



Hello,  
As you know, I'm Mr Strahan, and it's a pleasure to be teaching your child again this year. 2020 has been a bit different to 2018 so far (you may have noticed). Nevertheless, I will do my very best to ensure that we have another great year together. 😊

You'll be pleased to hear that, in amongst all the handwashing, we will be doing some learning! We'll be doing plenty of maths and English and ensuring that any missed learning from Year 3 is secured first. However, there will be plenty of other lessons going on too. We will be learning about the Anglo-Saxons (including their invasions and settlements following the withdrawal of the Romans from Britain).



In science, we will be learning about electricity and states of matter (solids, liquids and gases). We will be doing lots of lessons outdoors, and we've already had a go at measuring the heights of trees! Once the colourful leaves start falling, we'll be outside making Andy Goldsworthy inspired artwork.

### Housekeeping...

It would be greatly appreciated if **all items of clothing** were **named** in permanent pen or labelled (including Forest School clothes!). Named items found in the classroom are easily reunited with their owners. Unnamed items generally have a one way trip to lost property.

Please ensure that **reading folders** (including reading records) are brought into school each day. Likewise, I will try to ensure that the children take theirs home each day!

Reading remains as important as ever. It improves a child's writing, spoken language and, obviously, reading ability. Just as I did in Year 2, I will be running a **reading competition** this term. For every book your child reads, they can earn special raffle tickets (1 for every 10 pages read) which will give them a **chance of winning a prize in a monthly draw**. This proved popular in Year 2 and I hope it will encourage more reading again this year.

### RE

Our value this half term is "community" and we have already been discussing this in collective worship. In class, we will be learning about creation and "the fall".



### Forest School

Year 4 Forest School takes place on **Fridays** and children should come into school wearing the "Forest School uniform". Please note that we provide waterproof trousers and jackets where necessary, but it would be really helpful if the children could bring in their own. Please ensure that you have named Wellington boots (which can be kept in school) and a change of shoes to wear inside.

### Music

The children enjoy music lessons with Mrs Watkins on **Monday** mornings. Unfortunately, recorder lessons are on hold until the guidance changes.



### French

Parlez-vous français? The children will pick up where they left off in Year 3 with weekly French lessons.



### PE

We have PE every **Monday** and **Thursday** so please send your children into school in their PE kits on those days. Depending on the weather, this should include:

- PE T-shirt
- Jumper
- Shorts or jogging bottoms
- Trainers
- A jacket for cold/wet weather



No earrings on PE days please!

**Cooking** and **swimming** are currently on hold for at least the autumn term, and we will let you know if the situation changes.

**Spelling tests** will (at least initially) take place on a **Wednesday**, with new spellings handed out afterwards. Completed spelling sheets should be returned to school on Wednesdays. It would be greatly appreciated if you could help your child to practise these at home.

We have lots of **times tables** (and division facts) to learn by the end of the year: 10, 5, 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 6, 9, 7 and 12 times tables (aka all of them). Starting next week (w/b 28<sup>th</sup> Sept), we will be doing weekly tests on a **Wednesday** and your help practising at home will be invaluable.

Unless the government makes an uncharacteristic U-turn, Year 4 will sit the online “multiplication tables check” in June 2021. Click [here](#) for further information. It takes just 5 minutes, but children only get 6 seconds to answer each question so they need to know their times tables really well!

#### Reading at Home Plea...

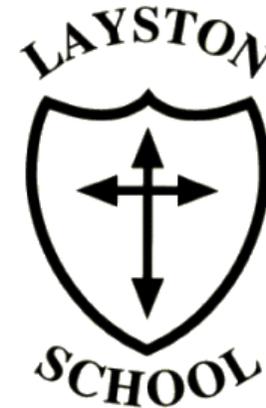
Regular reading at home is extremely important. Research from all over the world shows that **children that read widely and often do better at school than children that don't**. Incredibly, reading is the single most important factor in determining a child's future (economic, employment and well-being).

Ideally, **every child** should **read with an adult once a day** (little and often is best so ten to fifteen minutes a day). As time is often in short supply, why not get the extended family to help out? I would be extremely grateful if you could log any reading in their reading records. I'm not particularly worried about the format; a page number and signature would be fine. Many thanks.

Should you have any concerns at all, please contact the office and I will get in touch as soon as I can. Normally, I would be more than happy to meet after school, but telephone/email will have to do for now!

Mrs Scarrott will be the Year 4 teaching assistant this year, and we will be working together to ensure that your child has an enjoyable and successful year with us.

Many thanks in advance for your support.



**Year 4**

**Autumn Term**

**Loving to Learn,  
Learning To Love,  
For Every Child  
A Chance To Shine**