



Lowerhouse Junior School Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026



At Lowerhouse Junior School, we build everything we do around our four key values of
Aspiration, Integrity, Resilience and Respect

Our School Motto is 'Inspiring a lifelong love for learning.'



Dear Parents/ Carers,

What a wonderful week we have had at Lowerhouse Junior School! It has been a real pleasure to spend time with so many of our children this week, celebrating their fantastic achievements. Children have been keen to share their successes with me, from brilliant effort in guided reading and beautiful handwriting to excellent work in English and maths. It is always lovely to see how proud our children are of their learning and the progress they are making. Well done to everyone for another fantastic week. I can't wait to see what next week brings!



Mrs Marsden

Deputy Headteacher

<u>Headteacher's Value of the Week – RESPECT</u>	
<u>Yr3 Elm</u> Nathaniel	<u>Yr3 Willow</u> Alfie
<u>Yr4 Maple</u> Ava	<u>Yr4 Rowan</u> Freya
<u>Yr5 Chestnut</u> Verity	<u>Yr5 Oak</u> Illeana
<u>Yr6 Ash</u> Jenan	<u>Yr6 Sycamore</u> Oliver
<u>Class Dojo Winners</u>	
<u>Lower Juniors</u> Maple	<u>Upper Juniors</u> Ash

	<u>Stars of the Week</u>	
<u>Yr3 Elm</u> Louie	<u>Yr3 Willow</u> Mia	
<u>Yr4 Maple</u> Harvey	<u>Yr4 Rowan</u> Mila	
<u>Yr5 Chestnut</u> Myles	<u>Yr5 Oak</u> Amelia	
<u>Yr6 Ash</u> Ella	<u>Yr6 Sycamore</u> Sierra	
Maple!		

<u>The School's Attendance</u>	
<u>Target is 96%</u>	
<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Elm	97.4%
Willow	95%
Maple	96.5%
Rowan	93%
Chestnut	92.8%
Oak	95.2%
Ash	98%
Sycamore	93%
This week's winners are...	
Elm and Ash!	

School Councils and House Captains for 2026-2027!

This week, we demonstrated the British value of **Democracy** by voting for our new **House Captains** and **School Council Members**. Children listened to speeches, made thoughtful choices, and showed respect for each other's voices. We're proud of every child who took part.

Calder - Theo

Gawthorpe - Nnamdi

Rosegrove - Ash

Towneley - Jacob

	Elm	Willow	Maple	Rowan	Chestnut	Oak	Ash	Sycamore
School Council	Nathaniel Maddie	Henry Holly	Shae Thomas	Freya Reggie	Verity Esme	Kiaya Hollie	Archie Gracie	Myla Rudi
Sports Council	Albie Nancie	Alfie Emma	Ava Henry	Lincoln Teddy	Myles Seb	Harper R Freddy	Ella Henri	Louis Quandeel
Happy Heroes	Harmony Alan	Connie Amelia	Mia Alexia	Tommy Lilya	Jacob Elsie	Jack Harper F	Amelia Taylor	Halle Jensen
Eco Council	Chloe	Ezra	Ola	Sophia	Sophie E	Casper	Reece	Oliver

Reading at Lowerhouse

It has been wonderful to see so much fantastic reading taking place across school this week! Children have been busy mastering tricky words and sounds, enjoying exciting new texts and confidently sharing their understanding and inference skills. We have also been delighted to celebrate children who have received reading awards outside of school – what a fantastic achievement! We are so proud to see our pupils developing their confidence, fluency and, most importantly, their love of reading.



MacMillan Coffee Morning – 25th September

We will be supporting Macmillan Cancer Support with our school Coffee Morning!

Thursday 24th September – Non-Uniform Day

Children are invited to come to school in non-uniform in exchange for a cake donation. Cakes can be homemade or shop-bought and will be sold the following day.

Friday 25th September – Cake Sale

Cakes will be available for children to buy at playtimes, priced between 30p and 50p.

Any cakes remaining at the end of the day will be available to buy from the Upper Junior Playground.

Macmillan Christmas Pin Badges

We also have a small number of Macmillan Christmas pin badges available to purchase for £1 each.



Dates for The Diary

14th September – Yr6 PGL Parent Meeting (5:30pm)

16th September - MHST Children's Mental Health in Digital Age Yr6

24th September – Non-Uniform Day Macmillan Cake Sale Donations

24th September – European Day of Language

24th September – Yr5/Yr6 Football Festival @ Broadfield

25th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning Cake Sale (School Council)

5th-7th October – Yr6 PGL Residential

9th October – **Hello Yellow Day** (YoungMinds) Non-Uniform

13th October - Year 3&4 OAA Bonanza TBC

21st October - Panathlon Ten Pin Bowling Competition @ Discobowl



Maths Problems of the Week

Ron and Eva each make a 3-digit number from these digit cards.



