



Friday 25th October 2013

Head's Start

Welcome to our first 'new look' newsletter. It is still very much work in progress but, as such, a wonderful learning opportunity for our children. We intend to produce a monthly newsletter which incorporates the voice of our Layston school community with the children at its heart. We intend the children to write, edit and produce the newsletter each month and to invite contributions from our PTA, Governors and others that make up the Layston family. We hope you will enjoy seeing this project evolve and will give us some feedback - addressed to the children of course!

We have been focusing on Community as our key Christian value this half term and to that end have it is a delight to report on the range of community activity undertaken by our children this half term.

St Peter's Church resounded to the song, dance and praise of the whole school as parents, friends and families packed into the church to share our Harvest celebration. Even our youngest children participated with an action song and the resounding conclusion was a sense of joy felt by all that our Harvest worship was in church.

Afterwards the produce brought by the children and their families was distributed to local sheltered accommodation and Nevetts care home. This gave our children the opportunity to share experiences with a different generation and to ask questions.

Days afterwards, letters and cards of thanks poured into school and in this way our children learn that acts of generosity and kindness are genuinely appreciated.

Our other community event this first half term was to celebrate the 4th birthday of our walking bus with a special visit from Buster the Dinosaur. The children all love to meet him and those who join the Walking Bus were given a birthday goody bag to enjoy. The visit encouraged more children to catch the bus instead of coming to school by car. In this way our children and families can do their bit to help make our world a less polluted and safer place to be.

We are privileged to have rich and expansive outdoor areas. Playing fields enable us to pursue a wide range of sporting activities including tag rugby which culminates in a 'tag rugby festival' with partner schools at the end of October 2013. Excellence in our sports provision has once again been recognised through our award of Silver Kite Mark for the second year running, an achievement of which we are justly proud.

Our school wild life areas of pond, 'Wild Wood' and sensory garden enrich our children's understanding of creation and stewardship and make for some engaging, collaborative and fun learning experiences. Within our curriculum or after school clubs we utilise our beautiful outside spaces as both areas of adventure and exploration and of contemplation.

Reception



We had lots of parcels arrive for reception class. As they were so big we had to store them in the hall overnight. We tried hard to guess what they were as they were all



different shapes and sizes and some were quite heavy. It was great fun trying to open the boxes and a lovely surprise to find hollow blocks and planks just right for using our imagination to create models such as ships and castles.



Year 1

This half term, Year 1 has been learning about pirates. We have made pirate hats and been on treasure hunts. We created a museum, designed pirate ships while exploring floating and sinking, created treasure maps and learned about famous pirates, like Blackbeard. Tomorrow we are having a pirate party to finish our topic. We will be making pirate earrings, designing pirate meals, fishing for phonics and much, much more.



Year 2

This half term, Year 2 have been learning about the Victorians. We even had a 'Victorian day' where we ALL dressed as Victorians, played Victorian school games, made porridge, took Victorian photographs and made a thaumatrope.



"It was funny because Miss Bowman has to be strict!" (Kaan Tas).

In maths we have been learning about numbers, adding 2 digit numbers together and finding something's length.

*"I have liked it because it's been outside using leaves and things."
(Oliver McKinley)*



In Literacy and D&T we have also been creating our own hand puppets so we that we can use them to tell traditional stories.

"It's been hard because we had to sew".

"I got to stick clothes on my pig hand puppet!"

Year 3

Last month we got a new teacher and his name was Mr Strahan. In maths we are doing shapes and it is so much fun. On Tuesday we go swimming and we have been swimming in clothes! We have been learning about the Celts and so we went on a trip to Celtic Harmony. It was really fun. We got to watch a man shoot a bow and arrow and we have been learning about food groups. We had to print off pictures of fat food and healthy food. It was really fun.

Ella Skinner and Joseph McKinley



After half term, Year 3 will be learning about the conquerors of Celtic Britain: the Romans! I'm particularly looking forward to us designing and making our own Roman shields. If anyone is able to donate any large cardboard boxes to Year 3, we would be extremely grateful. Many thanks in advance.

Year 4

What year four have been up to in the past few weeks:

Year four have been doing some role-play about World War Two. We were finding out what it would feel like when the air raid siren went off and you had to get into the small shelter. People either had an Anderson shelter or a Morrison shelter. The Anderson shelter was outside and people grew vegetables on them. The Morrison shelter acted as a table when not a shelter.



This is Philosophy Bear who we had met in our classroom. He likes us to talk about 'Big 'questions such as "Who or what is God?". We hope to discuss such questions to make us really think!!!!



PTA

We have had a great start to the school year. We raised £108.78 from the year 4 cake bake, £163 at the disco and £203.70 from the children's Christmas cards. A big thank you to all parents who have helped at, and supported, these events.

Also a huge thank you to everyone who came to the quiz night, we raised a massive £993.93!!!! We hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

Coming up we have the year 3 cake bake, children in need and we will be asking everyone to join our new Facebook page to keep up to date with events and news.

On the 7th December we will have our annual Christmas Fair. We will shortly be

looking for volunteers to help in the lead up to and on the day, plus donations of tins, bottles, chocolate and teddy bears for our Tombolas along with any other donations people can make to support our secret Santa, toy and book stalls.

Santa's Elves have been in touch and have asked us for donations of Christmas lights and decorations for his grotto, plus we thought it might be nice to give them a nice high backed chair for Santa to sit on if anyone has one they are thinking of getting rid of.

Finally, how are we going to spend the money raised at all these events?

Well, we are currently waiting for the children's wish list by class and at our next meeting we will be thinking about how to spend the money this year. If you would like to contribute with some ideas please come along to our next meeting on Wednesday 6th November at 7.30 in the staff room.

Looking forward...

The next half term looks even fuller than the first and I would like to highlight a key event in November.

Friendship (anti-bullying) Week - Monday November 18th - Fri 22nd. By way of introduction to this important theme we will be visited by a performance artist from 'Gripping Yarns' on Thursday 14th to explore themes of friendship and inclusion in dynamic ways.

Your interest and support is always welcomed and valued.

Kind regards

Mrs Bloomfield