



Dear Parents,

As we are coming to the mid-point of the spring half term, as always, Leasowes is a hive of activity. All the children continue to work really hard, challenging themselves in their learning at all times. It was wonderful to see the Reception children engaged in a variety of maths tasks with their parents last week. These were activities set up by the teachers to give the parents an insight into the learning that takes place from week to week in Early Years. Thank you to all parents that attended. I am sure that you will agree that it was a great success and gave you many thoughtful ideas of different activities you can complete with your children at home to help embed their learning.

This week, we ran Parents' Evening across the school, giving you the chance to meet with your child's teacher, to gain an insight into how your child is achieving and progressing within their learning and what targets have been set for the second part of the year. At this meeting, we take the opportunity to give out Parent questionnaires to give us an idea of your views of the school. Reading through these last night, I was overwhelmed by the positivity of the comments received. A school is a vital cog in the community, and it is wonderful to see that we are all working together to ensure that your child receives the best education that we can provide. Your continued support in this is very much appreciated.

Finally, at Leasowes, we feel that a positive mental health and wellbeing is essential for the children to access the many learning opportunities in the right frame of mind, and therefore help to prepare them to take on the many adventures that lie ahead. Last week, Mrs Woodmansey organised a 'Time to Talk' afternoon. This was introduced in Monday's assembly, discussing many helpful strategies that the children can use in life, when things feel a little harder than normal. Last Thursday all children were given the opportunity to get together as a class and complete a variety of activities that involved talking about their feelings and different ideas that they may want to use to remember the wonderful people that they all are.

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

### Rights Respecting School

Following the letter sent to all parents at the beginning of January, I am delighted to inform parents and carers that Leasowes is now a Bronze: Rights Committed - Rights Respecting School. This initial level of the award has involved my new role as the RRSA Lead, informing children, parents and staff about the award, assessing our starting point through questionnaires of staff and children, completing a comprehensive action plan, attending development sessions and making a commitment to inform children about the rights children have as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child. Our journey to Silver: Rights Aware has now begun and we look forward to informing you on our progress through our newsletter. Miss Leonard



BRONZE – RIGHTS COMMITTED

Together we learn. Together we grow.



### Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is a time to celebrate all of the great things about being online and remind ourselves how we can stay safe. Through the assembly, we were reminded that when we go online we have a choice; a choice of what to do, what to watch, who to communicate with and how to act. It is important you feel free to make those decisions as long as we are safe and respectful. We would love it if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. Use the links from the website to start your discussions about your child's online world.

Mrs Thomas



### Please be Patient and Give me a Little More Time

I would just like to bring your attention to an initiative called the 'Hidden Disabilities Sunflower'. Not all disabilities are visible – some are not immediately obvious, such as learning difficulties, mental health as well as mobility, speech, visual or hearing impairments. Living with a hidden disability can make daily life more demanding for many people, but it can be difficult for others to recognise, acknowledge or understand the challenges you face. Wearing the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower discreetly indicates to people around you including staff, colleagues and health professionals that you may need additional support, help or a little more time. Please note this is taken from the hidden disabilities website.

### Every child is a Geographer

At Leasowes, we believe in promoting curiosity about the world around us. In order to enhance this, I would like to set a new challenge in each newsletter to encourage the children to think geographically about places near and far. **The first question is: What if Baswich had a railway station?** The children can express their ideas in any which way they choose. For example, they might use an OS map to consider where the train station might be placed and discuss what the impact of this might be. They could make a model of what the train station might look like or consider whether they would use the train station or not. All contributions will be celebrated and I cannot wait to see the children's ideas.

Mrs Croton ☺

### Year 5 Brass

From September, all children in 5DT have had a brass instrument to use within their music lessons as well as to practise with at home, from trumpets to trombones. I can imagine the fear on your faces (and your neighbour's faces!) on the first day that they brought their instrument home! After watching the mini performance that was put on for the parents, I can see that they blew these fears away. With the expertise of Mr Walker, not only could the children play beautifully, but the language they used to explain the instruments was wonderful to see. I am sure that the children will agree that this has been a brilliant opportunity. I must give a special mention to child who independently learnt how to play 'Oh when the saints go marching in' at home. 5EL will now take over for the rest of the academic year. Good luck to the mums and dads!



### The Kid Who Came From Space

Ross Welford

#### Review

An adventure - filled story told in 4 parts, where the writing of the author takes you on an adventure to another planet through the stories of Ethan, Tammy and Hellyann. This engaging story provides readers with the chance to experience family, friendship and alien life whilst also raising the importance of feelings: all the time keeping you on the edge of your seat and fully invested in the characters.

The story starts with a newspaper cutting, telling the tale of a missing girl: Tammy Tait - and, through the book, her disappearance is uncovered with unusual, and often humorous, twists and turns along the way. Family ties are key within this narrative as Ethan's family structures fall apart with the disappearance of his twin sister; he regrets the last thing he said to her, his Dad spends all of his time at the pub they run, his mum suffers from a breakdown and the locals are unsure as to how to speak to him all apart from Iggy and his pet chicken. Together the two of them uncover the mystery behind Tammy's disappearance, a discovery that takes them on an adventure beyond our solar system to Anthalla, a planet full of hairy creatures, who exist without feelings and emotions and who spend time in a 'zoo-like' setting, observing humans 'collected' from Earth.

The different viewpoints are demonstrated, not only in the voice of the character, but also in the font and this re-visiting of the story in different perspectives allows the key events to be embedded in the reader's mind. Some of the vocabulary could be challenging for those less confident readers; however the scientific descriptions and explanations add to the overall feel of the book and the demonstration of standing up for something that you know is right is a positive message throughout the book. A thoroughly enjoyable book for those aged 9+ who like adventures, friendship and a taste of the unknown.

Reviewed by Debbie Wood / Ages 9+ / 368 Pages

Reviewed by: Debbie Wood (& the Reading Leaders of Leasowes Primary School)



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#### Your Shout

Let us know about your new initiatives, views and news.

### We Love Reading!

The reading leaders and Mrs Wood have been involved in reviewing the book, 'The Kid Who Came From Space'. This review is published on the 'Reading Zone' website. They gave it 4 stars! ★★★★★

Applications for entry to Nursery in September 2020 are now open.

Please see the school website > Leasowes Extra, for application and admission information. The closing date for all applications is the 31st March 2020.