



The Layston Newsletter



Feb 2023

Head's desk

We started the spring term exploring the value of Courage and Resilience. Christians believe that God is always present in every situation. This belief has led to great acts of courage that have included facing danger, overcoming fear, making a stand for what is right and encouraging others to persevere. Through prayer people have found the strength to help them be courageous.



COURAGE

Teaching and learning:

The children have had a fabulous start to 2023 and they have shown courage and resilience in their learning in particular when learning in the forest despite the low temperatures.



The children have shown perseverance when building dens making mobile icicles.



The children also demonstrated resilience when making Christingles during our service at school.

Our buddies have lived our value by encouraging and supporting our youngest children at lunchtime in the dining room and outside on the playground and field. Thank you!

Attendance:

At Layston we want our children to feel safe, happy and enjoy coming to school. Did you know that if a child's attendance is at 90% that is equivalent to missing half a day of school each week? Having 90% attendance throughout 5 years at Primary school is equal to missing half of an academic year!

Please see latest information about attendance on our website.

<https://www.layston.herts.sch.uk/key-information/#attendance>.

Parent survey:

Thank you so much for your time completing the survey. There is still time to add your voice if you have not done so. It was so lovely to read all the positive comments and we will feedback in more detail once the survey has closed after half term.

Book Fair:

A huge thank you to all the children and parents who bought books from the fair. We have earned **£248.20** in book voucher rewards for our school.

Fundraising for Ukraine:

A big thank you to the Y3 children who made and sold sweet cones in school at the end of the autumn term. They managed to raise **£56** for Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal Disaster's Emergency Committee. Well done and thank you for showing initiative and compassion for others!

Talk Circles:

This half term we have talked about the school's reward systems and promoting pro-social behaviours in our Talk Circles. We will feed back to you on our progress reviewing our reward systems next half term.

Do you qualify for free school meals?

If you feel that you might be entitled to benefit from free school meals, please visit <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx> to apply or speak to the school office.

Please note that there has been a change to the income threshold so you may be eligible now even if you were not before. If you have already qualified, you do not need to re-apply.

Holiday Club

Royston town will be running a sports holiday club at Layston on 14th, 15th and 16th Feb. Please click on the link below to book.

<https://roystontownfc.ktckts.com/package/roy23layhcf1/layston-full-course>

Remember to check the calendar on the school website for upcoming events.

Have a wonderful half term break.

Reception

We have been...



...using Numicon to explore numbers by drawing and practising our counting skills...



...developing our cutting skills and turning them into crowns...



...exploring capacity during maths...



...building with the big blocks ...



and exploring measures and making playdough.



Year 1

We have had a busy half term in year 1 and it has been lovely to see all the children engaged in their learning.

In Maths we have been learning about place value within 20 plus addition and subtraction. Year 1 have been learning their number bonds to 20 being encouraged to write number sentences from looking at part-whole models. Year 1 have enjoyed using cubes, Cuisenaire rods and tens frame to support their understanding when writing addition and subtraction number sentences.



In English we have been looking at fairy tales focussing on Cinderella, Three little pigs and Little Red Riding Hood. The children have shown a huge interest when acting out the story familiarising with the narrative when exploring text structure. At forest school the children worked together to build their own three little pigs den linking to our learning of materials in science.



Year 1 enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year having the opportunity to make lanterns, dragon masks and even taste some fortune cookies and prawn crackers.



Year 2

It has been a great start to the Spring Term in Year 2 and we have enjoyed exploring new topics in our learning!



We enjoyed making our own vehicles in Design and Technology using wheels and axles. We loved testing them out after as well!



We began the year by making New Year's resolutions in PSHRE and even sang Auld Lang Syne. We have thought about the importance of setting goals and what we can do to achieve them.

In English we have been looking at the stories 'Traction Man' and 'Emily Brown and the Thing'. We have acted out the stories and explored the new vocabulary. We have then thought of new adventures that the characters could go on and written our own stories.



