



Dear Parents,

A Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to a new decade. The teachers have hit the ground running in 2020, beginning the year with training on the first Monday back to make sure that the learning we provide for your children is absolutely the best that it can be. We started the day with some in depth training led by Miss Ashton on phonics and how this can be used throughout the school to help children become confident readers. Mrs Till followed Miss Ashton leading curriculum training. Although the topics chosen for the learning planned for your children are excellent, we are always ready to improve this. The teaching staff are now in the process of making sure that learning continues to link and builds on previous tasks, and that it is memorable, with plenty of opportunities to apply knowledge and skills taught, preparing Leasowes children for the exciting future that awaits them.

When the children started school on Tuesday, we began the day with a whole school assembly led by myself. The children had to guess which teacher had chosen certain New Year's resolutions. These ranged from exercising more regularly to trying out new recipes at home. Miss Reeves chose my particular favourite. She is going to try to read a new book for every week of the year. Incredibly, she is already exceeding her target! Come on children, I challenge you to see if you can match Miss Reeves book for book. The 100 book challenge is waiting for you!

Of course, now that the building work is now virtually completed, the children are once again able to walk through the new building when travelling from one part of the school to the other. Everyone who has seen the space is amazed by the size and potential. Myself and Mr Coombs are now in the process of talking to designers so that our new learning hub will be accessible and functional for all. See the photographs overleaf and watch this space for further information!

On arriving at school on Monday morning last week, I was greeted with a lovely letter from Vinnie, our relief Patrol Crossing Person. He wrote to say how much he had enjoyed working with the children from Leasowes, commending them for their well-mannered and kind natured personalities. In his words, *'So many pupils and parents have embraced me with a great deal of unconditional warmth, friendliness and acceptance.'* We know that the children from Leasowes are absolutely amazing and it is really lovely to see this recognised in the wider community. Please be mindful that we are down to one Patrol Crossing Person to cover KS1 and KS2 at present.

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

Together we learn. Together we grow.

### Using the Internet Safely

At Leasowes, we continually strive to ensure that when children are online, they are accessing this safely, and have a clear awareness of the many pitfalls that they may find on the way. This year, **Safer Internet Day** will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> February. In preparation for this, Year 5 have taken part in a 'Safe and Sound' workshop this week. Part of this entailed discussions relating to social media sites, such as WhatsApp and Instagram, including an awareness of the age restrictions related to these sites. Please use the link below for some really useful information on staying safe on the internet.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/>

### Year 5 Sleepover

Last night the children of Year 5 stayed the night at school as part of their 'To Infinity and Beyond' Science topic. Through this, the children learned about the planets in our Solar System, searched the sky for star constellations, competed in space hopper races, ate a chip shop dinner and watched a film before going to bed in the year 5 and 6 classrooms. Miss Leonard came to find me this morning to say how well behaved all the children were throughout the whole experience. They even managed to get some sleep! A big thank you to all the staff who helped out; in particular to Miss Leonard, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Davies, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Carr and Mr Rock for staying for the whole night. I am sure that the children and staff will be ready for their beds tonight!

### Safe and Sound

As I briefly mentioned above, Year 5 attended the 'Safe and Sound' project set up by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service with the aim of supporting our children to make informed and positive choices.

During the morning, the children took part in a variety of interactive and practical workshops delivered by representatives from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Gist - trucks and child safety, Staffordshire Police - online safety, Canal and River Trust and Network Rail. The children were enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed the activities. What a jam-packed timetable Year 5 have had this week!

## Our New Building Work



Old walkway



New Library Hub!



New Classroom

Areas have yet to be furnished, but watch this space!



Wraparound Nursery Entrance

Old Nursery Classroom

