



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 8

18th November 2011

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

The Key to learning

At Lowther we want children to love learning. Fostering a positive attitude to school and children thinking of themselves as a “good learner” are fundamental to children making excellent progress with their learning. This is something we have been very proud of over the years — your children’s outstanding attitude to school and to learning. This will stand them in such good stead not only as they progress through Lowther but also when they move onto secondary and to University.



Takeover Day

Last week over 50 children “took over” the school. The children became teachers, office staff and the leadership team for the day. To get the job children had to write a formal letter of application and attend an interview. The children took their new jobs very seriously. It was a great day.



SEN update

As you know Dina Kraus left her post as Inclusion manager at the end of last term. We haven’t yet recruited permanently for that position as we are reviewing how we would like that role to develop in the future. In the meantime I am delighted to announce the appointment of Kathy Moore-Stanley. Kathy has a wealth of experience and will be offering us SEN expertise for 1 day a week on an interim basis. Kathy will be starting this week and I’m sure you’ll all start to get to know her soon.

Children’s section

Some of the children in Year 4 have asked if they can contribute to the newsletter so look out in the next one for a “Children’s section”

Should be good!



Staying Safe Online

This week is anti-bullying week. Children in KS2 had a special assembly at the beginning of the week that explored the different forms of bullying. During the discussion on ‘cyber-bullying’, some children indicated that they held Facebook accounts.

Facebook’s terms and conditions state that to open an account you must be 13 years old. We would urge parents that allow their children to hold Facebook accounts to do the following:

Ensure settings are private.

Regularly check what your child is posting.

Know your child’s username and password.

There are lots of tips on the school website about how to stay safe online. Just click on Skipper’s safety button on any page for help & advice.



Notices and General Information

Nativity tickets are going fast. Due to space restrictions and to allow the performers to sparkle without interruption we ask that you do not bring young children to the main performances please.

The PTA would like spare PE kits - send in any that are clean and in good condition - a box will be left in the lobby.

Look out for the Chef’s Cake making competition homework - details to arrive soon. Here is a sneaky advance of some of the information. Cakes to be brought in on Friday morning (Christmas Fair day) and will be judged by chefs - prize and certificate for 1 winner in Nursery, Reception, KS1 and KS2 (4 winners) and 4 runners up. Sounds yummy news!

Class Reps

Here is the latest list. Thank you to those of you that have put your names forward.

Nursery am - Chestnut
 Nursery am - Chestnut
 Nursery pm
 Nursery pm
 Reception - Willow
 Reception - Willow
 Reception - Willow
 Reception - Oak
 Reception - Oak
 Year 1 - Pine
 Year 1 - Beech
 Year 2 - Elm
 Year 2 - Maple
 Year 3
 Year 3
 Year 4
 Year 5
 Year 6

Jayne Secker (Jake’s mum)
 Rose Marmion (Eloise’s mum)
 Ghida Khalil (Haissam’s mum)
 Emma Rolfe (Harvey’s mum)
 Sophie Morton (Izzy’s mum)
 Becky Shammis (Ivan’s mum)
 Nichole Detering (Maya’s mum)
 Fern Gray (Isla’s mum)
 Jo Austin (Cara’s mum)
 Vacancy
 Harriet Lawrence (Lucas’ mum)
 Sarah Reynolds (Thomas’ mum)
 Sue Orts-Hansen (Jack’s mum)
 Sarah Seward (Imogen’s mum)
 Andrea Walshe (Ela’s granmum)
 Sarah Reynolds (Ella’s mum)
 Maxine Neely (James’ mum)
 Vacancy



DADs — We need you!

At Lowther we really want you to be involved in the life of YOUR school. We have asked the Fatherhood Institute to audit our school on how we engage with dads. They would like to speak to as many fathers and male carers as possible to hear their experiences. We would be grateful if you would agree to answer a few brief questions with someone from the Fatherhood Institute; this would be done over the telephone at a time convenient to you and should not take more than 30 minutes. If you're happy to get involved, please fill out the slip below. All your personal details will be kept confidential and will not be passed on to anyone else. Your views will really count.

If you would like more information, please call: Nimmi Johal on 07918834965

Name:

Phone number:

Best time to call



Fry up Friday Sell out success

We're sorry that we had to restrict numbers because of our limited cooking facilities this year. The maximum of 40 tickets all went fairly quickly.

We do have another event planned for later in the school year, and just think next year in our brand new kitchen we can have a truly fabulous fry -up!

Netball News

Well done to the Netball team who entered the Borough tournament last week. They have all trained really hard and performed very well as a team. Look out for more sports news soon.

Homework Challenge 3

I've been really pleased with the responses by the children to the first 2 challenges. (Photography and Designing)

Homework Challenge 3 will be launched on Monday. All I can say is that it's **Scientific** and we've never done a challenge like it before at Lowther! Details coming to you soon.....

Building News

Here is Raouf's (in Y6) update from last week. We'll keep you updated with the progress via the website — but thought you might like to see this one as the site is really starting to show where the building will go and it's shape

Staff room (letting teachers chill)

A nice new sports pitch

The kitchen (where you can learn cookery !)

The hall will be just here



The ICT room (with plenty of computers)

Strike information

As you may be aware, trade union members have voted to take industrial action on **Wednesday 30th November 2011**. There are likely to be some class closures and we will inform you of this as soon as possible. We do ask that you respect teacher's decisions as to whether they strike or not as this is something that affects their future well-being. Thank you for your understanding in this sensitive matter.