



Newsletter

1st November to 19th December 2023

Upcoming Events

3rd January 8:45am
Spring Term Begins

15th January 3:15pm
PTA Meeting

5th February 9:00am
Class 3 Assembly for Parents

8th February 4:30pm
PTA Bingo, Pie & Peas

9th February 3:15
Break up for Half Term



School Summary

It has been an amazing half term and a fantastic end to my first year at Lowca Community School! It has been a whirlwind of excitement and hard work, and I know the staff and pupils are ready for the festive break, but we have plenty to celebrate and much to reflect upon as we move into the new year!

The children have had lots of fun both in school through their topics including making moving toys in DT, creating movies in ICT and performing dances as well as outside of school with C2 having a trip to the Helana Thompson Museum to learn about school life in the Victorian times and C1 visiting Walby Farm Park to see Santa himself! We held our first Parents' Evening in the new class groups and pupils have completed assessments to highlight their progress and identify next steps and goals to work towards during the Spring term.

In addition to learning, there have been many social events this half term including special after school clubs, parent and child craft sessions, Phunky Foods Family workshops, an EYFS Open day and the amazing Christmas events held over the last few weeks. It has been wonderful to share our talents and open our doors to members of the Lowca community.

As we move into 2024, I am incredibly thankful for the support of the staff and parents over the last 12 months and privileged to be a part of our pupils' education. I hope all of our families have a wonderful and relaxing break!

Mrs Walker

School News

This week we said a fond farewell to Mrs Ormerod who has decided to take on a new challenge working at Centre Parcs. She has served our school for nearly 10 years in a number of roles from Cleaner, to Lunch Lady to Office Administrator and she will be greatly missed by all.

We wish her lots of luck in her new role and hope she comes back to visit at our Community Events!





Safeguarding

Our whole school attendance for this half term has been 96% which is just below the National Target of 97%. This is however a huge improvement on the same period last year which was 92%!

In November, our pupils took part in National Anti-Bullying Week and completed activities and made posters to share around the school to remind everyone to 'Make a Noise About Bullying' which was this year's theme. Last week, some pupils led an Assembly on keeping safe over the Christmas period and they have provided some information for parents below.



Our School 'Safeguards' also completed some monitoring this half term, to make sure people were using the laptops appropriately as part of our Filtering & Monitoring Policy. They looked at search histories and terms used and highlighted ways pupils could be safer when searching online.

We would like to remind parents that any communication about pupils or incidents that happen at school should be reported or queried via the correct channels in order to safeguard our staff. This means using the admin@lowca.cumbria.sch.uk email or school telephone to contact us, and not contacting staff on their personal mobile numbers, via Whatsapp messages or their home email addresses.

This also supports our Well-being Policy ensuring a healthy Work-Life Balance and respects our Staff's right to privacy and family time outside of school hours.

Finally, we would love your feedback on how you feel about Behaviour & Safeguarding in School. Please complete this 2 minute survey to share your thoughts and help us improve further!

Parent Survey

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

It's Christmas Time!

A Parent's Guide to Social Media

A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures

A Parent's Guide to Gaming

A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming

A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming

A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers

A Parent's Guide to Fake News

A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period. Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Skips www.skipssafetynet.org

Developed in partnership with:

- Home Office
- West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit
- West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

Christmas Special

This Christmas we have really focused on bringing joy to our community! Here are some photos of the events we held and activities we have taken part in ...



Decorating the Tree at St Bridget's' Church



Community Christmas Lunch



Class 1 Nativity Performance



Carol Singing at Nursing Homes



Christmas fayre



Whole School Christmas Lunch



Parent Teacher Association

Our new PTA was launched in September and they have held some amazing events this half term ... from Pumpkin Carving, to Halloween Discos, Tuck Shops, Christmas Crafts, Movie Nights and of course the fabulous Christmas Fayre last week! They have helped raise over £900 to support our pupils and have so far funded a Christmas Lunch for all pupils, paid money towards transport for school trips to reduce costs for parents and provided materials for After School Club activities.

We would like to thank them all for their hard work and efforts and can't wait to plan our line up of activities for 2024! If you would like to join or can volunteer any time to help out at events, please get in touch with Mrs Buchanan or Miss High or come along to our meeting on Monday 15th January to find out more!

Charity & Service

Along with our own fundraising activities, it is important that our school supports other charities and that our pupils appreciate that not all children and families can enjoy the same things they do. This half term we have supported Children in Need Day and raised £85 for children across the Country. This was enhanced by our Eco Council who asked pupils to re-use old clothing to wear for the event ... and there were some fabulous home-made designs!

Our School Council attended the Lowca War Memorial as part of their Remembrance Service and the school was decorated with a wonderful Poppy display. It was important to reflect on the lives lost, especially the impact on the families of Lowca.

Next year, our very own Mr Knight will be completing a Cycling Challenge to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. If you would like to support him please click here ...

[Just Giving](#)



Character Curriculum

Every Friday afternoon, our pupils in Years 1 to 6 take part in activities which help them build character, confidence and personal or life skills. This term we have focused on Decider Skills which supports pupils to make good choices when faced with challenges, build resilience and discover strategies to help them cope with anger, stress or anxiety. Next term, these sessions will be based around the Cumbrian Award where pupils can choose to take part in 12 weeks of activities relating to adventure, arts or enterprise. These will include; Forest School & Conservation with the Cumbria Wildlife Trust; U-Dance sessions, culminating in a Performance with other schools at the Carnegie Theater; or a Construction & Innovation challenge with our Sellafield school ambassadors! If you would like to be involved and support these sessions either by joining the Friday afternoon activities or volunteering skills such as costume making, make-up or building bird houses etc, please get in touch as we will need as many hands as possible!

Our EYFS pupils also develop their personal skills by completing the National Trust's '50 things to do before you're 5' Passport. Each week they will complete activities which help children grow in confidence and self esteem as well as explore the beautiful world around them.

Community News

If you know of any events in our community or an activity that our families may be interested in please get in touch with the office and let us know.

