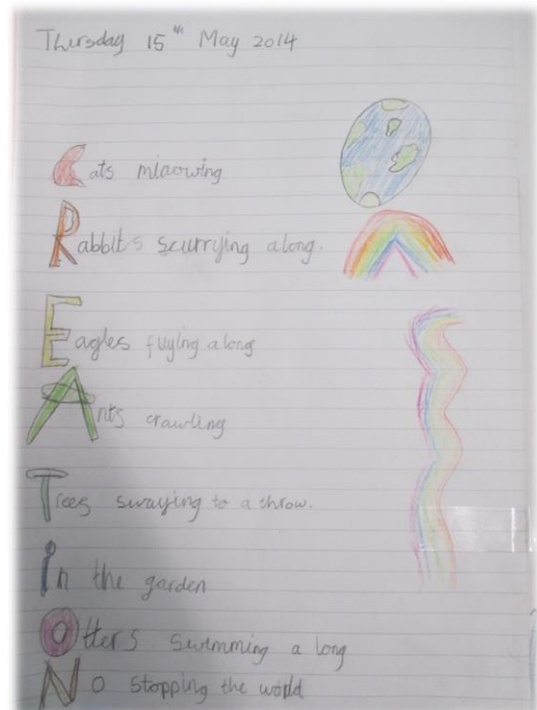


Thursday 22nd May 2014

Head's desk

Despite a short half term we have been packing in lots of hands on learning for the children and taking advantage of the spring weather to work outside as much as possible.

At the beginning of term the Science Dome visited us. This involved filling our hall with an enormous inflatable dome in side which the children were treated to a planetarium experience suitable for their age and stage. See class pages for more details!



Another highlight for the children who participated was our success in the Cougars Football Festival on 29th April. Our roving reporter Tom reported:

'On Tuesday 31st April, Layston School Football Team played in the Cougars Football Festival. We all arrived feeling very excited and were up against our rivals Millfield first! We kicked off and threatened to score immediately. Their

defenders tackled and hit us on the break. They got it out wide and a blocked cross leads to a corner which is well saved by our goalie. Goal kick taken and three passes later...GOOOOAAAL. A well taken finish'.

We took two teams along to the festival, the Layston 'Aardvarks' and 'Beavers'. The Aardvarks won all three matches without conceding a single goal. Across the combined six matches, Layston lost just a single, close game which was a fantastic achievement. However, the highlight for most of the players actually appeared to be the free food afterwards!



All schools are allocated Sports Premium funding and it is a great pleasure to spend this on activities that not only promote skill development but also provide fun and challenge. The latest BMX course was a real hit with the children:

'Epic, awesome, fantastic and amazing'.

Darcy says 'I am learning to ride without stabilisers for the very first time'.



George tells us 'I'm learning how to use my bike in different ways. Now I am using both hands to break, plus it's a lot easier going on a mountain bike on grass.'

We have booked another session for our year 4's and a course of BMX for our current year 3's for the autumn term.

Developing links with our partner schools is always exciting and we were treated to an inspiring concert by the Edwinstree School orchestra, including a world premiere! Having the opportunity to see real instruments being played live is exhilarating for

the children and supports their own efforts in learning the recorder (all children from Y2-4), the piano (lessons offered by a parent) and new to Y4 this term, the ukulele.

Maintaining and the fabric of the building and developing high quality outside learning spaces for our children is a priority. To this end we have scheduled work for resurfacing the area outside Y1 and Layston preschool over half term. This will be in a very smart dark green 'wetpour' surface providing a resilient but elegant solution to the existing but deteriorating substrate. We are hopeful we will all be delighted with the result.

As a Church school we encourage our children to show compassion and we have been delighted with the way the children want to raise money for charity. We have had several child initiated charity fundraising events, the latest of which, 'Arts and Crafts' stalls took place on 14th May for King George's Hospital. Some of our Year 4 children report:



'We made £126.00 by making homemade Arts and Crafts and ice pops. We set up stalls with the help of some of our families and we almost sold out! The ice pops sold out because it was a really hot day. We had to work as a team to organise



ourselves. We have learnt that you need to work as

a team to make sure you have enough things to sell. The sweet bags worked well and next time we would improve by having more time to organise our tables and lay our goods out before people come to buy'.

As a result of such enthusiasm we have set up a 'Charity Club' which will meet each Wednesday lunch hour with HT to plan, coordinate and organise future events.

Thank you for the very positive response to our draft behaviour policy. As a result of your comments and our own observations we will be reissuing a final draft after half term. Parent chat on Tuesday 20th May at 2.30 pm will give a chance to discuss this further. All are welcome.

