



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



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL  
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Interim Headteacher Mrs B Young

Dear Parents & Carers,

How quickly has this first half of the spring term flown by. The school has settled into a smooth routine since returning from Christmas - how long ago does that feel! The learning for the children has been moving along at a cracking pace, with everyone working very hard to make up for the loss of time because of Covid.

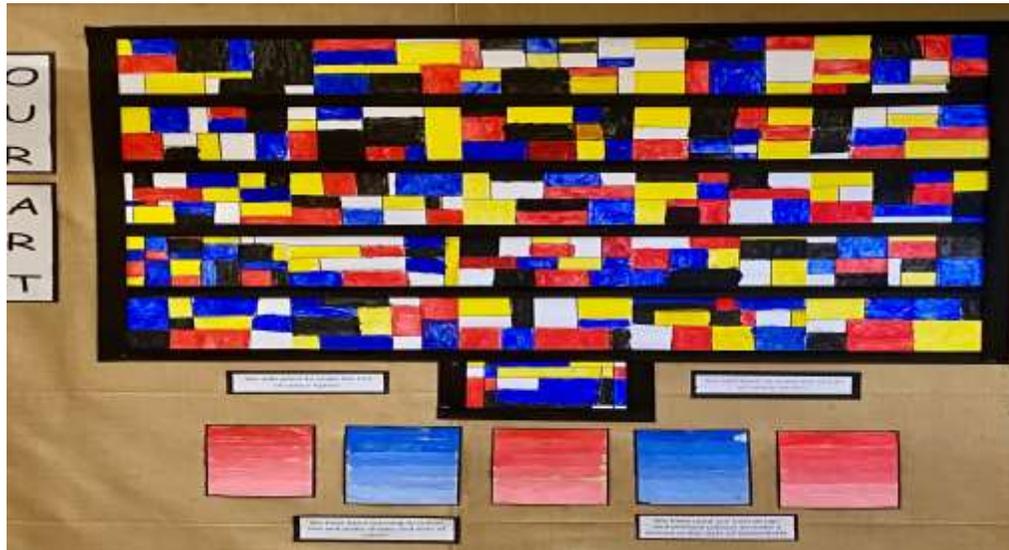
### **The fun stuff...**

It has been great to see some of the lovely fun aspects of education returning as we cautiously open up to external visitors. This week, as part of learning about how Christians celebrate weddings and relationships in general, we have had our fabulous Reception Class attend their very own wedding ceremony officiated over by Reverend Caroline. Don't they all look smart!



### The Arty stuff...

So far this term, Year 1 have been beavering away and have produced a wonderful Art display in the style of Mondrian. I am sure that you will agree, it looks terrific.



### The writing stuff...

As for their writing display celebrating their work on Fairy tales, in particular the Three Little Pigs and Jack and the Beanstalk – stunning! Year 1 have set a high benchmark for the rest of the classes to follow.





**Year 2** have been learning about how to be scientists! Their Science topic for this half term has been 'Everyday Materials'. They have carried out investigations to identify the properties of different materials. This included investigating whether materials were waterproof, absorbent, stretchy, transparent, translucent and opaque. It's been great to see them becoming the inventors of tomorrow. Good stuff!

**Year 3** have been enjoying their learning about rocks this half term, and especially enjoyed 'fossilising' a natural object as they learned the steps to how dinosaur and other animal remains fossilised.



**In Year 4**, they have been incredibly busy with: persuasive writing in English; measuring in different units in Maths; solids, liquids and gases in Science; and, in Art, they have had a go at painting Monet's Water Lily Garden. A super effort I am sure you will agree.



**Now for the Covid stuff and general health matters...**

On a more down to earth note, it is great to be able to say to you that we are no longer in outbreak. Hooray! As of the first day of next term, we shall be saying goodbye to bubbles and all of our classes will go back to normal mixing and socialising. We shall monitor cases and remain vigilant so that hopefully we will not need to return to bubbles. Ahead of February half-term, we'd like to say thank you once again for continuing to play your part in trying to keep us all safe from COVID-19.



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**Don't forget...**if your child should test positive for Covid, please can you email the school's Covid notification address [Covid@layston.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Covid@layston.herts.sch.uk) or alternatively [admin@layston.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@layston.herts.sch.uk) and not the class teacher. Many thanks from all in the School Office.

**Hertfordshire have asked schools to share the following information with you on Covid:**

If you're travelling abroad this half-term be sure to check and follow COVID-19 guidance for your country of travel and on re-entering the UK, you can find the latest travel guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

- **Get vaccinated** - vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.

There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

Young people aged 12-18 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination(s) don't need to wait for a visit to their school or setting. You can find out more, including walk-in options for clinics for young people, and book at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

- **Half term COVID-19 'Relax and Vax' sessions for nervous teenagers**

Five of the larger vaccination centres across Hertfordshire and west Essex are running 'Relax and Vax' sessions during half-term week aimed supporting 12 to 18-year-olds who are nervous about having their COVID-19 vaccine.

Specially trained staff will be on hand to help overcome worries like a fear of needles and answer any other concerns using simple and clinically effective relaxation techniques to help reduce tension and support them through the process. Children aged 12-15 need to be accompanied by a consenting parent or carer and just mention they're nervous on arrival so that the staff can make adjustments and they're given plenty of time and support.

You can find a list of participating venues and times at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

People under 18 who have recently had COVID-19 must wait 12 weeks before having their vaccination.

- **Test regularly** – 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't display symptoms. Regular rapid testing at home can help to prevent transmission. Find out all the ways to get home test kits (LFD tests) at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest)
- **Stay at home** – if you have symptoms stay at home and book or order a PCR test online at: [www.nhs.uk/get-tested](http://www.nhs.uk/get-tested)

If you test positive you must self-isolate for the required period and not have people visit you at home. There is support available to help people who need it to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net) or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)





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Please don't send children and young people back to school following half-term if they have any symptoms or feel unwell. There continues to be a high number of outbreaks across Hertfordshire's childcare, nurseries, schools, special schools and colleges – they need your support to help protect our communities and have the least disruption to children's learning and development as possible.

We hope you enjoy a healthy and safe half-term.  
**Hertfordshire County Council**

### **The warm stuff...**

The solar panels have been fully installed, so all we have to do is sit back and wait for the sun to come out and our bills to drop, not a minute too soon as I am sure you can all appreciate. ☺

### **The moving stuff...**

By the time the children return after the half term break, Buntings will have moved to their new location within school. They will now be based in the school's Dining Hall. Access to the club will be through the main playground and up past the Pre-School side entrance. We are looking forward to having Buntings become even more closely linked with the school and develop a deeper working partnership for the benefit of the children.

### **The cold stuff...**

As it may still be cold when your child returns after the half term holiday, please can you ensure your child has appropriate layers, a school coat, hat and gloves, all named. Thank you.

All that's left to say now, is have a great holiday and we look forward to greeting you all back on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 8:50 am.

**Happy holidays!**

**Best wishes,**

**Barbara Young**

