



Dear Parents,

What a lovely week it has been at Leasowes; there is a buzz around school that has been sorely missed. The arrival of the children back into school has been an absolute pleasure and although there continues to be strict risk assessments to adhere to in the day to day practices, it is a huge step towards returning to some sort of normality. The week started with my whole school 'Welcome Back' assembly, virtually of course. It is important to remind everybody about our values and school charter that we all fully embrace, whilst thinking about the resilience we have all had to draw on during difficult times. The National Lockdown has made us all appreciate some of the things that we take for granted each and every day and school has been one of those privileges. I shared a video that introduces four children from different countries from around the world: India, Kenya, Argentina and Morocco and the journey they have to encounter every day just to get to school. Each child, and in some cases their siblings, have treacherous journeys to school, some taking up to four hours. Children embark on dangerous terrain, encounter wild animals and for Samuel, a boy with a physical disability, he has to rely on other children pushing him in his wheelchair. There is one moment in the video where the tyre comes off Samuel's wheel and his first question is, 'Are we going to be late for school?' In addition to the journey full of danger, Jackson and his little sister from Kenya have to carry containers full of water. Their journey is 2 hours long. Through our Rights Respecting Schools, Article 24, the children learn that every child has the right to clean water. This assembly made us think about how fortunate we are to be part of a school community like Leasowes and how we need to appreciate some of things that we all take for granted. We discussed about being aspirational and striving to be the very best that we can be in our personal character and academic achievement. Mr Coombs and I will continue to deliver assemblies virtually every week and discuss important messages and continue to build on our motto, 'Together we Learn. Together we Grow'. We will also continue to read a story each week that will be shared with our younger children in school. If families still want to access the stories, we will also post them on the pupil secure area of our school website.

Last week saw our first blended approach to World Book Day. It was such a roaring success that I feel it really needed to be mentioned. Miss Reeves, who is new to the role of English Leader planned the day catering for children both in and out of school. Our Masked Reader went down a treat and had over 350 views. This is amazing as we had up to 130 children in school with key worker places on that day. A couple of the children thought that I was Mrs Till, which of course made me very happy. There were a plethora of activities to enjoy and as always staff immersed all in quality texts ensuring that the day was rooted in reading. I hope you will agree that Miss Reeves did an absolutely amazing job and has set the bar even higher for next year. Please see snapshots of the day on our website under 'Learning for Life' and 'Beyond the Curriculum'.

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.

Parent Governor Role

You may remember that very recently we advertised for a Parent Governor. I am pleased to announce that Mr Tim Smale has been successful in this post. Mr Smale has already served a four-year term with the school and had been re-elected for another four years. Over the past year in particular, Mr Smale has been extremely supportive in offering school and our teaching staff support with Microsoft Teams and sharing his knowledge of General Data Protection. Our Governors make a valuable contribution to school and we look forward to this support continuing.

Arrival and Departure

Due to the strict Covid 19 risk assessment, Leasowes are offering staggered start and finish times and an increase in entrance and exit points. Please make sure that you are dropping off and picking up promptly. Also, Year 3 and Year 4 children and siblings that have to access the carpark are doing so with the full supervision of parents. There is to be no riding of scooters or bikes on the school property and please be very

Fantastic News!

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mrs Till is going to have a baby. She will be taking up her maternity leave at the end of April. I am sure you will join me in congratulating her on this super news and we await the safe arrival of Baby

Till



Right of the Fortnight

As part of our journey towards educating children about their rights outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), we have a focus 'Right' every fortnight. This has been in place since we first began our Rights Respecting Schools journey in the Autumn of 2019. However, as we continue to evolve our offering, we feel it is important for you as parents to know these focus articles at home too so you can discuss them further with your child.

Each fortnight on the newsletter you will find our 'Right of the Fortnight' and our reason for choosing it.

As part of our journey to securing recognition from UNICEF as a Gold: Rights Respecting school, parent engagement is crucial. If you are able to support us in this journey or particularly feel passionate about the matter, please contact Miss Leonard via the school office.

Miss Leonard

RIGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

ARTICLE: 28/29 - EDUCATION

24 - GOOD STANDARD OF HEALTHCARE

WHY?

THESE RIGHTS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO DISCUSS THE FINE BALANCE THE GOVERNMENT HAVE HAD TO MAKE BETWEEN PROVIDING THE CHILDREN OF THE UK WITH AN ENRICHING EDUCATION AS WELL AS AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF HEALTHCARE. WE WILL DISCUSS BOTH OUR RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION BUT ALSO OUR RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO PROTECT THE NHS.



The Book With No Pictures
B.J. Novak

We really enjoyed World Book Day! Thanks to everyone for all the work you put into it. The children especially loved the masked reader - we watched it about 5 times! It was nice that they could work together on the resources as a family.
- Y5 parent via email.

I found out that Mr Coombs was the duck because he wears a suit. Mr Rock and Mr Locke usually just wear a shirt and tie!
- Y4 inference.

The children in our bubble absolutely LOVED the masked reader!
- Mrs Till, Assistant Headteacher

The Withering Wizard had to be a member of staff whose name starts with 'Mrs' because they were wearing a wedding ring. I thought it might be Mrs Till or Mrs Bettany.
- Y6 inference.

love

engagement

together we grow

Rooted in Reading

collaboration

enjoyment

World Book Day 2021