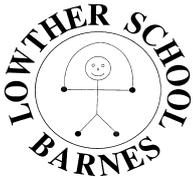


9th September 2016

ISSUE 1

LOWTHER SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



I always love the start of term. The combination of shiny uniforms, the excitement of moving up a class, seeing friends again and the buzz of a new year of learning ahead are a joy. Term has now well and truly started—and the children have got off to a flying start. We've already given out certificates and plenty of bling blings—and look forward to doing so many more times as the year progresses. We had a very good inset day of staff training but school's just aren't quite right without children! We were all so pleased to see the children return on Tuesday. I was particularly delighted to see that none of the children had lost their wonderful natural enthusiasm for school over the holidays. All the team at Lowther are fully committed to making sure we provide your amazing children with the very best learning opportunities and experiences. Together we can make this the best year at Lowther ever! Let's do it!



Change to school uniform policy

We think the children look really smart in their uniform. We made a minor change to the boys uniform at the end of last year—it's trousers and shorts only—no jogging bottoms or track suit bottoms please. I'm sure you'll agree this looks much smarter.

One area that we find ourselves having to remind families about is footwear. School shoes should be plain black or dark shoes. If parents would like their children to wear trainers then that's fine as long as they are plain black and there are no coloured logos and patterns. The picture below illustrates what sort of designs are acceptable. Any questions then please do ask or check our uniform policy on the school website.



Quick reminder that trainers for school must be completely black – no logos showing etc. Trainers for PE lessons may be any colour.

Please note boots of any description are also not allowed.

Our full uniform policy can be found online at <http://lowther.richmond.sch.uk/uniform.php>. There is one change for this year – boys should wear trousers or shorts to school – jogging trousers and track suit trousers are not permitted.

Staffing changes — a brief summary

We have a fantastic team of teachers and support staff who are all totally committed to providing your children with the best opportunities and education that we can. In Key Stage 1 we're delighted to welcome Miss Tittle to our Year 1 Pine class. In Lower Key Stage 2 it's a Lowther hello to Mr. Ripley and Mr. Picken who are both excited to be teaching at Lowther, and then in Upper Key Stage 2 Mrs Chalbot has joined the team and will be working with Mr. Nelson to teach our Year 5 classes. Finally Ms. Fitch has joined Lowther as our new SENCO.

One final change—a name change! Miss Jones became Mrs. Tucker as she got married in the summer. Congratulations to her!

If you haven't had a chance to catch up with your child's new teacher yet we very much hope you'll have the opportunity to do so in the coming weeks. The relationship between home and school is vital for ensuring pupils make excellent progress with their social and academic learning. Thank you for all you do to make this partnership so successful.

Super start!

All the teachers, as well as Mr. Bracken and I, have been really impressed with how quickly and well the children settled back into school life over the first few days. It shouldn't really surprise us any more as they do it every year! Fantastic work children!

Working at Lowther during lunchtimes

We're looking for a new recruit to our lunch time team. We'd like an extra person to support children with their play at lunchtimes and help supervise the playground and lunch hall. The position is for 11.45am until 1.45pm, Monday to Friday. If you're interested then simply enquire at the office for further details.

Some dates for your diary

Important school dates are online now on our new and improved online school calendar—we hope that it is even more user friendly and clearer way for parents to keep on top of the key school dates. We will continue to update the online calendar with all the important dates over the course of the year.

Staffing 2016-17

The table below illustrates the teaching team for this school year.

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

Changes and improvements to the school site

During the holidays we always like to make some improvements to the school site. This year we have had a significant amount of work done to the roof of our historic main building, we also have had the stairs to the main entrance repaired and the whole school has been thoroughly cleaned from top to bottom,

We're proud of the amazing facilities we have here at Lowther and work hard to take good care of them. Please help us to do so by ensuring rubbish is put in the bins and the grounds and buildings are well looked after. Thank you in advance.



Parent mail and Twitter

Parent mail is the easiest and quickest way for you to stay in touch with important events at school. Most families have signed up to Parentmail but if you haven't please do so. You can pick up an application form from the school office.

Twitter is another super way to see pictures and hear all the news from school. You don't need to sign up to Twitter, you can access the feed via the home page and the latest news section on the school website. We've now posted 1098 tweets (at the last count)

New photo galleries

Over the summer we added 7 new galleries to the school website including Sports Day and Community Day. Go check them out!