Some housekeeping.....

To support transition for our Y4's moving onto middle school in September can parents say goodbye to their children on the playground and let them walk up to their classrooms independently.

To help avoid bottle necks on the playground in the morning when children are moving along the side of the building and into class, with the EXCEPTION OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN IN RECEPTION, can parents wait on the main body of the playground away from the thoroughfare. Your cooperation in these matters is much appreciated.

With sunny days ahead a few reminders:

- Please can children have a named sun hat or cap in school to wear at playtime. From June we will have both legionnaire hats at £2.75 and baseball caps at £3.65 in school colours available for purchase at the office.
- Every day children need a freshly filled water bottle, with a sports top. Please make sure it is named.

Please put sun cream on your children *before* they come into school. If your child is especially sun sensitive and needs additional cream during the day please speak to your class teacher.

Reception

When we came back after the Easter break we took a trip into space. We loved going into the Space Dome and as we zoomed across the night sky even the adults shouted 'Oh wow!' We looked at the night sky and visited some planets in our solar system. We found out that Earth looks blue because of the water on our planet and Saturn has rings around it.



When we came back to Earth we read *Aliens Love Underpants* and decided to make our own underpants and aliens. We worked with a partner to make underpants.



It was great fun as we had to talk to each other all the time to make sure we were making the front and back the same.

We designed a new flag for England as part of our St George's Day celebration, using only the colours red, white and blue.

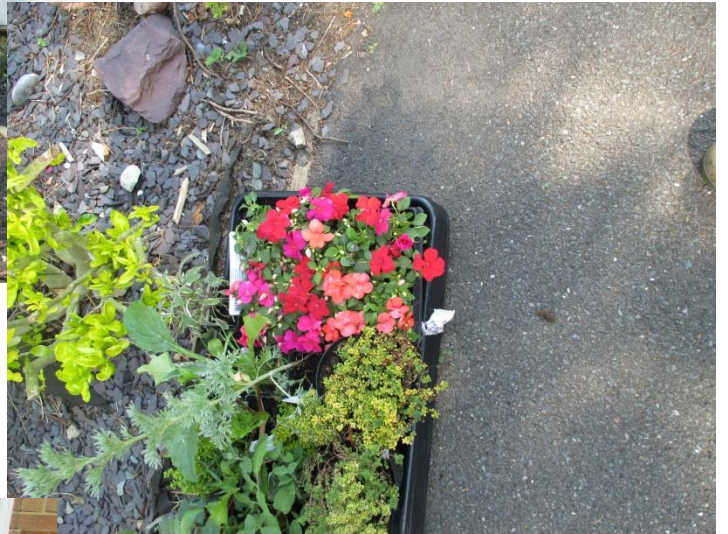


Year 1

"No one painted the flowers they grow like that, if you painted them they would die!"
Isaac (yr1)



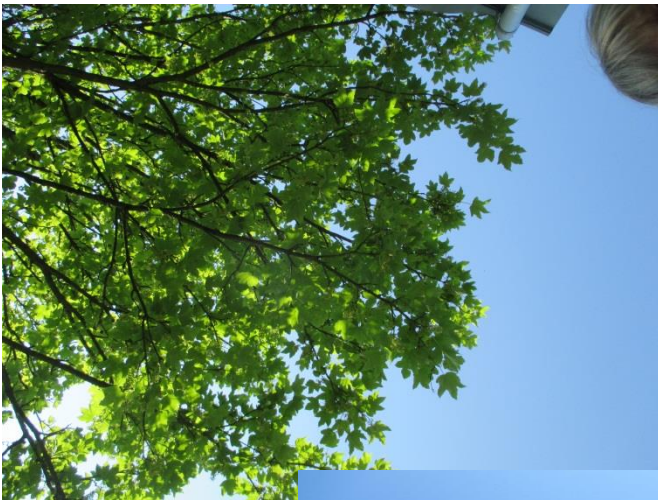
"We water the plants to help them grow", Ben (yr1)





Sticky Feet! "The grass crackles when I lie on it like a paper bag" said Emma S (yr1)

"The sky is naturally blue, the bins have been painted by Mr Kingsley" said Abbey (yr1)



Year 2

In Year 2 we have had an exciting few weeks. We are enjoying our new topic of Get Set Go and have been talking about other countries around the world. So far we have written about our own dream holiday and what we would really like to experience. We had a lot of interesting ideas and wish that we really could go to Florida on a Unicorn to swim with dolphins! We have also created our own world map to understand where different countries are located in relation to the U.K. and we have used our ICT skills to cut and paste pictures of famous landmarks in each country.



