



18<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

### **Governors' Newsletter December 2018**

As another term draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the **special events** and **achievements** that have recently taken place at Lowbrook Academy.

It has been another action-packed term at the school with school trips, Science Week and previous year's results announced.

We are proud yet again to be one of the top schools in the country with The Times Newspaper showing us as the **4<sup>th</sup> highest performing primary school** in the country (from roughly 20,000 schools), and placing us as the highest performing academy in England. Furthermore, our 2018 Year 6 SAT results have given Lowbrook Academy the honour of being the top performing primary school in RBWM again.

We are delighted to have **97% of children attaining the expected standard** across reading, writing and maths combined at the end of Year 6 compared to 64% nationally and 39% of Lowbrook pupil's attainment was at the higher level compared to 10% nationally.

Lowbrook yet again achieved 100% in the Year 1 phonics test compared to 83% nationally leading to the Academy receiving a letter from the Rt. Hon. Nick Gibb MP congratulating the school on this achievement.

This astonishing set of consistently high results is due to the **dedication and enthusiasm** of all staff members at the school from the Executive Principal, the Head Teacher, the Senior Leadership Team, the Teachers and Teaching Assistants, and the Office and Admin Team. We thank them for their continued hard work and commitment to the children and are pleased to note the stability and cohesiveness of the team.

We understand that a great deal of **training** happens outside school hours to prepare the teams to achieve the exceptional results and are pleased to have My Rooney's engagement with Holy Trinity C of E Primary School in Cookham bringing big advantages to Lowbrook in the form of cross learning and knowledge sharing with their staff.

Lowbrook not only delivers high achieving pupils but also provides the children with an atmosphere to thrive and learn through many other forms. This term has seen another amazing set of activities. The **Science Week** was another great success with Science specialists from the world outside school invited in to work with the children to make Science fun. Throughout the week, a planetarium was located in the hall so that the children could immerse themselves in the stars, we welcomed Berkshire Reptile Encounters and

Science Boffins who showed the children some wonderful experiments, a trip was organised to Cox Green School's Science labs and parents joined us at school to tell us how Science and Technology is used in their workplace. All these wonderful activities provided inventive and fulfilling experiences to the pupils.

Other **Curriculum enrichment experiences** this term have included activities such as visits from the Fire Service, trips to Norden Farm's Christmas production for Key Stage 1, class trips to The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, The River and Rowing Museum in Henley and many others.

The school continues to offer ever more options of **extra-curricular clubs**. The clubs run by the teaching staff include Football, Maths, Choir, Netball, Rugby, ICT, Computing, Craft, Debating, Sketching and Painting. Other activities offered by external professionals include Street Dance, Chelsea Football Club, Luso Fencing, Samurai Fitness, N1 Golf, French, Guitar, and Violin. The uptake of these clubs has been fantastic, however resources are limited and so waiting lists have needed to be employed to cope with the demand.

The **Wrap Around Care** that is provided by Lowbrook Academy is another excellent example of the extra-curricular work that goes on at the school to help both parents and children. With schools working to ever-increasing tighter budgets, the funds that are generated by this activity are put directly back into the children's education.

**Attendance** at Lowbrook is always high and I pleased to confirm that yet again Lowbrook Academy's attendance rate of 97.76% is well above the Government's national expectations.

The school has been working on an improvement programme to **upgrade and refurbish** lighting and carpeting in several of the older classrooms and we are pleased to report that four of these classrooms have now been completed.

With regards to the ongoing parking issues surrounding the local area and the school car park procedures, the Governors would also like to take this opportunity to remind our school community that parents and caregivers are not permitted to park in the school car park between the hours of 8am and 4.30pm. We continue to ask for your full support in following these procedures to ensure the safeguarding and safety of the school's pupils and staff.

On a personal note, I am proud to have taken over the role of **Chair of Governors** from Dominique Du Pré and look forward to many favourable years ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dominique for her amazing hard work and devotion over the past years.

As Governors, we recognise the hard work that goes into many of the aforementioned activities and results and understand that this happens only through a great team who are tirelessly working to make the Lowbrook children Happy, Healthy, High Achievers.

Yours faithfully  
*Heather Miller*  
Chair of Governors