

22nd September 2017

ISSUE 2



LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

The children are flying!

Two weeks in and the children are off to a flying start! Mr.Bracken and I have been delighted with the positive attitude the children have shown to their learning in these early weeks of the school year. The children have adjusted

to their new classes and year groups brilliantly and it's been wonderful to see and hear such great learning going on. It's going to be an awesome year ahead!

Y3/4 Locality sports event

A huge well done to the 16 children from Y3 and Y4 who represented the school in the annual locality Sports Day this week, The 10 local schools get together to give the children the chance to compete against each other in athletics. We performed really well against some tough competition, coming a very impressive 2nd overall, winning numerous races. Well done children! The pictures below hopefully show you just how well they did!



A photo from KS2 playtime. The children have really enjoyed catching up with old friends and making some new ones too.



Donations at Lowther

The screenshots to the left show where you can find the new donations page of the school website. Under Parents Information there is a tab "Make a donation".

School trips in to London

Here at Lowther we always plan lots of exciting trips for our children. London and the surrounding area has such a richness and variety of opportunity for children to learn from and experience. We do, of course, take safety as a priority and as well as our usual full risk assessments for each trip also currently consult with the local authority's advisor for outdoor education regarding any additional considerations we may need to factor in.

A few requests for before/after school

Please can you ensure

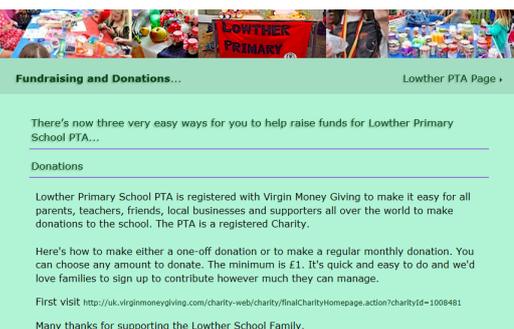
- No scooting or cycling on the school grounds
- Children to be supervised if outside in the morning
- The large (new) climbing frame can be used before/after school but must have an adult supervising their child
- No ball games in the morning or after school, unless part of a club.

Thank you for your support with these matters

Attendance and time keeping

School attendance is a Top 5 school improvement priority this year. All children are expected to attend school every day. The school's target is 96.5%. So far this year our school total is 96.02% , so with a bit more effort we can hit our target! Please do support your children with promoting great attendance.

Thank you for the big improvement in time-keeping. Since we introduced the 8:45am arrival in to school, time-keeping has got significantly better. Mr.Bracken and I will continue to look forward to seeing you at the gates each morning.



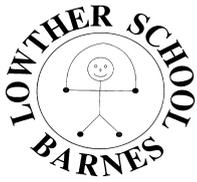
A huge thank you to those families that have already supported us with this. We will update you fully in due course on what we will use any donations for.

Break time snacks

We've now had two weeks of our new break time snack policy. We've been delighted with families response to this and have seen such a positive change in children's diets. We appreciate it was a big change, but it was one that needed to happen.

We're looking at our packed lunch policy currently and there will be some small changes to that soon. We expect to announce those just before half term, with any changes coming in to effect straight after the break. We'll communicate all those changes via the school newsletter and website.

Thanks again for your support in promoting healthier lifestyles for our children at Lowther.



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Barnes Film Festival

You may be aware that on September 29th the Barnes Film Festival, a youth themed three-day film festival in Southwest London begins.

The Festival will host two full days of award winning film screenings, film-making workshops and a film-making competition, showcasing young talent from across London and the UK. The shortlisted films, submitted by film-makers age 25 and under, will be screened in front of a panel of judges, made up of professionals from the TV and film industry.

At the end of the weekend, the Festival will close with an open air screening of the timeless classic ET on Barnes Green for all the family.



Secondary schools

Many secondary schools have begun the open evenings for entry in 2018. I recommend going along to any schools you're considering if you can. Do remember that applications need to be in by the end of October and then initial allocations are made in March.

In recent years we've had some pupils not getting one of their choices in the initial allocation. The key is to not panic. As hard as this is, the situation normally resolves itself and history shows children have been given places in a local school before the summer. Do talk to me about this should you have any concerns or would like further information. The dates for the open evenings in the Richmond secondary schools are indicated to the right.

Closing Date

Tuesday 31 October 2017 You must submit your application form and any supplementary information forms by this date.

National Offer Day

You will be sent the outcome of your application by email during the evening of **Thursday 1 March 2018**.

If you apply on a paper form you will be sent the outcome of your application by first class post on **Thursday 1 March 2018**.

You must accept or decline your offer by **Thursday 15 March 2018**, either through the eAdmissions system if you applied online, or on the reply slip if you applied on paper.

Open events for Richmond's secondary schools for admission in September 2018

School Name	Date	Time
Christ's School www.christs.richmond.sch.uk	Thursday 28 September	6.30 to 9.00pm
Grey Court www.greycourt.richmond.sch.uk	Tuesday 3 October	6.30 to 9.00pm
Hampton High www.hamptonhigh.org.uk	Thursday 12 October	6.00 to 8.00pm
Orleans Park School www.orleanspark.richmond.sch.uk	Open mornings: Thursday 28 and Friday 29 September* (booking required)	9.00am. Please see the school's website
St Richard Reynolds Catholic High School www.strichardreynolds.org.uk	Tuesday 17 October	6.30 to 8.30pm
Richmond Park Academy www.richmondparkacademy.org	Wednesday 11 October	6.00 to 8.15pm
Teddington School www.teddingtonschool.org	Open mornings: Tuesday 3 October, Thursday 5 October and Wednesday 11 October* (booking required)	Please see the school's website
The Richmond Upon Thames School www.richmonduponthameschool.org.uk	Monday 9 October	5.30 to 8.00pm
Turing House School www.turinghouseschool.org.uk	Thursday 5 October	6.30pm onward
Twickenham School www.twickenhamschool.org.uk	Tuesday 10 October	6.00 to 8.30pm
Waldegrave School www.waldegrave.richmond.sch.uk	Open mornings: Wednesday 4, Friday 6, Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 October * (booking required)	Please see the school's website

*Please note, Orleans Park School, Teddington School and Waldegrave School will not be running open evenings for 2018 entry.

Information available on the Lowther website

We now put an increasing amount of information for parents on our school website. Do check it out if you don't currently use it (www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk) These are just some of things on the school website;

- All newsletters and the school's regularly updated Twitter feed
- Galleries and videos of all major school events
- Term times
- School meal information
- Uniform information
- Learning resources for children
- Examples of children's work
- School policies

We are always very pleased to receive feedback and advice on how we can develop the school's website further. If you haven't had a look, please do visit.



Your School: Ofsted and Data 2016/17
Evening for parents
Tuesday 26th September 2017
6pm – 7pm in Room Y6C



Mr. Tuffney and Mr. Bracken will talk you through our Ofsted inspection of June 2017. They will also share the results data from the last academic year.

Our school grounds are looking fabulous. Work to improve our Nursery space is nearly complete now and Mr. Green has worked tirelessly over the holidays to ensure the site was ready for a new school year. We're very lucky to have such amazing facilities.

