



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 1

10th September 2012

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Year

Here we are! A new school year is upon us and I'm so excited at what lies ahead. Seeing the children come back to school on Thursday was marvellous. We'd had 3 very good inset days having staff training, getting the school ready and so on. But a school with no children in isn't quite right! The children's smiles, enthusiasm for school and happiness to get cracking was fantastic. It is now our job to make sure we provide your children with the very best learning opportunities and experiences. It is a challenge I am very much looking forward to.



Let's get Learning!

Some dates for your diary

Important school dates will be available online in due course. For now here are the dates so far for the first half term.

September

17th – KSI Curriculum forecast 2.15pm

5-6pm Tour of the new building

18th – Year 6 Curriculum forecast 2.45pm

19th – Year 4 Curriculum forecast 2.45pm

20th – Year 5 Curriculum forecast 2.45pm

21st – Year 3 Curriculum forecast 2.45pm

22nd – Barnes Food Fair

Open House

24th New building opens

26th Reception/KSI Rainforest workshops

28th New building opening party

October

1st - Year 6 Britain at War

2nd—Year 1 Gunnersbury Park Museum

5th – New building Grand Opening

15th and 16th— Parents Eve

17th – Rec/KSI Perform Drama Workshops

19th – Year 2 – Tower of London

24th - Harvest Assembly (whole school)

29th – Half term (we return on Monday 5th November)

A special welcome to Nursery and Reception children and Families

We are delighted to welcome our Nursery and Reception children into BIG school this week. It's always a special time when children begin these landmark years. I'm sure I'll be giving out a lot of gold stickers in the coming week. An extra special welcome to families that are new to Lowther—we hope you love being part of the Lowther School Family.

The Grand opening 2012

We are planning an opening party for the new building. It will be a mixture of performances from some of the children, a few thank yous, tours and a community tea party and games afternoon.

It's due to take place on Friday 28th September 2012 from 2-3pm with the tea party then from 3-5pm. It'd be lovely to get a really big turn out. If you have children or friends that used to come to Lowther please invite them along too. We'd love everyone to join in the celebration. Further details to follow but please pencil the date in for now.



Sport, Olympics and competition

Weren't the Olympics and Paralympics amazing?! I loved every minute of it. We certainly intend to build on the momentum created by the success of both games. At Lowther for some time now we have believed in the right balance of participation and competitiveness in sport. We want all the children to have great involvement in sport but that must be coupled with some elements of competitiveness. To be really good at a sport you have to have that competitive drive. Our job is to nurture that and to ensure children know how to balance that with a sense of fun and enjoyment of being active.

As well as Mr. Pritchard continuing to offer specialist PE teaching this year for Years 2 –5 Tania is currently busy organising the clubs schedule for this year — we intend to have an even bigger and better selection than ever before — so watch this space.



Year 6 like the rest of the school were ready to come back to school and get stuck into learning. I was really impressed with how quickly and well the children settled back into school life. Awesome work children!



Final Building Update

I'm sure like me you're itching to have a look around the new building. We have planned some special open days for parents and families to come and have a look around the new facilities in case you can't make the sneak preview on the 17th.

These will take place on

Monday 24th September from 8-845am and from 2—3pm

Tuesday 25th September from 8-845 and from 530—630 pm

I look forward to showing you round our wonderful new facilities.

Parentmail

This is the easiest and quickest way for you to stay in touch with important events at school. Most families have signed up but if you haven't please do so at the school office.

PTA — join in!

The PTA is a great way to get involved in school life. Do think about getting involved—they're all a very friendly crowd and there is no commitment. Just do what you can. The PTA have done so many things that help make a difference for the children.

Parent Survey Results 2012

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the surveys included with your child's end of year report. We had responses from just under 100 families. The results of your views are included here for information. Rest assured this plays a vital part in helping the school to prioritise areas for improvement. Thanks again for helping us with this.

Open House

We are delighted to again be part of Open House weekend. This is a London wide opportunity for the public to see buildings they wouldn't normally be able to. Our wonderful Foundation Stage will be on show from 10 -1 on Saturday 22nd September,

A quote from a pupil on day 1 at Lowther 2012.

"It was good to be back and see my friends. I've had a really fun day."

| Please tick | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|----------------|-------|-----------|-------------------|
| My child feels safe as part of the Lowther School Family | 77% | 23% | | |
| My child is making good progress at Lowther | 69% | 29% | 1% | 1% |
| Lowther meets my child's particular needs. | 57% | 42% | 1% | |
| The school ensures my child is well looked after. | 70% | 29% | 1% | |
| My child is taught well at Lowther | 76% | 24% | | |
| The school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics. | 76% | 23% | | 1% |
| There is a good standard of behaviour at Lowther | 52% | 47% | 1% | |
| My child's lessons are not disrupted by bad behaviour. | 55% | 41% | 4% | |
| The school deals with any cases of bullying effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying) | 59% | 38% | 3% | |
| The school helps me to support my child's learning. | 70% | 28% | 2% | |
| The school responds well to my concerns. | 74% | 26% | | |
| The school keeps me well informed. | 70% | 29% | 1% | |
| I would recommend Lowther Primary School to another parent. | Yes | 100% | No | |

Hot Healthy Lunches this year

We have some exciting plans for launching a new and improved hot meal service this year upon completion of the new cooking facilities. Please read all the details on the attachment to this letter.

