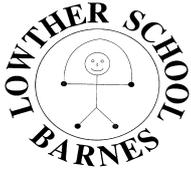


30th June 2017

ISSUE 17



LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

The penultimate newsletter of the year!

I hope your children are enjoying the final half term—I know I am! There's always so much going on at our school but this half term the events and activities come in thick and fast for sure. In this newsletter some key pieces of information about our Ofsted inspection and the staffing plans for next year are included. There will be one more newsletter before the end of term so be sure to look out for that one.

Staffing for next year

On the reverse of this newsletter you will see the class teacher allocation for next year. We will be sending out the new mixed classes lists and the teachers for each base class later in the week. This is something we spend a lot of time doing to ensure our classes are balanced and the children's needs are carefully considered. Thank you for your continued fantastic support with this.

Y6 Camp Over

Providing different experiences for the children is something we love to do at Lowther. Y6 had a great time at their camp over on the school field.



Safe Parking

Thank you to those of you that park carefully in the mornings and at pick up. This is so important as it concerns the children's safety. Please note there is NO parking on the zig zags during any part of the school day. Also please don't park dangerously or on road corners. The local authority are sending more ticket inspectors to check in the mornings and afternoons and I spent some time with one of the inspectors yesterday highlighting our areas of concern for the safety of the children.

Y3 and Y4 Girls Football

A massive well done to the girls footie team in Years 3 and 4. They played superbly in their recent tournament, improving match by match. They have a bright future ahead of them!

Ofsted— information for parents

As you know we have now been inspected by Ofsted (on Tuesday 20th June) This was a one day inspection and was quite different to the previous inspections we've had. We will receive a letter in the coming weeks which will outline the findings. We will of course share this with parents as soon as we have it. I thought it would be helpful for parents if I briefly outlined the details of the inspection.

Ofsted conduct short inspections of schools that were judged good at their most recent section 5 inspection (we were rated good in April 2013) Short inspections last for one day and take place approximately every three years. A short inspection determines whether the school continues to provide a good standard of education for the pupils and that safeguarding is effective. A short inspection will not result in individual graded judgements. It will not change the overall effectiveness grade of the school. The main purpose of the short inspection is to evaluate:

- whether the school remains good
- whether safeguarding is effective or not
- the capacity of all leaders, managers and governors to drive continued improvement
- how well the school has dealt with any areas for improvement identified at the previous inspection.

The inspectors do not grade the quality of teaching in individual lessons, learning walks or similar sessions. Inspectors will visit lessons to gather evidence about teaching, learning and assessment and will consider this first-hand evidence alongside any documentary evidence about the quality of teaching and views from leaders, governors, staff, pupils and parents.

Once a school has received its first short inspection, further short inspections will be conducted at approximately three-year intervals. The model of short inspections is designed to promote even more constructive, challenging professional dialogue between HMI and school leaders. The inspectors will start the short inspection from the assumption that the school remains good. They will test this over the course of the day through their inspection activities and ongoing debate and discussion with leaders and governors. Short inspections provide schools with the opportunity to share with the HMI how they are sustaining and continuing to improve the good quality of education for pupils. Short inspections also provide leaders, managers and governors with the opportunity to demonstrate their capacity for driving further improvement in their school. The HMI will test whether leaders and governors have identified weaknesses or areas needing development at the school. In reaching their judgement about whether the school remains good, the HMI will focus particularly on the capacity of leaders and governors to identify such areas and tackle them quickly and effectively. The HMI will plan inspections so that leaders and governors have time to present evidence about key improvements at the school, their assessment of the current performance of the school and action planning that supports improvement. At the first meeting between the HMI and the headteacher and/or other senior leaders, school leaders will summarise their evaluation of the school's current performance and the HMI will discuss the initial lines of enquiry and key issues to be considered during the day. The schedule for each short inspection will be unique, reflecting these areas. The initial lines of enquiry may be adapted during a short inspection as new evidence becomes available or other issues emerge.

Below is a brief summary of what happened during our inspection.

