



Dear Parents,

Since my last newsletter, I feel like we are hurtling towards Spring and finally starting to see some signs of new life and slightly lighter mornings. You may remember, that Leasowes has been expecting a delivery of Lateral Flow self-test kits for staff. These arrived in school late last week and since Monday staff are carrying out asymptomatic testing twice weekly. We hope that by participating in this optional scheme, we are supporting the drive to tackle the pandemic, at the same time as making our school environment as safe as realistically possible.

Boris Johnson, when addressing the nation, mentioned the 8th March as a potential date when children may start to return to school in some format. Some parents have asked if we have received any further guidance from the DfE. Unfortunately, as stated in previous correspondence, we are given the same information as the public. We have been informed that schools will be given a two week notice period for children to return, to enable them to prepare. Of course, once we have received this information, we will inform you immediately and then follow this with guidance on our risk assessment and plans.

During this year there have been many 'first times' and we continue to add to our list. This week, for the first time, we have hosted Parents' Evening via our Microsoft Teams platform. This was highly successful and although staff were feeling a bit nervous, they embraced the challenge. Whilst discussing Teams, our Registration and Feedback sessions are fully up and running in all year groups. There have been a few teething problems with technology that was always to be expected. These sessions add an additional dimension to our already established remote education provision. We really encourage all children to participate in these sessions, as well as watching our weekly assemblies and story time with myself and Mr Coombs. This helps to encourage that 'sense of belonging' that we normally achieve as part of school life. We have received overwhelming support from parents about how our remote education provision has evolved. We thank you for your continued support and really appreciate your kind comments.

It is important that all leaders across the school continue to drive further improvements. Even whilst working remotely, our Junior Leadership Team (JLT) have been doing just this. Behind the scenes, JLT have updated their webpage and added personal pen portraits for you to get to know them a little better. They have also updated the children's behaviour policy, also on the website, to reflect a more modern feel. Over the next couple of weeks, they will be beginning to think about further developing our school charter. We look forward to seeing their progress.

The week beginning the 15th February is half term, which means that there will be no remote learning provision for that week. This will resume on Monday 22nd February. Well done to all children and families that are embracing this new way of learning. We hope that we get back to normal school life as soon as it is safe to do so, but acknowledge that there are many life skills that will be learned during this period that will support us all in the future.

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
Headteacher

Together we learn. Together we grow.

Curriculum

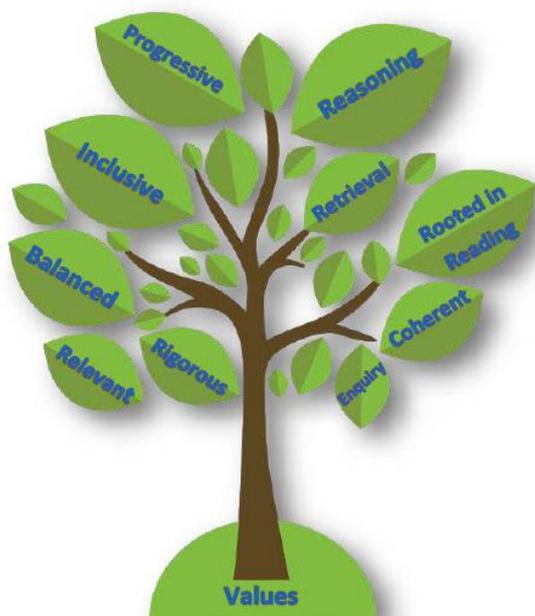
Over the last few years the staff at Leasowes have worked hard designing an exciting curriculum that is rooted in reading and empowers learners. The curriculum is a hugely important provision that must forever evolve to meet the needs of our children and create life-long learners who flourish in our ever-changing society. At the heart of our curriculum design is our curriculum vision and concepts. Our curriculum remains faithful to the vision and concepts, whilst being ambitious. Retrieval of prior knowledge and the development of retrieval skills is key to developing effective learners. We have worked hard to build strategies that support children to retrieve knowledge and skills, as we believe this plays a fundamental role in enabling children to continually make progress. Therefore, we have included 'Retrieval' as one of our key curriculum concepts. You can find our curriculum vision, concepts and design on our website under Learning for life.

Retrieval

Learning has been defined in cognitive psychology as an alteration in long-term memory.

Progress, therefore, means knowing more (including knowing how to do more) and remembering more. For this reason, retrieval practice forms a key pedagogical approach across the curriculum at Leasowes. Children are taught that their memory of previously taught concepts and knowledge is made stronger through regular retrieval practice and recovery learning.

Curriculum Concepts



Parent Secure Area

Over the last year, children and parents have become adept at using the 'pupil secure' area to access information and learning. As a result, the need for the 'parent secure' area is no longer necessary. Therefore, this function will be removed from the website in the coming days. If we feel for any reason that this needs to be reinstalled, then of course this will be actioned.

World Book Day!

As a newly appointed phase leader and English lead, Miss Reeves is already planning how we will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 4th March. **Watch this space!**

Children's Mental Health Week

This year's theme is 'Express Yourself'. There are some lovely links and activities that can be found via this link [Express Yourself](#) including a video message from HRH The Duchess of Cambridge.

Today our children need to be proud of themselves, give themselves a pat on the back and say, 'We did it!'. Be kind to yourself this weekend and find a fun activity that makes you feel great and brings that 'true eye smile'.



Leasowes in the snow!