We can't wait for healthy hot meals at Lowther!

School priorities for 2012-2013

Each year the senior leaders alongside governors review the school year and decide on the priorities for the coming year. We have now done this piece of work—it includes lots of different aspects of school life and really focuses on the key stepping stones to keep moving Lowther onwards and upwards. If you'd like to know about these plans you are very welcome to drop in and see Mrs Colenso or myself.

Our number 1 priority this year is focused on classroom practice—the nuts and bolts of school life. We want all lessons to be good or better. This is always a focus, but this year we are really focused on ways to make teaching truly superb. We have a wonderful team at Lowther who are all fully committed to the school but also to developing and improving their own practice. It should be a great year of wonderful teaching and exciting learning.

Welcome back to former pupils

I am delighted that this year we will be offering two clubs to former pupils. The chef's will be running a cookery club for Years 7-9. This will be every Thursday in our amazing new teaching kitchen. I will be running a basketball club every Wednesday from 4.15 to 5.15pm to any children who are Lowther graduates. Further details to follow but for now spread the word.

Lowther School Family Building News

Come and have a look on the 17/9/12 between 5pm and 6pm

New School Building Tour

In the new building there is

- A brand new double height school hall
- 4 classrooms
- A fully equipped ICT suite and library
- A catering kitchen
- A state of the art teaching kitchen for pupils
- A new server for hot meals
- A larger and improved staff room
- A staff resource room
- Small group break-out spaces
- A group room
- A bridge link to join the existing building
- A multi-use-games area
- New benching for parents and children
- Boys and girls toilet facilities
- Storage spaces

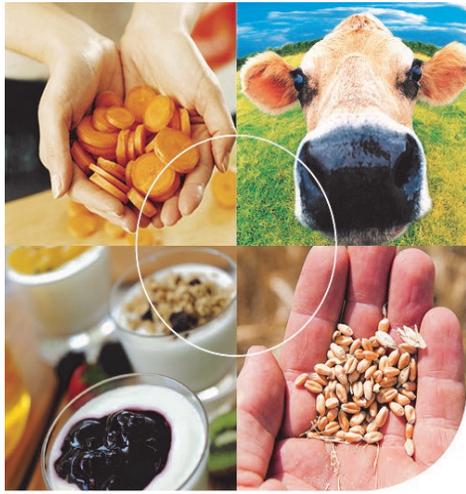


Important News regarding the new building

We are all very excited about finally getting the children into the new building space. Lakehouse have been working tirelessly to keep to the programme and to ensure that the quality we expect at Lowther is met.. The complex nature of the design and the stringent demands governors and the school are putting on the construction team mean that to ensure the very highest quality finish for your wonderful children is taking a little more time than initially expected. Lakehouse have indicated that the construction will now be complete on the 17th September but there are a number of other things that we have insisted are fully finished before we accept handover. This does mean that the children will not be moving in now until Monday 24th September 2012. I hope you understand why we have delayed this for a week. Come and see for yourself on the 17th and you will see the quality, level of detail and inspiring work space that Lakehouse have created. It WILL be worth the extra little wait. We look forward to showing you round on Monday 17th and the children starting on the 24th.

If you'd like to visit on Monday then please let the office know so we know what numbers to expect. Thank you.

Important Information regarding school meals at Lowther



Our new hot meal provision is dependant on our fantastic new kitchen being ready. As we will now have handover of the building on Monday 24th September these are the arrangements for our meal service.

Tuesday 25th September — all of Key Stage 1 (including staff) to have school dinners (no packed lunches please) ISS our caterers are offering this for FREE. KS2 to bring packed lunches.

Wednesday 26th September — all of Key Stage 2 (including staff) to have school dinners (no packed lunches please) ISS our caterers are offering this for FREE. KS1 to bring packed lunches.

From **Thursday 27th September** there will be our new cooked from fresh menu available for all families that wish for their child to have a healthy hot lunch.

Information for Reception Families

Monday 1st October - Oak class to try school dinners for free. Willows to bring packed lunch
 Tuesday 2nd October—Willow class to try school dinners for free. Oak to bring packed lunch.
 From Thursday 4th October there will be our new cooked from fresh menu available for all families in reception that wish for their child to have a healthy hot lunch.

