



Dear Parents,

As the final day of the term is upon us and the summer holidays are now in reaching distance, it is time to reflect on what can only be described as an unprecedented year. Education is known for moving goalposts and changing landscapes but this year schools around the country have been truly tested. Policies, procedures, risk assessments, bubbles, isolations, staff shortages, managing the environment for both staff and children and of course the realms of remote learning, to name a few, have all made the day to day running of school more complex than normal. However, in a time that has been very unnerving for many and cluttered with uncertainties and frustrations, I can hand on heart say how proud I am of Leasowes, its staff, children, Governors, PTFA and parents. Collectively, we have continued throughout to remain faithful to our commitment to the health, safety, wellbeing, safeguarding and of course the education of our children.

I would like to start with my staff, who are without question our greatest asset. Every member of staff across the whole of school have had significant changes to their everyday practice and everything I have asked of them, they have gone above and beyond and risen to the occasion. There has not been any point where we have sat back and let time pass us by; instead we have embraced the changes and continued to drive all aspects of Leasowes within very difficult circumstances. The teaching staff have had a significant learning curve, with embracing a whole new way of teaching. From the creation of daily videos (which they made look easy) to live daily registration and feedback sessions, the new learning has been endless. You can imagine their faces the first time I explained the way we were going to reach our children. Moan - they did not, embrace – yes, they did. I think Mrs Croton's dog Henry even made a few appearances and helped out with some of the Year 1 Maths teaching! All staff have been absolutely amazing and I would like to thank each and every one for their ongoing commitment to Leasowes and the community.

When it comes to our children, they have shown the utmost resilience. Once again, I could not be prouder. Children have had to learn many new routines, new ways of learning, comprehend a global pandemic and spend periods of isolation within their own homes. However, this has strengthened our appreciation of education and the opportunities afforded to us, that at times we all take for granted. The 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 was the most joyous day, when Leasowes became a hive of activity once more and alive with the learning buzz of children. Exactly how it should be. Albeit in bubbles, the children showed the Leasowes values in action.

Parental support is vital to enable the smooth running of school and this has been overwhelming. The frustrations thrust upon families with the constraints of Government, Public Health England, Staffordshire County Council and your own work and home commitments have been difficult. The mixed messages in the media have been confusing but throughout we have received such support that I truly thank you for. Our Governors, who are the unseen body that support and challenge leaders' decisions, have been solid in their support and we are extremely lucky to have an active body that are visible to the children. In what has turned out to be a newsletter of thanks, I could not finish without thanking the PTFA, who at every turn have been ready to kick back into action.

On our final day of term, in our final newsletter of the year, the main message is 'Thank you'. We wish all of our families and community, a safe and restful summer holiday and really look forward to seeing you all in the new academic year, where we are hopeful for some more normality. We look forward to meeting our new cohort of children in Reception and wish our Year 6 children all the best for the future.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday.

Mrs Bettany & the Leasowes Team

Together we learn. Together we grow.

### Fond Farewell, New Chapters and Welcome to new staff

At this time of year there are always a few fond farewells and celebrations of new chapters. We will be saying goodbye to Miss Lukat, who will be joining a new primary school in September. Mrs Woodmansey and Miss Semley will be retiring from education. The years these two ladies have accumulated collectively working at Leasowes is just brilliant and we wish them all the very best in their new ventures.

Three members of staff will be getting married. Miss Leonard, Mrs Hill and Miss Gillis (Leasowes Extra) will all be embarking on new chapters in their lives and taking their marital vows. Miss Leonard will become Mrs Bennett, Mrs Hill will become Mrs Keen and Miss Gillis will become Mrs Durrant. I am sure you will join me in wishing them the happiest of times whilst embarking on new chapters within their lives.

When we have fond farewells, this is always balanced by warm welcomes. We are welcoming four new staff members to our team. Miss Roe will be the new teacher in Year 2CT, covering Mrs Till's maternity cover. Miss Roe has been into school several times and met the children; we really look forward to her joining our teaching team and the sparkle that she brings. Mr Bales and Miss Harrison will be joining our Teaching Assistant team and Mrs Socratous will be joining our lunchtime supervisor team. We look forward to welcoming them all with open arms in the new academic year.

### Communication for September

Any communication for the start of term will be cascaded via email in the week before we are due to start back to school. Please look out for this as I will consider any new and updated guidance.

### Dates for the New Year

All dates for the new academic year have been placed onto the school calendar on our website.

[Dates for your Diary!](#)

### Sporting Achievements

As many of you are aware, at Leasowes we immerse ourselves in 'School Games'; a nationally funded programme for participation in competitive sports. For several years we have been very proud to receive a gold award. Unfortunately, this year normal awards have not happened due to the pandemic. However, we have been recognised as one of only nine schools across Stafford as an 'Engaged School'. This means that we continued to engage our children within competitive sports during national lockdown. Well done to Mrs Moores and Mr Williams for helping school achieve this.

### Year 6 and Making Memories

Without sounding repetitive, it has been an unusual year, particularly for our oldest children who are due to start their journey into secondary education. Once again, I am very proud to say that they are ready. They will leave Leasowes today with the tools in their bag that they need to be hugely successful in life. We wish them all the very best. Regardless of the circumstances, the children have had a send-off to remember and this is all thanks to my superb year 6 staff for their above and beyond effort in providing them with such wonderful opportunities and experiences.

Let's see what they have been up to...

### Greek Day

Y6 finished their Summer term topic in style by holding a Greek Day. We had a toga-riffic time dressing up, sampling some Greek delicacies including tzatziki and olives (the jury is out on taramasalata), holding a silly-style Olympics and engaging with some varied crafts. We're just disappointed that after all of our efforts, our invite to Tokyo must have gotten lost in the post.





### Business Enterprise

With the support of the whole school community, we were able to provide our children with the ever-valuable experience of conducting a Young Enterprise Project. From planning to pitches, budgeting to fulfilling orders, this was no easy task! We learned to be resilient when the expectations only got higher and higher, honed our communication skills and aspired to be the best we could be. With over £900 in profit, we certainly succeeded! Along the way, we developed some really key skills ahead of transition and (in between stresses that it would never ever get done) had a great time!

### Bear Grylls

As a final flourish to their time at Leasowes, Y6 spent the day at Bear Grylls' Adventure at the NEC. Children's resilience and courage was really tested through archery, rock climbing and high ropes courses. Staff at the centre complimented children on being respectful, sensible and 'up for anything'! We couldn't be prouder.



Our very own Mr Smith in Action!



### Pirates of the Curry Bean

Keeping with our theme of trying to provide the typical Y6 experience while being mindful of current restrictions, our next challenge was to put on an all-singing, all-dancing, pirate-ing extravaganza without our usual audience. Over just a couple of short weeks, Year 6 went above and beyond to learn lines, perform songs with gusto and even dabble in some tricky choreography and, for those families lucky enough to receive a DVD of the finished production, I'm sure you'll agree that live audience or no live audience, we have some shining stars in our midst. Now, if only we could get the tunes out of our heads...



In between all of this, children have enjoyed two days of Bikeability, too! Children conquered a series of assessments and challenges to gain their Level 2 badges. How they had any energy left, we have no idea. Finally, Leavers Day. The children had frolicking fun on the inflatables, eaten pizza and ice-cream and genuinely enjoyed the day.