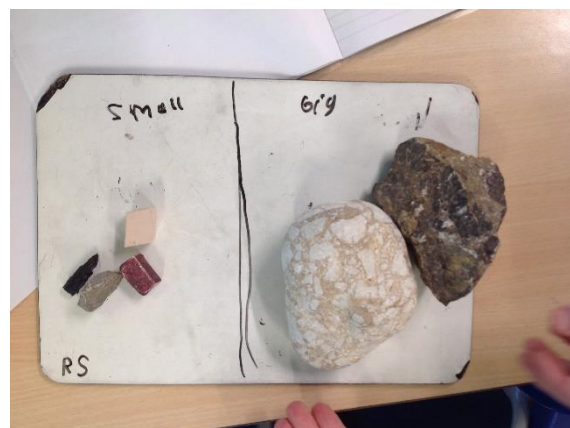
Year 3

Is it really half term already? Year 3 have had a fantastic half term and it has been amazing to see them enjoying their learning.

Year 3 have been learning about arrays and how they can use them for multiplication and division. They have been amazing at finding the different number sentences in the arrays, as well as representing problems using bar models and cherry models. They have also been looking at different strategies for division such as sharing and grouping.



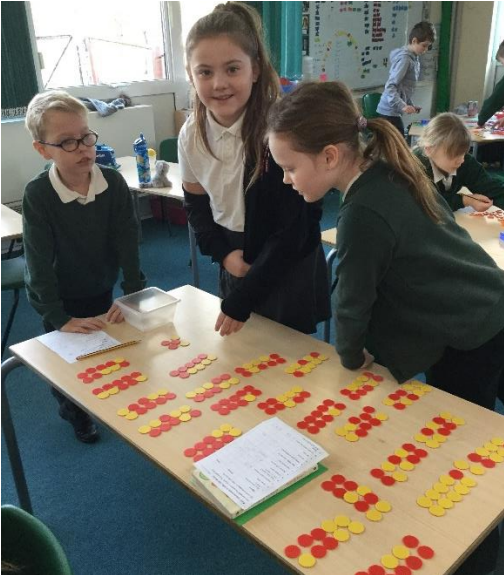
In Science, the children have been handling lots of different types of rocks and sting and grouping them according to their own criteria. They have also been learning about how fossils are made!



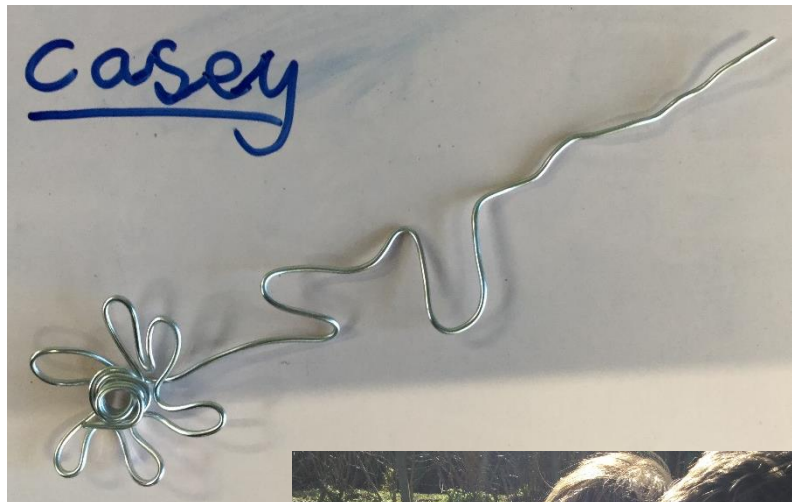
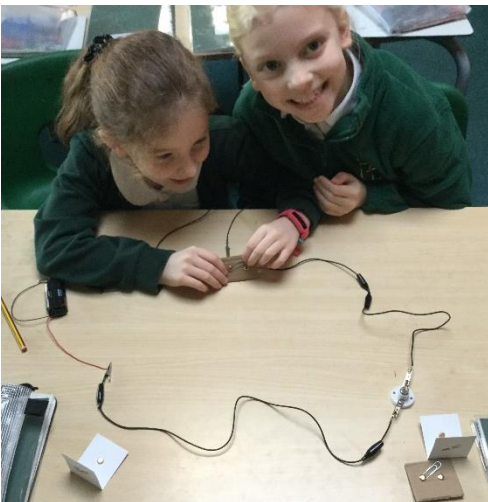
Year 4

It may have been a short half term, but we've crammed a lot into the last five weeks!