- Ron makes the largest even number possible.
- Eva makes the smallest odd number possible.

What is the difference between their numbers?

Picture News & British Value!



Which British value do you think this week's story highlights?



It highlights
Rule of Law because
protected areas help
keep people and
wildlife safe, and
allow them to share
the land.

**Mutual Respect and
Tolerance** is shown
by respecting the
needs of both
people and wildlife.



Do you agree with either person, or think something different?

Staff Shout

Out

Each week we like to celebrate our amazing staff and the hard work they put in for everybody at school. Our winner this week is.....



Mr Calcutt!

A huge happy
(special!)
birthday to
you!

Lowerhouse Junior School Facebook

Follow the link below to like and share our school Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/12FgqYkUfLH/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOXIC GAMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Gaming should be a way for children to have safe fun with their friends. But anonymity and a lack of consequences can mean that corners of online multiplayer gaming are riddled with toxicity that makes them unpleasant at best, and damaging to children at worst.

A 2019 study found 74% of players had experienced harassment in online games, and such behaviour has become increasingly normalised.

GAMING WITHOUT THE FUN

Toxic gaming takes many forms. In live, multiplayer games, players can be targeted by strangers bullying them over voice and text, or deliberately sabotaging their game. It can also be present in spaces outside of the game such as Discord and Reddit, with players gatekeeping their community and making it deliberately unwelcoming to newcomers. In extreme circumstances, it can lead to physical threats, stalking and doxing.

WIDESPREAD TOXICITY

The Anti-Defamation League's 2019 study numbers are stark. At that point, 74% of players had experienced some form of abuse, with 65% receiving physical threats, stalking or sustained harassment. Nearly a third of players surveyed found themselves doxed while playing online, which means private or personal information was shared against their will in an attempt to intimidate or silence.

BIGOTED TRASH TALK

Such toxic tactics are especially prevalent against girls, LGBTQ+ players and players from minority ethnic backgrounds. In all, 53% of respondents reported being targeted based on their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Another survey revealed that 88% of openly LGBTQ+ players have been harassed by their communities, while over half of women report using a non-gendered or male username while playing to avoid harassment.

EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES

Extremist groups have been known to target gaming communities and streaming platforms as a way of spreading propaganda and recruiting young players to their cause. Even in 2019, the ADL's research found that 23% of players had been exposed to white supremacist ideology, with a further 8% exposed to positive views about Islamic State. Disinformation is also a problem, with 13% hearing conspiracy theories about 9/11 and 9% exposed to Holocaust denial.

A SAFE SPACE MADE UNSAFE

This toxic environment can lead to the same feelings of fear, isolation and depression that offline bullying can. Children exposed to toxic gaming can become withdrawn, anxious or irritable. They can struggle with sleep and find it difficult to focus on schoolwork and other pursuits, even after the game has been switched off and they're no longer playing.

COPYING HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR

At the other end of the spectrum, children can mimic the toxic behaviour and language they've seen online in offline settings. If bullying or bigoted chat is normalised as a legitimate part of online gaming, children may end up emulating it offline with classmates, seeing it as harmless banter. This could make other children's lives miserable or leave them feeling isolated at school.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PLAY WITH FRIENDS

While some games rely on playing with strangers to make up the numbers, there are plenty of titles that can be played on a private server with vetted, trusted friends, sidestepping the toxic elements of the wider gaming community. If a child encounters toxic behaviour in others while playing larger games, encourage them to block and report the players responsible.

USE THE GAME'S TOOLS

Many online games provide ways to limit interaction with strangers, either through the global settings on PlayStation or Xbox, or within the game itself. Look at the options, and make it so children can only communicate with their friends. If you can't see this level of control, you can consider disabling chat completely and, where age-appropriate, using a suitable separate service for communication with friends.

TALK TO CHILDREN

Most importantly, if children are gaming online or want to start, talk to them about the risks and how to deal with toxic behaviour. Explain the kinds of behaviour they may encounter, encourage them to report and block, and let them know they can talk to you about any concerns. Where appropriate, you may even want to play alongside them to get a feel for the community yourself.

FIND THE RIGHT COMMUNITY

If your child is at an age where social media is permitted, friendly communities exist. There are online groups for LGBTQ+ players, players from minority backgrounds and girls, where they can chat and find people to play with in more welcoming environments. Not everyone is who they claim to be online, so be sure to discuss the risks of online friendships, and maintain an open dialogue with children to ensure their ongoing safety.