



*Loving to learn, Learning to love.  
For every child a chance to shine*



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL  
The Causeway, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9EU  
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Headteacher: Mrs A McMurrough

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **MHWP**

Thank you to all of you who took part in the mental health and well-being survey for parents and pupils. I appreciate so many of your kind words. Thank you also for the constructive feedback. This section of the website has now been revamped and is, I hope, more accessible. I have also added sections on sleep, screen time and bullying, which I shall be adding to. Please bear with me on this... I will continue to mention any updates to this section in the head's letter.

### **Behaviour**

Through the MHWP questionnaire I have been made aware that not all parents fully understand the school's therapeutic approach to behaviour. We do not reward "naughty children" and we do not use that term either. Children are not "naughty", they are little humans learning and growing up trying to make sense of the world around them. Some children may display difficult or dangerous behaviours on occasion because they have become overwhelmed, are having a difficult time or have special educational needs. We are an inclusive school and nurture **all** children. A 'therapeutic' response to behaviour means that we do not punish children; no one behaves better by being made to feel worse. Instead children take time out to reflect upon and learn pro-social behaviours instead of anti-social ones. Please see our Behaviour & Discipline policy, available on the school website, for further information about how behaviour is managed at Layston, and indeed across Hertfordshire. We are all trained in STEPS which is Hertfordshire's preferred response to behaviour management and encourages therapeutic responses over punishment.

### **School Performances**

I understand the disappointment felt by you all about not being able to come into school to watch performances, but know that you all understand the reasons why. However, I have managed to arrange a live stream on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon for the YR and Y4 performances. Private links will be sent out on the day to parent emails. YR performance will be streamed at approximately 1:15-1:30pm and Y4s at approximately 1:40-3:05pm. Y4 parents, we understand that if you are watching the live stream this may make you late collecting your child. We accept that you may all be a little later than normal on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and will hold on to them until you get here...

### **FOLS fundraising**

A reminder that entries for the 'Winter Wonderland' drawing competition are due in next Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. It is £1 to enter with the chance to win a mini chocolate hamper. The 17<sup>th</sup> is also the date to return raffle tickets for the Christmas hamper competition! Christmas fancy dress for the children takes place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Please ensure the children are still suitably wrapped up and warm. This is also £1 and proceeds go to FOLS to help provide enrichment activities for school.





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### **Christmas Lunch/Jumper day**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December is Layston's Christmas dinner and we invite the children (and staff!) to wear their Christmas jumpers for the day. We are not asking for donations.

### **Last day of term Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

In line with our staggered pick up these are the times to collect your children at the end of term. You may collect your youngest child at the time of your eldest, as usual.

Y4 = 2pm      Y3 & Y2 = 1:55pm      Y1 & YR = 1:50pm

### **What if my child is ill?**

To help to minimise the risk of illness to all, there is a requirement that your child does not attend school and stays at home when they are unwell in any way. If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to take a PCR test and then follow NHS and government guidance. We would like to thank you for your continued support and vigilance in this matter.

Thank you for your support and patience, especially with regards to our sudden changes due to initiating Covid outbreak responses. Let's hope that we all get a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas with family and friends...

Best wishes, Susie Betley  
Acting Head/Deputy

