



Dear Parents,

This week we have invited parents into school to celebrate our annual Harvest festivals. As always, there was wonderful support from parents. The teachers once again excelled themselves, ensuring a mix of traditional and more creative ideas used throughout; from a Harvest 'Tango' to the classic that is 'Cauliflowers Fluffy'! Thank you so much for all the food donations that came in. This has now been collected by 'House of Bread' who will be using this to cook meals, as well as making food parcels for the many people in Stafford who are in need. They were overwhelmed by your generosity, as were we. Between myself and Mr Coombs, we managed to see all of the productions. All children with a speaking part, from Reception all the way up to Year 6 did a brilliant job and the singing throughout was amazing. Next stop: Christmas performances!

In the last newsletter, I discussed how SLT had the pleasure of spending time in each class to talk to children about their learning. We call these our Learning Conferences. Through our Learning Conferences, we always try to find a focus area that we can all work on to make Leasowes even better. This time we have asked the staff to encourage Learning Conversations within lessons. Through this collaborative approach, children will share their understanding, helping to drive each other's learning forward. As part of their weekly maths lessons, this happens in Year 6 every Friday and works brilliantly, with children helping others to become 'truly fluent' with different mathematical concepts.

While this practice continues at school, you can also do your bit at home:

- Encourage the children to talk about their day during the family meal in the evening. If they say that they have done 'nothing', they are not telling the truth!
- Encourage the children to question why and how things work.
- Instead of telling your child how something works, begin by getting them to explain how they think it might work. Get the children to use what they already know.

With us all doing our bit, we will create inquisitive and curious children who have key life skills in finding out for themselves.

**Parents' Evening** will run from 3.30pm until 6.00pm on Wednesday and Thursday next week. During this meeting, the teachers will inform you of how your child has settled this term, the progress they have made and of next steps in their learning. Please be mindful that these are 5-10 minute meetings. If there is anything that needs discussing in more depth, the class teacher will be more than willing to arrange to meet with you on another occasion. Please note that due to the building work and Leasowes Extra using our KS2 hall for after school provision, KS2 staff will run the parents' evening in their classrooms. Please enter via the year 5/6 corridor. Each year group will use one classroom for both teachers to hold their meetings with parents and the other classroom will have the children's books for you to peruse. EYFS and KS1 classes will run out of the KS1 hall as usual.

As always, it is really important that we communicate effectively with you about your children. Therefore, if you have a query about your child, the best person to initially contact is the class teacher. If you feel you need to speak to someone more senior, please contact the phase leaders. The phase leaders know their departments well and share information at Senior Leadership Meetings with Mr Coombs and myself.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Bettany  
Headteacher

Together we learn. Together we grow.

### Parents' Forum

This week I held the first Parents' Forum meeting of the year. It was great to see the many familiar faces as well as some new. We had representatives throughout the school, including some Nursery Parents. Within the meeting we discussed our school values and their associated behaviours. I shared our ideas and talked about how these values relate to the parents. We then discussed areas that we as a group would like to try and make an impact on this year.

I have had a request for a meeting to be held after school in order for working parents to attend. I will hold an additional Parents' Forum meeting this term at 5.00pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Please inform the office if you wish to attend to give me an idea of numbers. Alternatively, the Spring Term meeting has been arranged for 9.05am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Thank you again for all that attended.

Mr Coombs

### New to Nursery and Reception

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 9.15am, we will be holding a 'New to Nursery and Reception' meeting for the parents of all potential children wanting to join our school in September 2020. Mr Coombs, the Early Years team, JLT and myself will talk to parents about our Vision and Values, before giving you a tour of the school. Please help us to get the message out there!

### Dogs on School Site

Please remember that for the Health and Safety of the children, dogs are not allowed on the school site. This includes the 'Stanley Way' area, while waiting for the KS2 children, or dropping off Nursery children. Please ensure that other adults picking up your child are also aware of this.

### PTFA Events

Tickets will go on sale for our Fish n Quiz event on November 4<sup>th</sup> ready for the quiz on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Please book your 'place' to avoid disappointment.

### Save the Date!

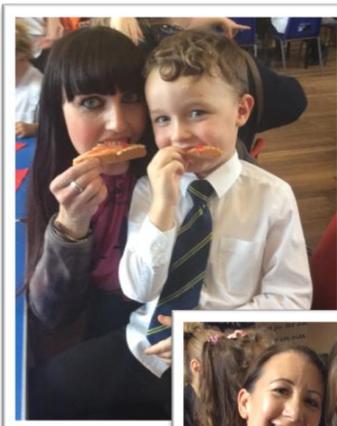
Our ever-popular Christmas Fayre will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Please save any donations of good quality toys or white elephant items.

### Poppy Sales

Poppies and poppy stationery will be on sale from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November during break and lunchtimes.

### Christmas Cards

The PTFA will be cascading information next week about how your child can design their own Christmas card. Watch this space!



As part of the Reception Harvest assembly, the children shared bread and jam with the adults that came to support.