We have also flown to Ghana in preparation for International Day. We check in with cabin crew, got our passport stamped at immigration, walked through duty free and security all before boarding our plane! We saw our plane take off and land and listened to a nice lady telling us where the exits were!

"We flew to Ghana on Monday on to a pretend plane and got checked at security!" explains Eve.

"We had to show our boarding pass and passports too!" said Emily.

On International Day itself we covered our class in Ghana decorations and teachers wore African outfits! "We got to dress up too!" says Frankie! "I love dressing up in

bright colours!" said Toni. We have also made Ghana fact files and cooked (and tasted) Jollof rice! "It was actually quite nice!" said Matthew.

We have also been lucky to have a visit from a man who brought in a **Science Dome**. He had a big inflatable globe which filled the whole hall. He told us lots of facts about the planets and space. We all climbed inside the globe, it was really dark but very exciting. We watched a film about Sally who wanted to fly and visit the planets. We took off with Sally and learnt a lot of information about each one. It was great fun as we zoomed through space.

- 'I really enjoyed going in the dome, it was a lot of fun' - Jake

- 'I had great fun, it was really dark inside the dome but it was really enjoyable' - Matthew

- 'The dome looked like a giant blueberry but it was great going inside. I loved it when the man pressed the controls and we shot through space really, really, really fast!' - Ky



In our **RE lessons** we have discussed the meaning of the word Reverence which is our school value for this half term.

We have also discussed the Holy Trinity and how God is seen in 3 parts, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We made trinity decorations for our classroom prayer tree and also for our new whole school Holy Trinity display.



After half term we will be moving on to our topic of *The Great Outdoors* where we have lots of exciting activities planned. We will be practising for sports day, talking about the outdoor spaces around us and also organising a special 'adventure' evening.

Year 3

We've been up to lots of interesting things in Year 3 this month!

We learnt about different states in science by making cornflour slime, which has some very interesting properties, as the children have explained below.



"The ingredients were cornflour, water and food colouring" - Ella.

"We had a lot of fun. When you applied pressure it went hard. When you stopped it went into liquid. It felt slimy and mushy in your hand" - Paddy.

"When you put pressure on it, it makes it a solid but when you don't it melts in your hand" - Amie.

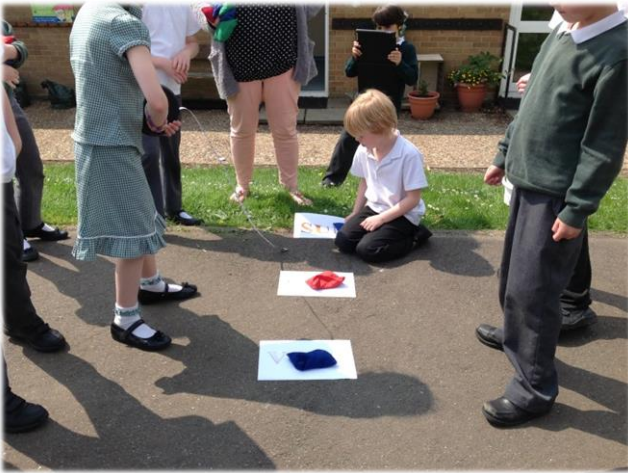


"What is weird about it is when you put pressure on it, it is hard" - Jessica D.



"When we punched it, it turned into a solid and when we rolled it in a ball. When we let it go, it turned into a liquid" - Joel.

Having enjoyed our morning learning about space inside the Science Dome, we later went outside to get an idea of the relative distances between the planets (and dwarf planets) in our solar system. After showing the children the distances for Mercury, Venus and Earth, they estimated where Pluto would be, and it was a bit further away than they originally anticipated!



"First we estimated where Pluto should go. Then we put them in a line using a tape measure. I was holding the end of the tape while Megan went along" - Finn.

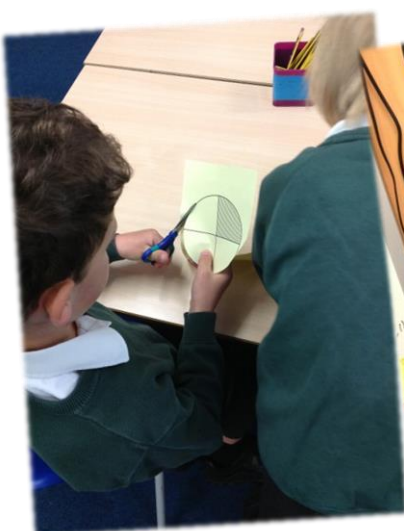
"We were learning the distance from the planets. At the start of the session we estimated where Pluto was. Surprisingly, it was at the goal post!" - Louie C.