<http://lowther.richmond.sch.uk/gallery.php>



Road safety

The roads around the school are busy at drop off and collection time and so we ask that parents that come by car please act with extra caution and consideration on roads around the school. Please

- Don't park on the yellow zig zags
- Keep to the 20mph max speed limit
- No double parking
- Don't park near or block the school gates

Also please ensure children are well supervised and that they only cross the road with an adult and not between parked cars. Tania will be issuing a permission slip for parents of pupils in Upper Key Stage 2 wishing their children to come to school independently.

Road Safety is an important community matter. Together we can make our streets safer.

School Improvement

Senior leaders at the school and governors are busy putting the finishing touches to our school improvement plan for 2016-17. We'll make sure the full details of our plans to drive further improvement at Lowther are on the school website in the coming weeks.

September Information Meetings for Year 6 Parents

The Local Authority are holding two information meetings for parents during September on "Transfer to Secondary School". Parents are welcome to attend whichever one is the most convenient. The purpose is to explain transfer to secondary school process and to give parents an opportunity to ask questions. The meetings will take place:

Thursday 15 September 2016	1.00 pm	York House, Twickenham
Tuesday 20 September 2016	7.00pm	York House, Twickenham

An extra special welcome to our Nursery and Reception children and Families

It's always a thrill to see our youngest children start their school adventure. We are delighted to welcome our Nursery and Reception children into BIG school next week. It's always a special time when children begin these landmark years. An extra special welcome to families that are new to Lowther—we hope you love being part of the Lowther School Family as much as we all do.

Clubs update

Tania has been working super hard in the office to co-ordinate this term's clubs offer. On the initial club list we are delighted to announce that a whopping 32 different clubs and activities for children at Lowther will be in operation in the first term.

As you will also know we made the decision last year to make a small charge of £3 for the club provision. This is for a number of reasons, including ensuring we can fund new resources, making sure we have the breadth of opportunities for pupils as well as covering any other associated costs. We believe that our clubs are a bargain and judging by the enthusiasm children have for joining them we know families really value them too. We're expecting other new and exciting clubs to become available during the course of the year. Tania will make sure parents and children are kept fully up to speed with all the latest club developments. We do request that you make the considerable administration of organising clubs as easy as possible by ensuring prompt payment of the correct amount—paid in advance for each term. Most clubs are starting w/c 19th September 2016. It should be awesome!

We have a vacancy for a teaching assistant. Please see the advert below.

Lowther School

Stillingfleet Road
Barnes, London,
SW13 9AE



Teaching Assistant 30 hours per week

(Job shares would be considered)

Term time 39 weeks per year
APT & C Scale 3 to 4 depending on experience
Required asap

We are looking for an enthusiastic teaching support assistant to work in KS2. You must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and be willing to take other training as necessary.

Closing date: Monday 19th September
Interviews: Thursday 22nd September

Visits to the school are welcome. You can also find out more by visiting our website www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

For further information or to request an application pack:

Sharon Day
Lowther Primary School
Stillingfleet Road
Barnes
London SW13 9AE
020 8748 3984

e mail s.day@lowther.richmond.sch.uk

Administrative and Logistical Requests — Please bear in mind the following information below

Up to date contact numbers

Please can all families ensure the school office have up to date contact numbers, including an emergency one. This is essential so please do check with the office if you're unsure if they have your current details.

Attendance News

Attendance at Lowther is very good thanks to all of your fantastic support with ensuring children come to school every day. If your child is unwell please do phone school in morning of the absence and send a note in on your child's return to school. Many thanks.

Morning and afternoon routine

The map below shows all the drop off and collection points. The bell is rung at 8.55am. Please use the two side entrances to the school site and do not enter or leave via the welcome lobby (unless you need to see the office team) Thank you in advance with your support with this matter.

