



Dear Parents,

With only two weeks before the end of the Autumn term, Leasowes is a hive of activity. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge our fantastic PTFA team who ran an extremely successful Christmas Fayre last Friday after school. They were under pressure to provide a wealth of stalls and activities in very limited space due to the building work. However, completely undeterred, they provided the children and community of Leasowes with a wonderful Christmas experience. Thank you so much to all involved, particularly the core team headed up by Lorraine Banks. Your hard work and dedication to providing our children with fun activities and vital fundraising for school is much appreciated. Fundraising total coming soon!

As a school we are always looking of ways to challenge and improve our practice to ensure that we are the very best that we can be. Through our value of aspiration, this is something that we try hard to instil in our children. Last week I invited another Headteacher into Leasowes to look at our practice. He spoke to senior leaders, subject leaders, observed learning, spoke to children with their books, spoke to teachers who taught the lessons and triangulated all of the information. This is a great exercise to challenge ourselves and we are thrilled with the feedback we gained. It confirmed our evaluations that our staff work extremely hard to provide rich and enjoyable learning experiences for the children at Leasowes.

Next week is a busy one. We have the majority of our school performances. Please see overleaf for performance time and dates. There is always a bit of a 'grey area' around photography permissions. It will be announced at the beginning of each production if photographs and videos are allowed to be taken. If permission is given, we do expect parents to be respectful of others sat in the audience. If permission is not given throughout the performance, then we will endeavour to ensure that photograph opportunities are provided at the end. Please be mindful that decisions are made in the best interest of all children and take into consideration many differing factors.

Following on from this, we are always overwhelmed with the parents' commitment to support their children at school performances. However, please be mindful of residents and demonstrate our school values when parking on Porlock Avenue. We have recently had a few complaints from some of the residents about parking and attitudes of people when asked not to block driveways. The safety of our children is paramount so let's work together! We thank you for your support over the coming weeks.

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

### Books Bonanza!

As you are all aware, at Leasowes we are passionate about books. Part of our new build will house a fantastic library hub for all the children to enjoy. Over time, we will be investing money in new books. One of our parents, Mrs Andrea Maxwell, and her team from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, decided to take part in a very different Secret Santa. Each team member was tasked with buying a book they fondly remember from their childhood. 18 different books were collected and have been very kindly donated to Leasowes. Thank you for thinking of us Mrs Maxwell!

Together we learn. Together we grow.

### Year 1 Visit to Sudbury Hall

This week, Year 1 had a very exciting visit to Sudbury Hall as part of our 'Terrific Toy Tales' topic. There was a buzz in the air! The children learned about the workhouses in Victorian times and how they had to work as chimney sweeps. To get a taste of this, they took on the role of chimney sweeps, having to climb the dark steps up the chimney before sliding down the other side. The children were also given an opportunity to play with traditional outdoor toys. Esme proved to be an expert at the hula-hoop! As the children were guided around the museum, they were able to look at how toys have changed and developed over time. It was a brilliant day and needless to say, a little quieter on the coach on the way home!

Mrs Dodd and Mrs Croton



### Christmas Performances

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

Nursery Carol Concert – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>  
December 10.30am

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) 10.30am (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.

### Viking Adventures!

In Year 4 this week we had a visit from Timezones to enhance our learning on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, as part of our topic 'Dragon Invaders'. We learnt about the structure of Anglo-Saxon and Viking families; what life was like during this period; how these people found food and the different jobs they had. We were also able to try weaving and dyeing fabrics. We were able to investigate a range of sources and artefacts from the time (some which were over 1000 years old!) and listened to tales from a Viking blacksmith. We finished the day learning about the different Viking weapons; how the Vikings fought and raided, and got to try out our very own spears and shields. A huge thanks to parents for organising such fantastic costumes that helped to bring the day to life.

Mrs Till and Miss Thelwell

