



Dear Parents,

Welcome back, I hope you all enjoyed a lovely half term break and are feeling refreshed. I arrived back to school on Monday morning to a letter placed on my desk from the Right Honourable Nick Gibb, congratulating Leasowes on our Phonics results from the last academic year. It commends us on our teaching of systematic phonics and our 100% pass rate places Leasowes in the top 2% of all primary schools nationally. This is a huge achievement and is testament to the staff, who call themselves 'Team Phonics'. The hard work they put into providing stimulating, effective phonics teaching thus giving our children the foundations for early reading that builds a love of reading is second to none. Well done!

This term is a really busy one, in particular as we approach the festive season. I am very aware as a working mother of two how parents need to arrange time to be able to watch their children in performances. Therefore, I have made a note overleaf of all of the Christmas performances to give you as much notice as possible. Please remember that all of the dates across the school year are on the school calendar on our website.

In an attempt to continually consider the safeguarding, health and wellbeing of our children and families, I recently came across a couple of websites I would like to share with you. The first is a parent toolkit to support you with keeping your child safe online. We are seeing more and more cases in the media where children are vulnerable whilst using the internet. However, with increasing numbers of children accessing social media and the internet, many of us are left feeling inadequate compared to our children's internet savvy skills. We need to try and stay one step ahead. Childnet International have put together this parent tool kit with resource sheets and guidance to help us all keep our children safe. You can find it at the following link. <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carer-toolkit> I hope this helps.

Secondly, we have worked hard over the last year to all recognise how important it is that we look after ourselves and strive to have a positive outlook on life. 'Action for Happiness' has produced a calendar for November suggesting daily actions to help contribute to this. You can find this at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/new-things-november> I look forward to seeing the staff try out a few of these.

The NHS will be in school administering flu vaccinations on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November to all children that have opted in. As part of our wellbeing for all, staff members at Leasowes have also been given the opportunity to be immunised.

Thank you to all who attended Parents' evening on the last week before half term. We held two very successful sessions where staff were able to discuss how children had settled and their academic progress.

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.

### Shoebox Appeal T4U

Thank you for supporting our shoebox appeal. Please send in shoeboxes on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November and by no later than Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately, we cannot accept boxes after this date as they will not be collected.

### 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.

### Remembrance - 11.11.19

As always, we will be taking part in the 1-minute silence. Watch this space for our whole school remembrance display!

### Christmas Performances

Please note the following dates and times of our Christmas performances.

EYFS Christmas Production - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10am & 1.45pm (please choose one)

KS1 Christmas Production - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 10am (Year 1) & 1.45pm (Year 2)

KS2 Carol Concert Monday - 16<sup>th</sup> December 9am (Year 3 & 4) 10.30 (Year 5 & 6)

Please only come to one performance, as we need to make sure there is room for all parents to attend.

### Other key dates for the children

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers on both of the above dates.



### Condover

This week, our Year 6 team have shown our values in abundance with their yearly residential to Condover Hall. This visit really tests their resilience. Whether this is staying away from home, socialising with peers or facing your fears – this is a time when children have to dig deep and stay strong. I know I felt the same whilst tackling the Aerial Trek with Drew! Thank you to Mrs Wood and Miss Reeves who have spent hour after hour planning the visit and all of my wonderful staff who give up their family time to support our children's experiences. Without their support visits like this could not happen. Parents, I hope you have your washing machines at the ready, as it was an extremely muddy experience!

