



The Layston Newsletter



October 2022

Head's desk



Values:

Our new value for the first half of the Autumn term is 'Community'. This Christian Value comes from a Greek word 'Koinonia' which means 'that which is in common'. In school, we have ensured that everyone feels included, children support one another, and everyone makes a contribution and knows that they are valued and important. The values of the school have an impact on the community and beyond. We have also thought about how we can involve the wider community in our harvest fundraising by supporting the Buntingford Food Bank.

Welcome

This half term has seen us welcome four new members of staff. Miss Kelly our Y1 teacher, Mrs Barnes our YR teacher, Mrs Baker our SEND TA and Mrs Rose our new School Business Officer. They have all settled into our Layston family and are an asset to our staff. We have also welcomed some new families to us and look forward to sharing with them everything Layston has to offer.



Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to everyone who donated food items for the Buntingford Food Bank, the need is great during the current economic crisis; every little thing we can do to look after our neighbour makes a difference.

This year's Bishop's appeal is 'Gone but not Forgotten' for aid in Mozambique. Please use the link below if you would like to find out more and make a donation.

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/bishops-annual-harvest-appeal/>



Y4 Anglo Saxon Day

Our Y4 children have enjoyed an amazing Anglo Saxon workshop. They learned about all aspects of Anglo Saxon life using a wide range of resources. What an exciting experience!



Forest School

Our children have had a wonderful time in the forest investigating fire and making spirals in nature! They showed teamwork and perseverance - well done!



African Dance Workshop

One of the ways we have celebrated Black History Month has been to welcome a dance workshop into our school, funded by FOLS (thank you FOLS!). Celebrating diversity and inclusion is incredibly important to us at Layston and we are immensely grateful for the opportunity to learn from others.

Enrichment

School clubs have been very popular this half term and the children have enjoyed taking part. It has been lovely to hear the choir children singing in the hall on Monday lunchtime. The children have also really enjoyed the lunchtime netball and football clubs.

PE

What a busy first term of PE we have had! All of the classes have been learning about invasion games by playing lots of Tag Rugby. They have been learning how to hold the ball, how to pass backwards and how to dodge attackers who may be coming to steal their tags! We have attended the football festival in Royston to engage and inspire our children will be hopefully attending some interschool events over the next few months, so please keep an eye out for further information.

Y4 Buddies and Sports Leaders

Y4 children have stepped up and made excellent Buddies who have been ready to support anyone at break or lunch who needs a friend, a helping hand or some comfort. They are all a credit to you and are making a big difference settling our younger children into the school so that they feel safe and happy. They have also started their training with our sports coaches to become sports leaders. They are extremely responsible and are relishing this opportunity.

Occasional Day

A reminder that Friday 2nd December is an Occasional day and school will be closed.

Reporting pupil absence

Please can you ensure that you report pupil absence by 9:15 am on the day your child is first absent either by phoning the office (01763 271235) or emailing us (admin@layston.herts.sch.uk).

Thank you

Have a safe and restful half term break. Your children have worked hard this half term and we are immensely proud of them.

Best wishes,

Mrs McMurrugh

Reception

Reception have settled quickly into Layston and we are very proud of how quickly they learnt the routines and expectations and developed their independence.

The children have loved exploring Forest School activities...



We have also celebrated Black History Month with an African Dance Workshop and tasting some food from the Caribbean that Mrs Lewis brought in to school...



Year 1

We have had a very busy start to the school year. Year 1 have settled in really well and it has been a pleasure getting to know them all. It has been lovely to see all the children engaged in their learning. Here are some of the things we have been up to:



In Maths we have been looking at place value. We began the year by counting from any given number being exposed to mathematical terminology. Year 1 have been learning their number bonds to 10 being encouraged to write number sentences from looking at part-whole models. Year 1 have enjoyed using cubes and Cuisenaire rods to support their understanding.



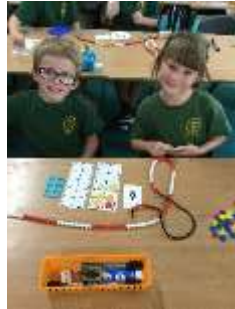
In English our focus book has been *Oi Get Off Our Train!* Year 1 have been recalling the story, writing captions and lists. We have also been focussing on *Man on the Moon*, using our acting skills as well as writing our own stories. Year 1 enjoyed following instructions when making their moon rock cakes!



In PE we had an exciting opportunity to join Darcey Bussell and her team live. Dancing a variety of contemporary movements. We have also been developing our balancing and co-ordination skills.

Year 2

It has been a great start to Year 2 and it has been lovely to see the children engaged in their learning. Here are some of the things we have been up to:



In Maths we have been looking at place value. We began the year by exploring how we could represent numbers in different ways. We then moved on to looking at the number of tens and ones in a number as well as ordering numbers.



In Computing we have been looking at algorithms. We created our own algorithms to see if we could get the Bee-Bot to the moon!



During our English lessons we have been exploring fairy tales. We acted out Jack and the Beanstalk and then wrote our own version of this story.

Year 3

Year 3 have settled in very well to their new classroom and we have really enjoyed getting to know them!

We have been doing lots of practical activities in Maths!



We also tested out our team work skills by building the highest tower we possibly could using spaghetti and marshmallows!

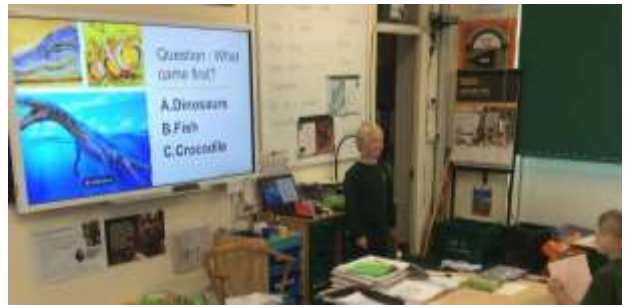


Finally, we have been learning all about forces in Science and tested out different surfaces by seeing how much friction they had.



Year 4

We have squeezed a lot into the first seven weeks! Here is just a sample of what we've been up to...



We've been sharing the homework presentations. I've been really impressed with the effort that has gone into so many of them.

In English, we have been writing adventure stories involving mythical creatures. The children edited their stories with the help of a classmate or two.



In maths, we have been working on place value and numbers up to 10,000!

We had a memorable Anglo-Saxon workshop. From archery to archaeology, there were loads of interesting and interactive activities throughout the day.



In science, we've started learning about electricity. The children really enjoyed building and testing circuits.



Governors

We are very excited to have some new members joining our Governing body who we believe will bring fresh and exiting ideas to Layston. These were discussed at our recent meeting and we look forward to be able to support Layston children, parents and staff during this year.

As a new parent governor, I have noticed how well the children have settled back into school this half term and the playground is always full of happy children, which is lovely to see. Thankfully, we can now, as governors, be more present in the school and have been able to take part in a workshop with the staff, and look forward to visiting the classrooms to be part of the children's learning and wellbeing.

We had the pleasure of joining the children for the Harvest festival at the church, they performed really well and they are a credit to both their parents and the school. We look forward to seeing them during the Christmas performances.

We look forward to what the coming year will bring; we are always trying to improve our parent engagement and look forward to hearing your views and suggestions. Should you wish to contact any of the governors please do so via admin@layston.herts.sch.uk.