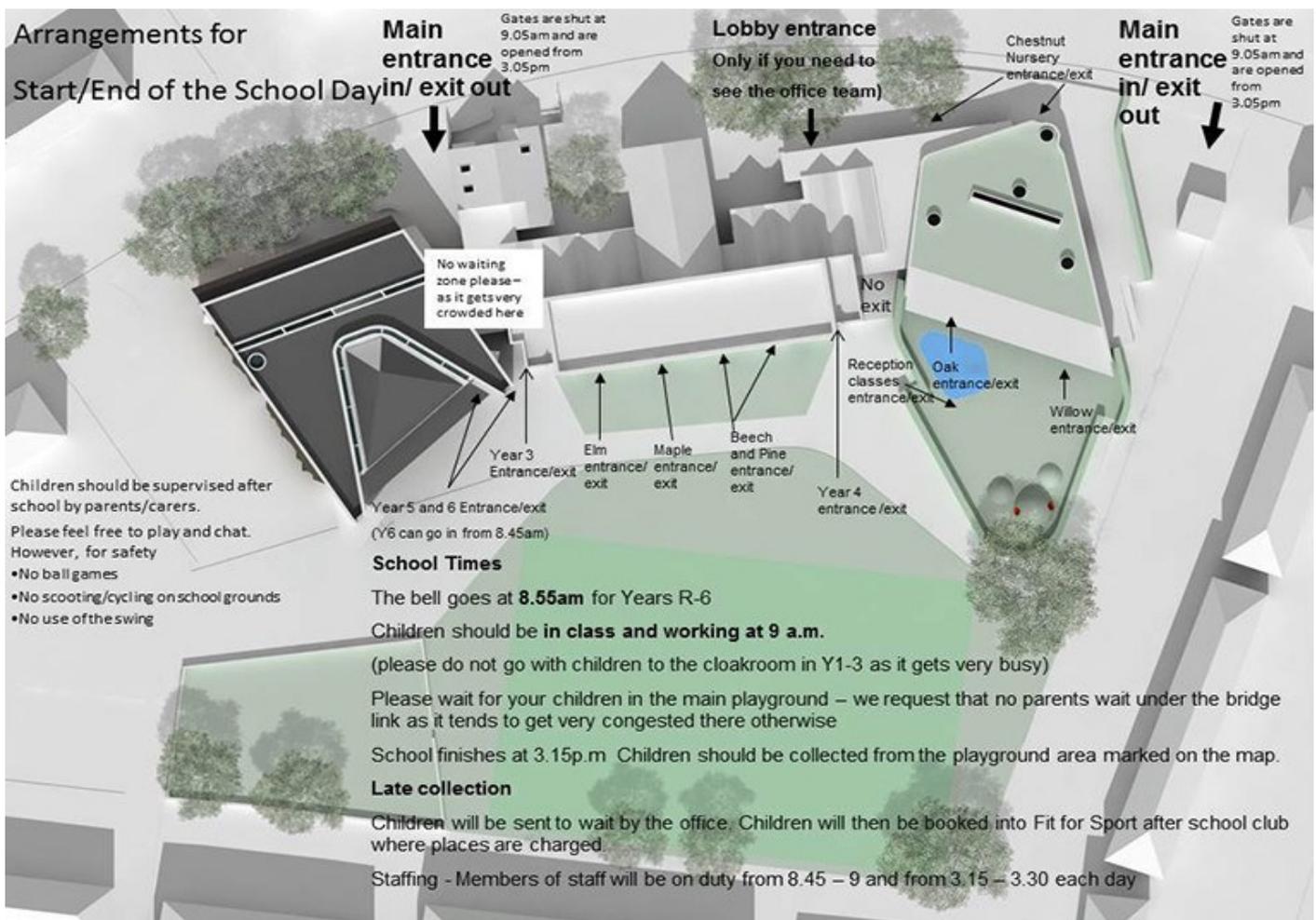
Being Safe before and after school

We kindly ask that children do not partake in any of the following either before or after school on the school grounds.

- Play any ball games
- Scooting or riding bikes anywhere on the school grounds
- Do not use the large swing

Children and families are of course welcome to stay and play, chat and socialise at Lowther. However, we request that families fully supervise their children at all times and that they have left the school site by 4.30pm at the very latest (unless of course children are attending our "Fit for Sport" after school club.)

These small restrictions are purely for safety reasons. Thanks for your help with this.



And to finish.....Baby News!

Mr. Bracken's wife Sam had a baby boy over the summer—they've called him James.

Mrs. Said has also had her baby—a girl by the name of Gloria. And then just yesterday Miss Hallam gave birth to a baby girl. Many congratulations to them all from the Lowther School Family.