"People would keep moving and changing their minds" - Ella.

"Pluto was ridiculously far away" - Amie.

We also created our own Pac-Man right angle checkers so that we could find different angles in the classroom.



We took advantage of the good weather by sharing the children's wonderful poetry homework outside on the amphitheatre. There should be photos in homework books for everyone that shared their work.

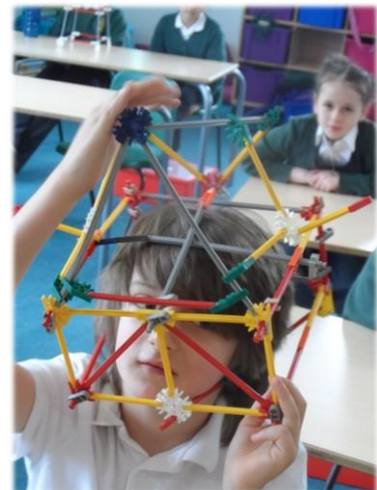


We also went outside to practise using the eight compass points which we have been learning. The children started in the middle of the field and had to find eight different hidden shapes by following the compass directions.



Year 4

On 7th May our class had a K'NEX Challenge. Mr. Meredith came to give us the challenge to make a safety helmet that would be strong, stable and designed to protect the head. First we drew our design and then we had an hour to make the helmet. It was great fun and the winners were announced at the end. Winners were Jingyao and Darcy. Runners up were George and Summer and Amber and Jacob. Everyone taking part received a certificate. It really tested our design and building skills!



PTA

The summer term has brought a flurry of activity for the PTA!

We have had the year 1 cakebake which raised £84.10, thanks to all the parents who made some really lovely cakes and to all of you who bought them on the day. We have also had the Disco which the children all really enjoyed and we raised £170. Thanks to everyone who helped at the event.

You may have noticed the new addition to the playground, the **Clothes Recycling Bank**. It has been organised with the charity **Starlight** and the recycled clothes will raise funds for the school and also for this worthwhile cause. For each tonne collected the school will receive £400 and Starlight will receive £100. Starlight brightens the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by [wish granting](#) and also by providing fun, entertainment, laughter and distraction for children in every children's hospital ward and hospice throughout the United Kingdom. So have a good clear out and please bring any unwanted clothes, household linen, shoes, handbags and belts and place them in the bank.

This weekend we held the Quiz night. It was very successful and enjoyed by everyone, we raised £867.00. Thank you to those of you that came along and supported us, I hope you had a good night, thank you to all those who helped on the night, and of course to those that stayed to help clear up!!

We have recently committed to some purchases from the PTA funds for some outdoor play and learning equipment. We will be buying a rather grand sandpit and pebble pit for the bottom playground as an addition to work and purchases the school is organising. More than half of the money needed has been raised already, however some of the money will come from events to be held over the coming months. We will keep you updated on our progress! None of these purchases would be possible without your continued support, so thank you.

Finally, our next events are:

Reception cake bake - Tuesday 10th June

Fun day Friday - Friday 4th July

Sports Day Refreshments - Friday 11th July

Thanks again.

Looking forward...

Dates for the Diary coming up.....

3rd June - Golf festival Y 3/4

4th June - Tennis festival Y3/4

- 7.30pm - PTA meeting- all welcome

7th June - Up on Downs fundraiser 6-11pm

10th June - YR cake bake

12th June - Charity Club fundraiser- Save the Children/Cancer Research

13th June - PTA - Film night

16th -18th June- Hudnall Park residential Y4

18th June - Y3- science workshop Edwinstree

21st June - Buntingford Carnival

23rd June - World Cup Dance Workshop

25th June - 1.30pm - New Parent YR meeting with Bramble Hill

26th June - Speed stacking finals

27th June - District Sports

30th June - Cycling proficiency - Y4's

- Full Governing Body Meeting - 7.00pm

2nd July - 2pm New Reception Parents meeting

- PTA meeting 7.30pm

4th July - Fun Day Friday

8th July - Swimming gala

10th July - County Transition Day

- 3.30pm Y2- Camping on the field

11th July - Sports Day

14th July - Reserve Sports day

15th July - Parent helper tea party 3.15pm

17th July - 9.30pm Leavers Service St Peter's

- Afternoon Leavers Party

18th July - Break up 2pm

With kind regards

Myra Bloomfield

Headteacher