines as much as possible this year.



## Lowther Diary

Date	Event
Autumn Term	
Tuesday 5th October	Y3 Girls football tournament
Thursday 7th October	Whole School Performance Poetry finals (this will be recorded and shared with parents via Google Classroom)
Tuesday 12th October	Y4 Rainforest Day
Thursday 14th October	Y4 Girls football tournament
Thursday 14th October	Y2 Scooter Training
Monday 18th October	Parent's Evening
Tuesday 19th October	Parent's Evening
Wednesday 20th October	Y6 World War 2 trip to Holly Lodge
Friday 22nd October	Harvest Assembly (this will be done via video again this year)
Half Term Week (Saturday 23rd October until Sunday 31st October)	
Monday 1st November	Inset Day

# Lowther Loves Fundraising!



Wow! Helen McDermott, a former Lowther Parent, has run the London Marathon to raise money for music provision at Lowther. What a fantastic cause. She's aiming to reach a whopping £6,000. As you can see, she's nearly topped £5,000 already! A huge thank you to all of you that have sponsored Helen. It's not too late to help us hit the target. Scan the QR code below and you can donate now!

The amount of money you, as parents, raised each year is simply incredible. Thank you all so much for your wonderful support of our school in what continues to be an extremely tough time for schools financially. You can donate to the school via our fundraising events and our Virgin money giving donations page on the website. This support is essential for us and makes such a huge difference to our school. Thanks again for your brilliant support. The challenge now is to see if we can continue to raise such fantastic sums. Check out this page on the website which has all the details of how you can make donations, either regular or one-offs, to the school. <https://www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/fundraising.php>



Please support her amazing effort by scanning the QR code.

Thank you!



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Our open days for prospective parents are occurring throughout the next 4 months. Do tell your friends to come and visit our wonderful school and find out why Lowther is such a great place to send your child to.

There are further details on the school website via the "Welcome" drop down.



## We love learning at Lowther

### Open Days

Thursday **21st October** 2021  
9.30am - 10.30am

Thursday **18th November** 2021  
1.30pm - 2.30pm

Thursday **25th November** 2021  
6pm - 7pm

Thursday **13th January** 2022  
9.30am - 10.30am

Thursday **21st April** 2022  
1.30pm - 2.30pm



Academic results in the TOP 6% of schools nationally






Lowther Primary School, Stillingfleet Road, Barnes, SW13 9AE

Tel: 020 8748 3984
www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

### Fantastic club for children with ASD

The All Aboard Club operates regularly from the Community Centre (as well as other local sites) and is a fantastic play based provision for children with ASD or ADHD. It comes highly recommended for primary aged pupils. There are further details on their website and social media.





### Inclusive play sessions for autistic & ADHD children

**All Aboard Club runs play sessions for autistic & ADHD children, where they can play with our giant train sets in a safe, understanding and inclusive environment.**

Our sessions are run by staff with lived experience of autism/ADHD — see our website/social media for details of venues and dates.

**Web:** [www.allaboardclub.com](http://www.allaboardclub.com)  
**Email:** [info@allaboardclub.com](mailto:info@allaboardclub.com)  
**Phone/text:** 07948 407343


All Aboard Club



**We care ... because we've been there**



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# Lowther News

## Community Events

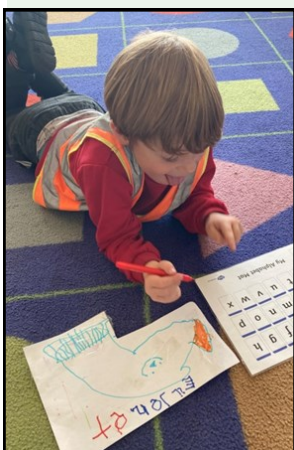


We ran our annual stall at the Barnes Food Fair. It looked truly fantastic and it was great to have such a prominent presence at a prestigious local event. Thank you to everyone that baked such high quality cakes and helped on the stall (See picture for the quality of products on offer). In addition, the children have worked with Chef Claire and Chef Sarah preparing jams, chutneys and biscuits to sell — all made with ingredients from our lovely school allotment. We made a healthy profit of nearly £500 from the event.

Huge thanks to all of you that came to the rather super Welcome BBQ. It was great to have a school social. Here's to many more! We even turned a profit of over £700! Thank you all for your support and engagement in school life.



## Welcome to Reception class!



A very special welcome to our 41 wonderful new children in our Reception classes and to their families too. We're delighted you've chosen to join the Lowther School Family. The Reception class teachers and I have been hugely impressed with how well the children have started at "Big School!" Also a huge welcome to our other new families, we're delighted that 10 new children have joined Lowther in September—we're sure you're going to love it!

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# Lowther News

## COVID update

As you know we are working hard to manage cases locally and keep our community safe. We have sent out our school guidelines for everyone to follow but we thought it was worth sharing some of the things that you can do to help us manage the situation:

- 1) Inform the school if your child tests positive. Please also engage with NHS track and trace.
- 2) If your child displays any of the usual symptoms please do a test (either a lateral flow, or preferably a PCR test) These are both readily available.
- 3) Even if your child is not displaying any symptoms please consider regular testing of your child (teachers are testing twice a week still).
- 4) If someone in your household tests positive you can still send other members into school but we politely request that they do a PCR test before they come in.
- 5) Please note that some cases have not shown any symptoms at all and some have shown different symptoms such as a headache, feeling sick, feeling achy. It is really worth considering regular testing at home as typical symptoms are not always evident.
- 6) Please wear a face mask on the school site.
- 7) Please keep your time on the school site to a minimum and respect social distancing wherever possible.

As you know we have reintroduced additional safety measures for adults and children at school to help keep the children and community safe and we believe that the virus is being managed effectively at a local level.

Thank you for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.

## UNIFORM MATTERS

The children have come back looking very smart in their uniform. Please do name ALL of your children's uniform including jumpers, PE kit, coats and trainers/shoes. If it's named it's a very simple process for us to return the uniform to the owner. By far the most common "left" items are jumpers and coats.

Please take note of some of the key aspects of school uniform

- NO jewellery (aside from stud earrings and watches)
- Shoulder length hair must be tied back
- Trainers for class **MUST** be ALL black (not black with a white sole etc.) Trainers for PE can be any colour.
- NO boots to be worn to class.
- No jogging bottoms/tracksuit - must be proper trousers or shorts.
- Here is a link to the uniform policy if you need any further details.

[www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/uniform](http://www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk/uniform)

Thank you for your support in this matter.

## Leaning English

**ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE**  
**Would you like to improve your English?**

**Find out more:**  
**Come to our FREE coffee morning**  
**Wednesday, 13 October**  
**0945 – 1115**



**BCA English School**  
**Rose House**  
**70 Barnes High Street**

[www.englishinbarnes.co.uk](http://www.englishinbarnes.co.uk)  
**0208 87872**  
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