- All teachers (except the Foundation Stage which was closed) were observed
- Children's books were scrutinised
- Inspectors asked parents their views through the Parent view survey
- Inspectors conducted a staff survey to gain the view of the school through the eyes of the team
- Inspectors asked children their views at playtime, during lessons and via the pupil survey
- Inspectors met with governors
- Mr.Bracken and I spent the day with inspectors and were present during all lesson observations
- The inspectors met with the schools middle leaders to assess their roles and impact
- We provided evidence of what have we done since our last inspection to drive improvement
- We were asked to share what are our priorities are now and the impact of any changes.

It was a challenging but very useful experience for the school. The report (in the form of a letter) should be available to read before the holidays. Everyone at Lowther is fully committed to making this the best possible place for your children to come to school. We love our school and are passionate in our quest to make the Lowther the best school! Thank you all for your brilliant support.



Healthy Activity Week

Cooking, designing meals, skipping, duathlons, Sports Day and more! Just some of the awesomeness we packed in to Healthy Activity Week. Well done children on doing such an awesome job.

Our second Healthy Activity week has drawn to a close—and what a week it was! We managed to pack in a whole host of events and the children have had a lot of fitness fun! A massive thank you should be given to Miss Coward who initiated the idea and who now runs the week. I think if you asked your son or daughter what they thought I'm pretty sure they'll say they've loved it. Thank you also to those of you that have got involved - it's been really appreciated. We're already thinking about what events and activities we can run during Healthy Activity Week next year!

Sports Day 2017

Wasn't it fantastic?! I thought the children were incredible from start to finish. The team events in the morning were, in my opinion, some of the best I've ever seen at Lowther. The afternoon races also provided the usual mix of drama and fun. Thank you for your support with what was a fantastic day. Look out for plenty of photos on the school website soon.



The main events

There's only 3 weeks of term to go—don't forget our online calendar gives you all the dates you need to know. Some of the big ones include

- Reports are provisionally due out on Friday 7th July
- Grounds Afternoon is on Friday 7th July at 2pm
- The music concert is on 10th July at 6.30pm
- The LAFTAs are on 17th July
- Mrs Webster and other staff leavers assembly on 20th July
- Y6 Leavers assembly is on Friday 21st July
- The last day of term on Friday 21st July

Climbing Frame fun!

The new climbing frame (paid for so generously by your amazing contributions to the PTA) is proving extremely popular. To ensure the children are always safe please follow these simple rule Children **MUST** be supervised directly by an adult if using the frame before or after school.

Do not use the equipment in wet weather
Children should take care to get to know the equipment and always take things gradually.



Y6 did a marvellous job putting together their show "The Lego movie" together. Well done to all!

Staffing and classes for school year 2017/18

We are delighted to announce our class teachers year groups. These are all illustrated in the table below. As you can see there are some new faces as well as some changes to the year groups teachers are with. We're really excited about the team we've put together for next year.

You will also notice I'm sure that Mrs Puddephatt and Mrs. Webster are not on the list. Mrs. Puddephatt has exciting plans for her family and is moving out of London to Buckinghamshire whilst Mrs Webster has, of course, decided to take a very well earned retirement. We wish them all the best with their new adventures.

We're delighted to have secured the services of some really excellent new teachers. Miss Mason and Miss Rogan are both experienced teachers currently working in schools in Richmond and Ealing. They're both fantastic teachers who are going to bring new and exciting ideas and skills to the Lowther School Family. They are also both currently working in the same year group that they will join Lowther in. I know you will all make them very welcome. Each of our new teachers will be spending some time at Lowther before the end of this school year.

Later this week we will share with you how the classes have been mixed for the forthcoming year and whose base class they have been allocated to. Exciting times!

Year	Teacher	Teacher
N	Mrs Murphy	
R	Miss Barker	Miss Mould
I	Miss Tittle	Miss Mason
2	Mrs Cox (4 days) Mr Agarwal (1 day)	Mrs Tucker
3	Mr Gradidge	Mr Ripley
4	Mr Picken	Mr Nelson
5	Miss Rogan	Mrs Chalbot
6	Mr Pritchard (4 days) Mr Tuffney (1 day)	Miss Coward