



Together we learn. Together we grow.

Dear Parents,

I cannot believe that we are already coming to the end of the first half term. We seem to have managed to fit in so much, even with the restrictions that have been put upon us. Myself and Mr Coombs have had the great pleasure of getting around the classrooms this week to see all the children in action. The learning that is taking place across the school is wonderful. Over the last two years, led by Mrs Till, the teachers have spent a lot of time and effort creating a curriculum that is exciting and relevant. It gives the learning purpose and our 'rooted in reading' approach enables the children to read challenging and interesting books that directly link to the topics. I have no doubt that this curriculum will have a great impact on the children's future outcomes. From walking around the school over the past weeks I really do feel that the learning is back on track showing, that no matter how quickly life changes, we at Leasowes will continue to show our resilience. It has been brilliant to see this incredible curriculum showcased across the school. As I am sure you are all aware, we have been hard at work organising an amazing library space at the heart of the school. This was completed in the summer term, but up until this term was missing one very vital piece of the jigsaw: the children! It makes me so happy to see the classes now accessing this area: reading stories in groups, discussing books together, changing books to read at home as well as using the library to further research topics learnt in the classroom.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has restricted us from running the school exactly how we would like to, every now and then it does help us find more efficient practices that we feel we will keep when all limitations are finally lifted. Purchasing a hot trolley for the KS1 hall means that we can now provide meals for Reception and Year 1 without them needing to walk all the way to the other side of the school. The whole system works brilliantly and something we will definitely keep. Additionally, having to stagger the playtimes to ensure that the children stay in their bubbles has meant that the children are accessing more space during their free time. We are already looking at how this might look in the future, post C19.

As always, it is really important that we communicate effectively with you about your children. Please note that, if you wish to contact us through email, the address to use now is **office2@leasowes.staffs.sch.uk**

Additionally, 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

Safeguarding of our Children and Community

Leasowes is situated in a busy residential area and key drop off and pick up times can be hectic. Please be mindful of the community and other parents by ensuring that your cars are parked safely and are not in front of driveways. Also, please ensure that dogs are always on leads and not obstructing gateways into school. This will ensure the safety of our children. Let's work together!

Harvest

Yesterday morning, I was absolutely overwhelmed by the amount of food dropped off by the families of Leasowes to help out people in more need than ourselves over Harvest time. All of the kind offerings given will now be donated to the Rising Brook Foodbank, who will ensure that they are given to much needed homes. A big thank you to Mrs Hill for organising this for us.



Rewards and Own Clothes Day

Please note that we will be having a rewards morning on the last Friday of the half term. This rewards children for their good behaviour. Activities have been arranged to ensure that all children stay in their year group bubbles. Additionally, to help raise some funds for the PTFA, the children will be allowed to come to school in own clothes. The PTFA are asking for a £1 donation from all children participating. The theme for this day, Friday 23rd October is colourful!

PTFA Zoom Meeting

The PTFA will be holding their AGM on Monday 19th October at 6pm. Please see the attachment for more information.

New to Reception

At this point in the year we usually hold a 'New to Reception' meeting. This is a time where we give you a clear picture of our values and beliefs, as well as explaining the excellent provision of learning we will provide for the children at Leasowes throughout their primary school life. It also gives you the opportunity to meet the staff and have a tour of the school.

Due to Covid-19, this is not something that the Government Guidelines allow us to go ahead with. Instead, Miss Leonard and Miss Reeves have put together an amazing film to give all new parents a clear insight into life at Leasowes. This will be available on our website from next week. Please pass on the message to anyone who might be interested and make sure you have look yourself.

Parents' Evening

Last Monday, you will have all received the letter giving you an opportunity to book a time slot with your child's teacher for Wednesday 21st or Thursday 22nd October from 3.30pm through to 6.00pm. The teachers will be discussing how well your child has settled into the new school year, as well as the progress made in their learning. Your slip will be returned to confirm times on Monday 19th October.

The Music Provision at Leasowes

We are proud to say that the Violin and Brass lessons have been up and running for the past two weeks. These lessons are for all the children in 4LT and 5TR for the first half of the year, followed by 4TM and 5DW in the second half. This means that every child in these year groups will have the opportunity to experience playing these instruments. Orchestral musicians of the future!

Outdoor Classroom Day

I am extremely excited to let you know that Leasowes will be taking part in Outdoor Classroom Day on the **5th November 2020**. Outdoor Classroom Day is a global campaign which aims to inspire and celebrate outdoor learning. Thus, all children will be spending the majority of their day in various outdoor environments around school, looking at '**Leasowes Under the Microscope**'. They will discover more about Leasowes than ever before as they zoom in on its environment through a whole host of learning challenges. This might be collecting fieldwork data from our school grounds, drawing cloud formations seen above your classroom, creating a nature orchestra or writing a poem on how to care for our school environment. As well as stimulating learning and creativity, the day will help children develop a love of the natural world, which means they are more likely to grow up wanting to protect it. As organiser of the day, I have thoroughly enjoyed the planning process and I know that children and teaching staff alike cannot wait to get the day underway and see the wonderfully innovative learning that will be produced.

Miss Ross.