

Lowther

ISSUE 10: 5TH APRIL 2019

WWW.LOWTHER.RICHMOND.SCH.UK

Hello and Hapu holidays!

I'd like to wish you all a very happy Easter on behalf of everyone here at Lowther. It's been a fantastic half term. Indeed, this bumper edition of the newsletter focuses on all the wonderful opportunities we have been able to provide your children with over the last month or so.

We've also included a special feature on Sports at Lowther as we're having a tremendously successful year—building on the previous two years which also saw superb sporting achievements at Lowther.

Our collaboration with Ofsted: As you will know our school team worked with Ofsted at the start of March as part of their work to develop a new inspection framework ready for launch in September 2019. I would like to pay tribute to the incredible efforts of our team – they were simply fabulous. The whole team, from governors to the office team found the experience an excellent process to have been through. It was hard work but worth it. Our school is in a better place for having tested ourselves in this way. We have collated all of our experiences of the 2.5 days and whilst we weren't given "formal feedback" Dermot and I have collated the feedback from colleagues and from inspectors to ensure we maximise the learning from the experience. Below is a quote from Ofsted's Regional Director for London, Michael Sheridan, who spent a whole day with the Inspectors here at Lowther. I must also pay tribute to your fantastic children—they really shone, just as we knew they would, and inspectors were highly impressed with their excellent attitudes to learning and to school.



Michael Sheridan
@Outinthemills



Fantastic day shadowing a #EIF2019 pilot inspection at @LowtherSchool. Thank you for your hospitality and feedback. Such a lovely, warm school!

Wasn't our annual Spring Breakfast Assembly fantastic? We love to share special events with families. Thank you for turning up in such great numbers to support the children and the school. I thought the children were absolutely brilliant.

Our staff teaching team is a strong one, highly skilled and massively committed to the Lowther School Family. We are beginning to make plans for next year, this will be announced to parents, usually around June time. With this in mind we are delighted to announce that Mrs Hunter is pregnant. Many congratulations to her from all of us here at Lowther.

We have no doubt we will attract high quality teachers to the maternity posts we have available for the next school. We will of course share with you, in the summer term, all the details of any appointments that we make.

The choir: We've had a strong focus on music this year and so taking advantage of the opportunity for our choir to perform is important. Mr Gradidge and the 60 strong choir have been working hard on 7 songs for the Richmond Music Trust Singing Festival and performed brilliantly at the Rose Theatre last week to wonderfully positive feedback.



Helping the environment: Some of our parents have set up a new group: The Lowther Eco group. The focus of this project is to broaden the community's understanding of environmental issues and look at ways as a community we can do more. There is a strong focus on reducing our use of plastics and plastic waste. They have an active Twitter account and you may also want to connect with them in person. Do let me know if you'd like to and we will connect you.

Mr Picken has also set up a pupil "Trash mob" who are working together to help our environment. Just this week they did a litter pick around the school grounds and along Stillingfleet Road. We hope by working together we can all contribute to improving the environment.



Our Eco Team and the School Choir

School News

SPECIAL SCHOOL EVENTS FEATURE



Book Day: The children always love book day and this year was no different. They really celebrated the joy of reading. The costumes really were some of the best I've ever seen at Lowther and nearly everyone (including teachers and support staff) got dressed up too! Thank you for supporting our school so brilliantly!



Year 4 Production: Productions are an important part of Lowther life – they promote speaking and listening, teamwork, confidence alongside music and drama skills. We love also to make that connection with you, our community, and we get a strong sense that parents and families love coming along to watch too! The children in Year 4 put together a super quality production “Paws and Claws” with truly outstanding singing.



Science Week: Our annual Science Week was fantastic. There was a theme of “The body” and children completed a range of creative investigations during the week. This included how the digestion system worked to dissecting a heart. The week then culminated in a very high quality Science Expo, which really highlighted the quality of teaching and learning in Science in our school and the children's very high engagement levels and enthusiasm for the subject. A real strength of Lowther life!

Amazing Fact: Roman (in Y4) completed an amazing “Lowther Challenge” which we put on our school Twitter feed. It was so impressive it was commented on and retweeted by the official Formula 1 Twitter feed....it's now had 45,000 views and over 1000 likes! Lowther goes viral!



Lowther

SPECIAL SPORTS FEATURE

Genuine Sporting Success: This is turning out to be another incredible year of sport, one of the best that I can ever remember. We have now sustained three consecutive years of sporting success. We expect this to go in peaks and troughs but we are loving the current successes! A summary of some of excellence in sport this year is included on this page of the newsletter. It makes for impressive reading.



Swimming: Our boys came 2nd overall in the borough (all primaries in Richmond enter this competition) and we had a girl and a boy with individual podium (top 3) overall finishes – our best ever (or at least that Carol Webster and I can remember) results in swimming. Superb!



Football: Our Y5/6 football team beat all comers to secure the trophy at the recent St Paul's football tournament—featuring all the local primary schools, including the hosts! An amazing achievement by the boys. As we go to press they have also just reached the Borough Cup final (44 local primaries enter this competition). Incredible!



Football: Our Y5 football team (including some Y3 and Y4s) got to the final at the recent St Paul's football tournament. A superb achievement by the boys to finish as overall runners up.



Basketball: Last week our Girls won the girls 3 v 3 tournament (superb work girls!) and our full mixed squad have already won the Richmond Knights regional tournament and have qualified for the play-offs to represent Richmond at the London Youth games. Watch this space!



Netball: Our netballers won our local league and qualified for the quarter finals of the Borough Cup competition. We then made it through to the final only to lose by 1 point. The second best netball team in the whole of Richmond Borough! Amazing!



Football: Our Y4 football team (including some Y3s) also managed to get to the final at the recent St Paul's football tournament. Another smashing achievement by the boys to finish as overall runners up against all the other local primaries

Lowther

SCHOOL LIFE FEATURE

These snapshots illustrate the quality and sheer variety of opportunities our children have at Lowther. Awesome work children.

The first two pictures show our Y6 Young Business enterprise winners visiting business "Tech21" as part of their prize for winning. Also pictured are our children enjoying the Holi festival with our after school providers Fit for Sport.



Charity Work: Our children are so entrepreneurial! Picture below is the Y2's hot chocolate stall (it was their idea and they organised, planned and ran it themselves for a charitable cause). Also pictured are more entrepreneurial pupils from Year 5 running a cake sale (again set and organised by themselves to raise money for charity) Super work children!



Writing Success: Five children from Reception through to Year 5 were selected as winners of the writing competition "Screen your story". We had a further 10 children short listed for the Borough's writing competition too. Awesome!



Community Day: Thank you all for supporting our annual Community day so brilliantly. We love the children's amazing hair and sock combinations and there was such a positive happy atmosphere to the whole day.



The Dance Festival: Our newly formed Dance Squad were invited to perform, alongside professional dance schools at the RichDance Festival 2019, along with receiving expert tuition from Rambert School of Dance. The promotional video we made for the group is our most popular Facebook post with over 500 views. Go and check it out. The children produced a truly polished and professional routine that was extremely impressive. Great work Dance Squad!



Lowther