



Together we learn. Together we grow.

Dear Parents,

What a year we have had! As I started to write the final newsletter of 2020, I needed to remind myself that this time last year no one had really heard about Covid-19. In a very short space of time, our lifestyles have changed and we have adopted phrases that 'roll off the tongue' when we think about how we go about our daily business. I never thought I would see the day when schools were forced to close to the majority of their children and teaching had to be adapted quickly to allow children to learn from home. However, in all of this, the resilience and spirit of our community and beyond always amazes me.

It is only fitting, that in this situation, I say a heart felt thank you to so many people starting by acknowledging the staff. Staffing is our greatest resource and hinges on every person taking responsibility for their role to ensure the smooth running of the school. Throughout the pandemic, many of these roles have changed. At times this has placed people out of their comfort zones, completing additional tasks and increasing the trajectory of our ever-growing learning curve. The basic running of the school has had to, and continues to evolve. The strength of our 'togetherness' has been challenged and those day-to-day transactions that we take for granted are more testing. However, I could not be prouder of the staff at Leasowes. Throughout all of this, we have found ways to combat the challenges that Covid-19 has brought. Offices have been separated, bubbles formed, lunchtime rotas planned with precision and staff have covered in the absence of their colleagues without a consideration for themselves. Remote learning has continued to evolve with staff embracing the video lessons. Throughout this pandemic, I insisted that the school would continue to drive learning and make Leasowes a special place to learn and the staff have been truly amazing. Our PTFA have supported us throughout the term and I know they have sent out a newsletter celebrating their achievements, but I felt it important to say how much we appreciate them all. Thank you! In addition to my thanks to the staff, I would like to thank the parents and children. The changes to schooling will have had an impact on your lives. We are very aware of the pressures forced isolation and remote learning add to an already hectic family life. Our remote learning has been embraced and the messages of support received from parents have been overwhelming, particularly to our video lessons. I am not sure what the new year will look like, but we will still be following Public Health guidance well into 2021. However, I would like to thank you all for your patience, understanding, commitment and support. Without this, school would be that little bit harder.

Our festive season has been well and truly active. We have been involved in a plethora of festive activities and the Leasowes Advent Calendar has been enjoyed by all. Yesterday, we watched a live recorded pantomime, 'Cinderella'. Unfortunately, I do fear for one of my teachers, Mr Rock, as he seems to have caught the eye of one of the ugly sisters. Good Luck Mr Rock! Our little gift to you is our '12 Days of Christmas'; I hope you have managed to watch it. Finally, on behalf of all the staff and Governors at Leasowes, I would like to wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR! We look forward to seeing the children back in the new year, well-rested and ready to continue their learning journey. School is open to children from Tuesday 5th January.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Bettany
Headteacher



**Merry
Christmas**

