



Dear Parents,

Over the last few years, Leasowes have worked extremely hard to raise the profile of wellbeing and positive mental health. In 2019 we were very proud to have achieved the Wellbeing Award for Schools and have continued to drive towards ensuring this positive message is embedded. We believe that it is important to recognise our own mental health, that of others and be proactive in finding ways to keep ourselves fit, healthy and have a positive outlook on life. There are times when life comes to try us and it is important that we all have access to the support necessary to help us through such times. World Mental Health Day is on October 10<sup>th</sup> and therefore I would like to highlight the website 'Young Minds'. This is a registered charity that aims to, 'Make sure all young people get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's challenges'. On this site, there is support for young people and parents alike. It gives information on a range of subjects including anxiety, divorce, self-esteem and many more. It has a parental helpline that you can also contact for advice. For an 'A to Z' guide of support for parents, please click the hyperlink [Young Minds Parent Guide](#). This will take you directly to the page and then you will be able to search all of the resources offered. I hope that this link is useful to the Leasowes Community. Please share with your friends if they are ever in need of support.

Training for staff is continuous and progressive and a crucial part of developing as leaders. Within this, safeguarding and health and safety always come first. This week both myself and Mr Coombs have attended our level 3 safeguarding update training. Here at Leasowes Safeguarding is at the heart of all we do, therefore we have five fully trained Safeguarding leads including Mrs Caven for Leasowes Extra. In addition, Mr Rock and Mrs Carr have updated their outdoor first aid training for Forest Schools, which incorporates level 3 paediatric first aid. We will always continue to work hard to ensure the safety of our children.

During the academic year, we like to provide opportunities for children to have their photographs taken as individuals, with siblings and as a class group. This normally takes place during the Spring and Summer term. Last academic year, due to the global pandemic, many services were affected and photographs was one of them. Sibling photographs were missed due to the non-mixing of bubbles and Tempest very kindly added a date, at short notice, to try and rectify this. In addition, we have trialled photographing Reception children at the start of their journey of primary education rather than the end of their first year. Unfortunately, due to a glitch in our parental communication text and email messaging service, the message did not get out to all families, therefore I sincerely apologise. However, I know the children always look smart and act smart. The pandemic has made everyone rethink the way we do things. Therefore, this year, individual photographs for Years 1 – 6 will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November and class Photographs will take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022. These dates are on the school calendar and we will remind you just before.

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. Mr Coombs is covering the phase leader role in KS1 for Mrs Till. 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

### Our School Values

Every Monday morning, we hold an assembly that is rooted in our values. This is run either by myself, Mr Coombs or Mr Bales. This is an opportunity to support our school improvement drive in music, therefore the children are exposed to different genres of music that is then discussed. This further exposure helps children to recognise differences in music genres and cement learning throughout the curriculum.

For the main focus of the assembly, this week I discussed our value of respect and how this is demonstrated so well through the sport of rugby. We looked at rugby core values and indeed how these are shown on the pitch, from the respect for the referee to showing appreciation and respect of opponents. Our assemblies are always linked to British Values and our Rights Respecting Schools and provide the opportunity to reflect on our own behaviour. Our children are so confident with our school values and endeavour to demonstrate them every day. Well done Leasowes.



### Harvest Celebrations

This year, Harvest celebrations will be carried out within school with the children. However, we will still be asking for food donations to support our local area and this will be communicated in the near future.

### Rooted in Reading!

As a school, we are firmly rooted in reading. Our curriculum is driven by rich texts, giving children the opportunity to read books in class in their entirety, the library offers a wealth of texts and so do our online subscriptions to mention a few. As we are so passionate about reading, one of our new features within the newsletter will be for staff to recommend a book for the children to read. Watch out for the, 'We are Readers' section in the up and coming newsletters.

### School Uniform

As the weather is now starting to change and Autumn is upon us, children should now be wearing Autumn/Spring uniform. Please see website for further details.



### The Importance of Times Tables

Hello everyone, Mr Locke here. In my role as Maths Leader, times tables are a core part to children's understanding and application of Maths. A secure understanding of these helps children to reach their full potential in Maths. Thus, we are investing further time to ensure that these skills are being embedded throughout all year groups. **At the end of Year 4**, all children in the UK will be required to take a Times Tables Assessment, which tests up to and including the 12 times table. They must be able to answer quick fire questions in any order and give the answer in six seconds. Whilst we are dedicating allotted time each day to achieve these goals, we greatly appreciate your support by working on this learning focus at home. You can support your child using the following resources: Times Table Rockstars and Hit the Button (online resources), quickfire questions, times table songs and worksheets which are easily accessible online. These resources will help the children to learn their times tables by rote, meaning that children will be able to answer quickfire questions. It is, however, fundamental that the children gain a deeper understanding of the relationship of times tables with regard to division, fractions and percentages. Any support that you can offer your child regarding this will enable them to apply their knowledge to a wide range of concepts with confidence. Thank you in advance for continuing to support your child and the school.

Mr Locke – Maths Leader