



Dear Parents,

It has been a really busy start to the term and momentum will continue to build as we run up to the February half term holiday. Effective communication with parents and carers is always a high priority and so far this term we have held a Year 1 Phonics meeting, as well as Year 2 and Year 6 SATs information evenings. These events, as always, have been well attended and allow school to provide as much information as possible to enable you to support your child. In the up and coming weeks, Parents' Forum will be held on Wednesday 5th February at 9am. In addition, Parents Evening will take place on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th February. You should have received a letter from school giving you the option to choose a day and time that is most convenient to you. We try our very best to accommodate all parents but on occasions this can be difficult. Please try and attend as this is your opportunity to find out about how your child is achieving at school. Our catering management company will be on hand in the KS2 hall providing samples of the food we serve for school dinners. There will be hot and cold samples so please feel free to have a try.

Whilst thinking about communication, there have been, and will be a few changes to our website. We are currently updating the curriculum area. This will be done over the term and I will let you know when this is complete via the newsletter. The class pages have changed to year group pages. Teachers within the year group will work on these pages together to ensure all receive the same information. Check out the new 'Year Group' pages on our website or via this link. [Leasowes Year Group Pages](#)

This week we sent out a text message to remind parents that we currently only have one crossing patrol. The crossing patrol is run by Staffordshire County Council and we are one of the lucky schools still to have one. Please encourage children to use the crossing patrol area. Porlock Avenue becomes extremely busy at drop off and pick up time and we must all try and play our part to make sure our children are safe.

At Leasowes, we are always thinking about the wider community including local, national and global issues. Our environment is a 'hot' topic at present and I will be meeting with our Eco Committee in the upcoming weeks to discuss a couple of projects I would like them to address in school. One of the issues we will be addressing is how we can reduce single use plastics. Whilst thinking about our environment, I have received a few emails from residents about reducing emissions in the community. It is really cold at the moment and so tempting to leave cars running to keep them warm. If possible please try and 'do our bit' by turning off engines and parking responsibly. At Leasowes we are very aware that this is a residential area and always strive to work with local residents so that we continue to thrive as a community.

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

Together we learn. Together we grow.

Smart Watches

We have noticed that there has been a growing trend in children wearing 'Fitbits', or other similar devices that tell the time and track the amount of steps children do. Encouraging children to be active is always a positive message to give. However, school will not be responsible for the loss of these devices and if they are found to be a distraction to learning or perform more tasks than just track steps then we will have to take action. More importantly, we have had a couple of 'smart watches' in school. Please be aware that for the safeguarding of all children and adults, they are **not allowed** in school.

Parents' Evening

Please note that Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th February from 3.30pm until 6pm. Please return slips by Friday 7th February to allow staff to sort out appointments.

Values Posters

Respect, Courage, Collaboration, Aspiration, Enjoyment, Love

At Leasowes our school values run through the veins of all that we do. We have now added values posters onto the website that support our work. We will be sharing these with the children. You can find these under – About us, Vision and Values. Click on the values that you want to view. The first four of the year are now completed.

Attendance

As you are all aware, the Department for Education (DfE) sets attendance targets for schools to meet. Children are expected to be in school every day of the school term. We are very aware that from time to time children are poorly and as a result are unable to attend. However, school has regular register checks from the Local Authority. During these checks, they will identify children who have poor attendance or are late on a regular basis. We are expected to analyse any patterns and trends and offer attendance support to parents to ensure children are in school. Late arrivals are very difficult to manage. A child late into class not only needs time to settle, but can miss vital input or morning activities. This may also impact learning time of other children whilst the teacher helps late pupils to catch up. Please try to get children to school on time so that they and the rest of the children have the best possible learning opportunities.

Holiday requests continue to cause distress to parents. Please be aware that school is not allowed to authorise holiday requests during term time. This is **not** a school decision but DfE policy. You can find our attendance policy on the website under key documents, policies.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Forest Schools

This week we have facilitated a Forest Schools Network Meeting for Teachers from schools across Staffordshire. I felt that this was a really great time to celebrate what wonderful ground, facilities and opportunities we have at Leasowes. Thanks to our wonderful Forest Schools Team!

