



*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
Tel: 01763 271235 Email: admin@layston.herts.sch.uk

Interim Head Teacher: Mrs B Young

Friday 4th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Some parents have asked us to talk a little about the Forest School curriculum at Layston, so that they can have a better understanding of what the children do when they have these sessions. I have spoken to our Forest School leaders and they have told me the following:

The activities explored within the Forest School setting is underpinned by the practice of mindfulness, a sense of spirituality, knowledge and understanding of the natural environment, ecology and the part that people have to play within it.

As part of the curriculum that supports this, the Forest School team engage in a range of activities including: 'Being physical' – climbing, crawling and jumping. Developing observational skills including collecting and exploring twigs, leaves, trees and their relationship to the local environment. Sitting quietly listening to the sounds of the forest and reflecting on what they can see, hear, touch and feel. Pond dipping, mud play, bird watching, singing songs, playing music, using the hammocks and telling stories. Reflecting on the historical use of the landscape. Many of the activities, in line with the Forest School approach, are repetitive and cyclical in order to develop the pupils' skills and increased awareness and connection to the world around them. There is a very strong element of mindfulness underpinning the approach, which fits in well with the needs of many today since the pandemic. It deliberately follows a different pace to the more formal curriculum.

I hope that this summary has been helpful to you.

Covid update and other health matters:

Just a reminder that if your child should test positive for Covid, please can you email the school's covid notification address Covid@layston.herts.sch.uk or alternatively admin@layston.herts.sch.uk and not the class teacher. Many thanks. Oh and yes you have guessed it, we are still in outbreak status as we have over 5 live cases at school at present. It has been good to see some of the pupils and staff returning after their infection. Welcome back! Thank you everyone for continuing to support school during this difficult time.

What's been going on in school...?

The Solar panels installation is well under way and due to be completed, we hope sometime next week. Reception (and Year 1) had a fantastic time re-telling the story of The Great Race through dance yesterday to celebrate Chinese New Year. Emma, a professional dancer from West End in Schools, taught us how to use our hands, feet and faces to tell the story! We silently roared as tigers, danced with imaginary fans, and acted out the race, all to a varied backdrop of Chinese-inspired music. What a great afternoon.

Cold weather:

As temperatures have dropped please ensure your child has appropriate layers, a school coat, hat and gloves, all named.

If your child becomes unwell for whatever reason and is unable to attend school, please can you call the school office before 9am. Thank you.

Best wishes,
Barbara Young

