



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of the new academic year. It has been so lovely to welcome the children back into school. As we come to the end of our first full week, drop off and collection routines have now been embedded and we hope the tweaks to Years 2 - 6 have made a difference. Where possible, we continue to encourage only one parent to collect their child at the end of the day to help reduce congestion. When talking about new starts, I have to mention our new to Nursery and Reception children. They are just wonderful! The children have settled beautifully and being on gate duty has allowed myself and Mr Coombs to start to get to know the parents. We look forward to building strong and positive relationships over the coming years.

Health and Safety and Safeguarding are always at the heart of all we do. Safeguarding is revisited on the very first inset day with staff and then continually drip fed throughout the year. The new safeguarding policy has been uploaded onto our school website. On the first Friday back to school we ran a fire drill. On this occasion we told the children it was going to take place to ensure they all fully understood why we practise this and where we have to stand. The whole school was evacuated in 3 minutes and the children were incredibly efficient. Continuing on the theme of safety, Staffordshire Police - along with Staffordshire County Council - have launched a campaign to help with the issues of school parking. Please take the time to watch this short video clip which will help explain the initiative and read the message from Staffordshire police overleaf [School Parking Initiative](#)

To launch Leasowes children into a brand new year of learning, we have spent the first couple of weeks delving into Joe Todd-Stanton's 'The Secret of Black Rock'. This largely picture-based book tells the story of Erin, who becomes intrigued by the legend of Black Rock, an island off the coast of her seaside town that is feared by all the townspeople and fisherman she speaks to. When she finally slips away from the watchful eye of her mother, Erin discovers that Black Rock is not the fearsome dangerous place it is believed to be: it is a living, breathing creature that is the home to a whole ecosystem of beautiful creatures. Leasowes' learners have rooted our learning in reading, responding to the texts in our English and Art lessons. From learning about expanded noun phrases to describe the under-sea kingdom in Y1 to developing tension and atmosphere and writing the Legend of Black Rock in Y6, we have flexed our creative writing muscles. In our Art lessons, each year group has explored one of the elements of art: Y4 have explored form through developing light and dark mountainscapes while Y5 have experimented with space, creating line drawings showing Erin falling beneath the surface! Check out our display of this marvellous learning journey in the Key Stage 1 hall when you next visit!

Communication with parents is always of the utmost importance. We have our up and coming meet the teacher meeting, times overleaf. Our website contains a wealth of information. Please note that dates for your diaries are all on the school calendar. A new addition is our digital prospectus. You can find this under 'Parent News' or on the home page.

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. Together we learn. Together we grow.

Our School Values

At Leasowes everything we do at school is underpinned by our vision and values. We pride ourselves on using these values in our everyday language and actions. Children have a clear understanding of what they are, what they mean and how to put them into practice, both individually and collectively as a school. This half term we will especially be thinking about **RESPECT**.

Clubs and Groups

Please check the website for clubs and groups for this term. Children will need permission to attend clubs and groups after school but will not need permission to attend any lunchtime clubs.

Covid-19 Guidance

Please remember that children under 18 do not need to isolate if someone in the household tests positive for Covid-19. However, the Government do advise that all members of the household book a PCR test. If a child is not showing any symptoms then they are allowed back into school whilst waiting for the results.



Nut-Free School

We endeavour to be a nut free school. Please be extra careful when providing packed lunches. We have several children in school with severe nut allergies. Thank you for your ongoing support with the care of our children.



Twitter

At Leasowes we love Twitter. This is a great way for us to showcase what we have been learning about or experiences we have provided the children. Please follow us @LeasowesPrimary

Please make sure that no valuables (including Fitbits) are brought into school. School will not be responsible for the loss of valuables.

Message from PC 5159 Lester at Staffordshire Police

Parking in and around school drop off and pick up times are extremely hectic. For the majority of people dropping off and picking students up – THANK YOU. Thank you to the people who walk in, cycle in, scoot in or those that do drive but park further out and walk that last section. This helps to keep our children safe. There are still parents and carers who park in the bus stop, park right on the junction, or on the double yellow lines just up from the junction. Double yellow lines are there to allow a clear view into and out of the junction, not just for car drivers, but for pedestrians too. People are still blocking residents drives and just across the last little bit of the zig-zags. Unfortunately, this is not acceptable. Many people think, 'I'll only be 30 seconds/2 minutes/I'm only collecting/dropping off' but again this is not acceptable. These measures are in place to keep the children safe. I am sure we can all agree that this is of the utmost importance! Parking on the zig-zags – yellow lines – the bus stop – across driveways – is all an offence for which tickets can be issued. Ultimately, it is morally wrong. Let's all keep the streets around Leasowes a safe place for children to travel to school. Children of Primary School age are not able to judge traffic speed, they cannot always remember they have to look before crossing and can be unpredictable. Bob and Linda, the school crossing patrols, do a fantastic job. Their job is to allow a safe place for children to cross to reach school. Some parents are parking up and allowing children to get out into the road and not using the crossing patrol. Remember, they are there to create a safe environment for the children. Without them – which did happen for a short time – we know how difficult it is and unsafe for children crossing the road.

So this is a plea to all parents, please – take the time to be a parking star.

Pc 5159 Lester