



# The Layston Newsletter



## Head's desk

May 2023



This half term we have been focussing in school on the value LOVE. Love is a very important value to us as a school and underpins everything that we do. It is very much 'the why' of who we are. Love is evident in our relationships with each other and in our actions to support our community and our world. We can grow and learn together because we know that God loves us.

The children have had a fabulous half term of learning and enrichment opportunities. We all enjoyed celebrating the King's Coronation and the children took part in a variety of activities during the week leading up to this event. The seed bombs that were made and sent home will help spread wildflowers and increase biodiversity in our part of the country. The children also enjoyed a teddy bear's coronation picnic.



Layston children in Y1 demonstrated good sportsmanship when they took part in a Multi-skills festival hosted by the North Herts School Sports Partnership. Well done to everyone who took part.

A huge thank you to Jasmine in Y3 who has shown compassion by raising money for the National Autistic Society. She competed in a sponsored running event and raised £65. Well done!

Today we are saying goodbye to Miss Upton who will be leaving Layston to start a new role which will give her greater flexibility around her family. We thank her for everything that she has done to support children at Layston. We will miss her and wish her good luck for the future.

Enjoy a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing all children back in school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June. A reminder that the new start times for our school day will be gates open at 8:30 and classroom registers open at 8:45.

## Reception

*What a busy term Reception have been having! Our caterpillars arrived to support our learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly. We have watched them grow into chrysalis. We are waiting for them to emerge now. We had a class effort to create a story sequence using collage, paper Mache and painting.*



*As part of our celebrations of King Charles III coronation we decorated crowns and made cookies.*



*We have also enjoyed both our back and front gardens during our CHIL time.*



*We also enjoyed the visit from the planetarium!*

# 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 fractions recognising half/quarter of an object or shape.. Year 1 have been amazing when explaining their answers in more detail, using their sentence stems to support their learning.



In English our focus book has been 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children have enjoyed role-playing, planning and writing their own versions. Currently Year 1 are focussing on 'The Tiny Seed' book by Erik Carle. The children have shown a great interest as it links to our science lessons when learning about plants.



In Computing the children have really enjoyed becoming TV chefs! We have been working on our acting skills, pretending to make/follow a recipe. The children have also created their own recipes writing instructions for their partner to follow when making a jam sandwich.



## Year 2

We have had a great half term in Year 2 and have been so proud of the children's attitude towards their learning!



The children loved taking part in activities to celebrate King Charles III's coronation. They enjoyed baking delicious cookies and sharing their learning with their grown-ups.



In computing we have been detectives trying to solve the mystery of the missing cake! We have been learning how to send emails and open attachments to find out our next clues.

In English we have been exploring creation myths and created our own stick puppets to act out some of these stories. We then planned and wrote our own creation myth about how the tortoise got its shell.



Have a lovely half term! 😊

## Year 3

What a busy half term we have had. I can't believe it's gone by so quickly!

Year 3 have been learning about fractions - they have learned the key vocabulary of numerator and denominator and how many of each fraction make a whole!



In English they have started to learn about how to write an explanation text about how bees make honey. I'm sure that they have told you all about how it's made and that you won't look at honey in the same way again!

We also enjoyed a visit from the Planetarium where we learned lots about our solar system and asked lots of questions!



We hope you have an amazing half term!

## Year 4

We've crammed a lot into the last six weeks! In science, the children have been learning about sound. They've done lots of experiments and have been recording their observations.



In history, we've enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt and mummification.



In geography, we completed our South America salt dough maps.



In cooking, the children made 'coronation' biscuits. In computing, the children entered the Dragon's Den to pitch a virtual toy they'd designed, and to try and secure thousands of pounds of investment.



# PE, Eco Warriors and Outdoor Learning

The Eco Warriors have been working extremely hard to advise children of the importance of protecting our planet. We are currently having weekly sessions working through our action plan, completing our main objectives in order to achieve our Eco- Schools Green Flag.



We've been "as busy as bees" pretending to gather nectar from flowers and take it to our beehives to make honey, not forgetting to transfer some pollen to another flower. There are lots of interesting things to learn about the bees we see around our school. We've also practised our fire-starting skills to make little 'fairy fires'. Well done for all the bright sparks!



It has been so exciting to see the children engaging in PE this term, particularly now the weather has improved! Year 3 have been learning how to play Rounders, and Year 1 were lucky enough to take part in a multi-skills competition with Millfield organised by the North Herts School Sports Partnership. We are now really looking forward to gearing up for Sports Day after half term!

# Governors

*We've had a wonderful start to the summer term.*

*Our forest school is core to our nurturing and caring learning environment. Forest school is an ethos that promotes self-esteem, creativity, confidence and independence, and it has been wonderful to welcome parents to the school this term to visit the forest with their children and share in that learning.*

*We have a continued focus on enriching our curriculum to ensure breadth and balance to provide opportunities for our children beyond academic achievement recognising the importance of personal development to help children develop their interests and talents. To support this, we have been pleased to be able to offer a variety of clubs and activities led by both our teaching team and support staff; art, running, science, story time, Go Create and netball as well as other opportunities from within our community supporting on-site activities in the form of piano lessons, football club, multi-skilled sports and gymnastics. The children have also enjoyed on-site visitors exploring space within a pop-up planetarium, and the Y1 Multi-skills festival welcoming children from our local schools. School trips to the Sea Life Centre for Y2 and the Y4 residential visit to Hudnall Park, are planned for the last half of the summer term.*

*We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the last part of the summer term Monday 5 June.*



# FOLS

We would like to say a big thank you for all your support with our fundraising this term, you have helped raise just over £900!

We have used this money to contribute towards the Tai Chi workshop, Planetarium Experience and the children's King Charles Coronation Gifts.

In the final half term before the summer, we will be providing refreshments at sports day, and look out for the Year 1 & Reception Cake bakes (details to follow).

In September, Kerri and some of the team will be leaving FOLS as their children will be moving to middle school, so we will be looking for some new faces to join the team! If you are interested in finding out more please contact the school and they will pass your details to us.

Once again, thank you for all your support, we couldn't do it without you!

FOLS