In maths, we finished our unit on addition and subtraction which included a practical lesson involving estimating and counting in groups. We also had a practical lesson to start our short unit on area. The children enjoyed finding the area of classroom objects using paper squares.



In English, we wrote playscripts based on *The Twits*. The buildup to this included some hilarious diary entries from Mr and Mrs Twit. In science, we finished our unit on electricity by making and testing handmade switches. In art, the children made awesome wire sculptures!



In geography, the children learnt how to read four-figure grid references and they had fun searching for hidden stars around the school grounds.



Forest School and Eco Warriors

Forest School:

We have experienced first-hand how winter ushers in low temperatures, which have been accompanied by frost, fog and beautiful icy conditions. Layering up, especially on our feet, is helping us to enjoy being outside in the cold.

Chinese New Year celebrations also inspired us to dragon dance our way to the forest, hopefully bringing good fertility to all that is growing around school's green space.



As well as making ice mobiles, exploring frozen bubbles, and examining icicles, we have also learned about birds: identifying birds by their calls and their appearance, creating different nests, different bird feeders and balancing like a bird. We participated in the RSPB School's Big Birdwatch, marvelling at the variety and number of birds attracted to our feeding station.

Eco Warriors

Miss Kelly and our Eco Warrior team have been super busy organising some lovely ideas for the whole school to take part in. After half term, we have planned a yoga/ tai-chi workshop, teaching all year groups about mindfulness exercises (Friday Feb 24th). The Eco's will also be discussing the importance of Fairtrade in our collective worship assembly as well as having a fair-trade bake sale raising money towards the Fair-Trade Foundation.

Governors

I joined the board of governors at the school because I believe the participation of parents is an important aspect of school governance, that listening and working well with all school stakeholders is a key part of the governing board's role, and a vital part of that is our parent community.

Knowing our school is part of effective governance, and key to this is knowing our parents. Understanding the needs and opinions of our parent community is key to delivering the best educational outcome for our children. At some point I might reach a conclusion on 'how many surveys are too many surveys?' but following your plentiful feedback for our successful website project and the value that provided, for now they will keep coming. Thank you again for allowing us to maximise our school website.

The [Parent View](#) survey went live last week, and we've had a great response so far. The survey will remain open until the week after half term after which we will collate the results to help gain insight into any underlying issues and themes. It is important to the school that every parent has the opportunity to have their input and the survey is our first step in improving engagement for informed decisions we can make as a community.

Thank you again for your support.

Cat Morris

Vice Chair Governors

FOLS

Friends of Layston School (FOLS)

Since starting back at school in September we have raised just over £3000, we would like to say a huge thank you for all your continued support.

Fols have funded the reindeer visit, costumes for the school play, Children's Christmas Class Parties, and contributed to the upcoming workshops.

Dates for your Diary:



17 Year 4 Cake Bake Wednesday 22nd February 2023



17 Non-Uniform day - Thursday 23rd February 2023



17 Year 3 Cake Bake Wednesday 15th March 2023



17 Mad March Hair Day 17th March 2023

Upcoming Spring Events & Fundraisers

Layston Pupils Recipe Book

Pupil Portrait Tea Towels

Easter Hamper Raffle

Easter Egg Tombola

Pre-loved Uniform Sale

As always, thank you for your continued support, all your contributions are greatly appreciated and go a long way in raising funds for those (big and little) extras for our children at Layston School.

FOLS

Friends of Layston School