



Dear Parents,

As we near the end of our second full week of National Lockdown, I would like to start by thanking Parents for their ongoing support. We are yet again navigating through uncharted waters with many barriers for us all. The Leasowes community, as always, shows their strength and resilience and makes me feel very proud to lead our school. With the roll out of vaccines, we all remain hopeful that we will return to school in the very near future. At some point next week, when tests are delivered, Primary School staff will be asked to partake in asymptomatic testing. Each member of staff will be provided with a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kit to self-swab twice weekly. Although this is not mandatory and testing is not 100% accurate, we will be strongly advising all of our staff to take part. Along with continued rigorous risk assessments, policies and procedures we continue to work with the Government to gain control of the pandemic and allow people to start to regain some sort of normality.

Over the last few weeks, we have stayed in close communication about how our Remote Education will evolve. This week, Years 4, 5 and 6 have hosted successful 'live' etiquette meetings in preparation for our roll out of the 'Registration and Feedback' sessions due to start next week or the week after, dependent on year group. Taking into consideration the need for spaces, devices, staffing gate duties and teaching key worker children, we will trial two time slots – 8.45am and 9.05am. Please see overleaf for your child's class group slot. There may be some families where sessions run simultaneously for siblings. Unfortunately, this will be unavoidable but I encourage you to either share the sessions over the week or decide which child may need more support from the previous day's work. Please note that other devices (mobile phones, tablets) are suitable for this type of session.

Leasowes has reading at the heart of all of our learning. Over the years we have committed to providing rich reading resources. Mrs Till recently recorded a video on how to access the reading cloud. This is a fantastic online resource and we are currently purchasing an additional reading catalogue to be launched soon. Regarding pre-recorded videos, firstly thank you to all of the children who are watching the story time and assemblies with myself and Mr Coombs. It will be my assembly next week and I look forward to seeing how many children view it. Secondly, we are able to analyse how many children are viewing the pre-recorded teaching videos; well done as most children are. We have noticed that some of the children are not watching the whole video and then finding some of the work difficult and following this up with emails. Please make sure that your child watches each video all the way through, then watches it again, pausing and rewinding as necessary. These are extremely good learning behaviours and form part of our Leasowes charter. We have created a guide for parents on how to support your child with Remote Education: [Guide for Parents](#). Whilst the children are working from home, the three elements to support learning behaviours of our school charter are:

**Active listening, active learning**

**Always work hard and be proud**

**Have the courage to challenge yourself**

Communication with parents is key, therefore we feel it is important to continue with our planned Parents Evenings. A letter will be sent out next week to inform how we will use Microsoft Teams to deliver these. In the meantime, your class teachers and all staff at Leasowes continue to work extremely hard in difficult times. Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance if you have any difficulties.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Bettany

Together we learn. Together we grow.

### Pupil Premium Funding

The number of families applying for Pupil Premium (also known as Free School Meals) funds at Leasowes has dramatically decreased. We feel that this may be due to families thinking that it is now unnecessary to apply, due to their child receiving a Universal Free School Meal in EYFS and KS1. Pupil Premium eligibility is a separate set of funding that when applied for will provide the school with around £1300 per year, per child that can be spent on interventions and resources that will directly impact your child's education e.g. further support resources and funding of school visits.

During the global pandemic, many family situations have changed. You can register your child for Free School Meals (Pupil Premium) if you are in receipt of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you would like any more information, please do not hesitate in contacting Staffordshire County Council on 0300 1118007, email [freeschoolmeals@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@staffordshire.gov.uk) or apply directly through this link

[Free School Meals Online Application](#)

### Registration and Feedback Sessions

Please see the time that your child's class teacher will host the live, daily 'Registration and Feedback' session.

**Years 4, 5 and 6 will start week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**and Years 1, 2 & 3 will start week beginning 1<sup>st</sup>**

**February.**

Please be mindful that we are trialling this system and therefore we anticipate teething problems.

**8.45am**

1CC

2HR

3CH

4LT

5TR

6EL

**9.05am**

1BD

2TL

3GQ

4TM

5DW

6CR

### Year 3 Art

The water theme has continued in art, where the children have learned about pointillism, as used by the French artist, George Seurat. The following stunning painting was produced by Phoebe.



### School Safety

Please remember to wear masks on site when dropping and picking up the children. Thank you for your support.

### Year Group Learning

Each newsletter we will highlight some of the learning taking place in different year groups. This week is Year 3.

Year 3 have been diving into our new text, 'Malamander', as part of our 'Water, Water Everywhere' topic. It has already captured the imaginations of the children, who are very excited to find out more about the legendary Malamander and what happens to the main characters, Herbie and Violet.

As part of the Year 3 English, children were asked to write poems inspired by water.

The following poem was written by Sophia, who would love to share her work.

Melting snow up high,  
In the sky.

I remember in my guide,  
Going in the rain.

Blushing through the rainy day,  
Using unbelievable umbrellas.  
The river getting to be used by,  
Floating boats and fishing fellas.

Glisten away in the cold,  
Look out! A Cliff!  
Towering edges, what harmful sights!  
Falling, rushing,  
The river drops to the rich turquoise sea.

**By Sophia**