Below are the menus which operate on a rolling 3 week rota

| WEEK ONE | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| MEAT / FISH OPTION | Sausage & Bean Casserole served with Sautéed Potatoes | Beef Bolognese served with Fusilli Pasta | Roast Pork served with Roast or New Potatoes, Gravy & Apple Sauce | Chicken & Red Pepper Pizza | Fish Fingers served with Chipped Potatoes |
| VEGETARIAN OPTION | Vegetarian Sausage & Bean Casserole served with Sautéed Potatoes | Lentil Bolognese served with Fusilli Pasta | Cheese, Tomato & Basil Pasta Bake | Tunisian Cous Cous | Vegetable Frittata served with Chipped Potatoes |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTION | Jacket Potato topped with Tuna Mayonnaise | Cheese & Tomato Baguette | Salmon & Leek Fish Cakes | Vegetable & Lentil Soup served with Crusty Bread | Jacket Potato topped with Cheese & Coleslaw |
| VEGETABLES | Peas Sweetcorn | Mixed Salad Carrots | Roast Parsnip Butternut Squash | Green Beans Cauliflower | Baked Beans Peas |
| DESSERT OF THE DAY | Lemon Drizzle Cake | Chocolate Mousse | Bananas served with Custard | Flapjack | Ice Cream |
| DATES WEEK COMMENCING | 3RD SEPTEMBER, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 15TH OCTOBER, 12TH NOVEMBER, 3RD DECEMBER, 7TH JANUARY, 28TH JANUARY | | | | |

ISS's delicious, nutritious and sustainably produced meals meet the 'Silver' [Food for Life Catering Mark](#) and will cost £2.10 per meal.

| WEEK TWO | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| MEAT / FISH OPTION | Chicken Chow Mein | Homemade Beef Burger served with Potato Wedges | Roast Chicken served with Roast or New Potatoes & Gravy | Cottage Pie | Battered Fish served with Chipped Potatoes |
| VEGETARIAN OPTION | Macaroni Cheese served with Homemade Garlic Bread | Homemade Vegetarian Burger served with Potato Wedges | Vegetarian Toad in the Hole served with Roast or New Potatoes & Gravy | Quorn Cottage Pie | Vegetarian Lasagne served with Chipped Potatoes |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTION | Jacket Potato topped with Cheese | Cheese & Coleslaw Baguette | Jacket Potato topped with Tuna Mayonnaise | Cheese & Tomato Pita Pocket | Jacket Potato topped with Beans & Cheese |
| VEGETABLES | Green Beans Sweetcorn | Roasted Tomato Mixed Salad | Broccoli Carrots | Creamed Leeks Peas | Sweetcorn Baked Beans |
| DESSERT OF THE DAY | Chocolate Beetroot Brownie | Banana Cake topped with Frosting | Apple Pie served with Custard | Chocolate & Oat Dream Cookie | Fruit Jelly |
| DATES WEEK COMMENCING | 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1ST OCTOBER, 22ND OCTOBER, 19TH NOVEMBER, 10TH DECEMBER, 14TH JANUARY, 4TH FEBRUARY | | | | |

| WEEK THREE | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| MEAT / FISH OPTION | Thai Green Curry served with Rice | Sausage & Mash served with Gravy | Roast Lamb served with Roast or New Potatoes & Gravy | Lasagne served with Homemade Garlic Bread | Fish Fingers served with Chipped Potatoes |
| VEGETARIAN OPTION | Cheese & Pasta Bake | Spicy Vegetable Rice | Vegetable Quiche | Cheese & Tomato Pizza | Vegetable Chow Mein |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTION | Jacket Potato topped with Cheese & Beans | Italian Chicken Wrap | Chicken Tikka Baguette | Jacket Potato topped with BBQ Beans | Jacket Potato topped with Tuna & Sweetcorn |
| VEGETABLES | Cauliflower Peas | Baked Beans Green Beans | Carrots Swede | Courgette Mixed Salad | Peas Sweetcorn |
| DESSERT OF THE DAY | Pear & Berry Crumble served with Custard | Chocolate Fudge Cakes served with Custard | Bread & Butter Pudding served with Custard | Carrot Cake | Ice Cream |
| DATES WEEK COMMENCING | 17TH SEPTEMBER, 8TH OCTOBER, 5TH NOVEMBER, 26TH NOVEMBER, 17TH DECEMBER, 21ST JANUARY, 11TH FEBRUARY | | | | |

All the meals that ISS provide will be cooked from fresh ingredients in our brand new state of the art kitchen. Meals will always be kept hot as our new server has purpose built hot storage. We hope you and your children like the new meal service. Please do give us feedback. Here's to having hot and healthy meals at Lowther.