



# The Layston Newsletter



## Head's desk

July 2023



Our Christian Value this half term was 'Trust'. The children explored stories from the bible to help deepen their understanding of the value. Trust is the very essence of faith, it is essential to human life and lies at the heart of all relationships.

As this school year draws to a close we have much to celebrate. The children have continued to enjoy their learning and have demonstrated resilience as they think about the transition to new classes and new schools in September.

### Teaching and learning:

The whole school came together to celebrate sport's day in July. What a wonderful event that was. The children demonstrated all of our school values during the morning. They worked together as a team showing community and friendship. When competing in the races the children showed courage and resilience and also love, trust and thankfulness towards their peers and their teachers. It was heart-warming to watch. We are truly proud of our children.



### PE:

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Silver Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year. Well done Miss Moss!

### Eco Schools Green Flag Award:

Well done to our Eco Warriors and Miss Kelly for achieving the Bronze award. Our Eco Warriors have been successful in easily meeting the requirements for the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. The committee noted that our Eco Warriors demonstrated a whole-school approach to the Eco-Schools programme and a commitment to environmental education and pupil-led eco-action. They identified that the Eco Warriors had been very successful in educating, enthusing and exciting the next generation so that they can continue to support and promote the eco-cause both at school and in the wider community. The Mayor of Buntingford presented the award in collective worship on Thursday.

### Attendance:

We continue to prioritise attendance and are delighted to celebrate all the children who have achieved 96% attendance and above over the Summer Term (up to 14<sup>th</sup> July). In total there are 36 awards for 96% attendance and above, and these certificates were handed out in collective worship this morning.

#### Certificates have been awarded as follows:

	Golden Certificates = 100% Attendance	3 total Gold
	Silver Certificates = 98% Attendance	9 total Silver
	Bronze Certificates = 96% Attendance	24 total Bronze

Overall percentage for children across whole school is **91%**.

### Goodbye

We bid farewell to our Year 4 children and we wish them good luck as they begin the next step of their learning journey at middle school. We know that they will continue to shine and do us all proud.



This half term we also say goodbye Miss Moss. Miss Moss will be leaving to concentrate on setting up her own tutoring business and to spend more time with her family. We wish her good luck for the future and we thank her for everything she has done for Layston over the years.

Finally, a link to 50 things to do in Hertfordshire over the summer break that are free or low cost

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/fifty-thirty-adventures>

As ever, it is a privilege to work with your wonderful children so thank you all for entrusting them to our care. On behalf of all the staff at Layston we wish you all a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you back at school on Tues 5<sup>th</sup> September.

## Reception

Reception have had a fabulous half term. We enjoyed Garg's animal experience. We were all really brave holding and stroking the different creatures.



We were so proud of all of YR during sports day!



# 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 money. The children have been learning to count and recognise coins and notes. 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 "The Snail and the Whale". The children have enjoyed role-playing, hot seating, planning and writing their own versions.



Year 1 had a fantastic sports day, showing courage and enthusiasm. Year 1 enjoyed taking part in problem solving activities. We finished off the term with our trip to Shepreth Zoo! Enjoyed by all.



It has been a pleasure teaching Year 1 Class. Wishing them every success when moving into year 2!

## Year 2

It has been a wonderful final half term in Year 2 to round off a fantastic year! We had a great trip to Southend to visit the Sea life centre and enjoyed having lunch on the beach.



In Design and Technology we have designed and made our own puppets. We based these on the book 'Monsters an Owner's Guide' which we have been looking at in English.

In Science we have been learning about plants. We have explored the differences between bulbs and seeds and have also looked at the lifecycle of a plant.

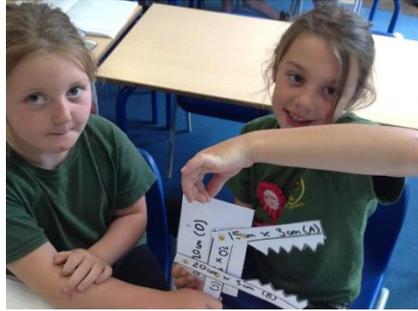
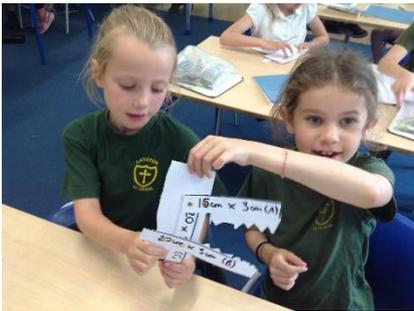


The Year 2 team would like to thank you for all your support and kindness this year. We have loved working with your children and hope you all have a lovely summer break! 😊

## Year 3

It's been a very busy half term! It's absolutely flown by and can't believe that it's the end of the year already!

The children have been thinking about sustainability in their Design and Technology lessons by creating moving posters to teach others about recycling. Here they are with some prototypes of moving parts which they've been testing to decide how they will use these on their final products.



In Maths, we have been learning about shapes and angles, and finished off our learning by exploring patterns when building 3D shapes.



We hope you have a lovely summer!

# Year 4

Well that was a busy half term! In D&T, we finished our night lights and cereal boxes.



The children had a great time at Hudnall Park. I'm still recovering!



Oh and then there was the leavers' service! I was really proud of how the children performed.



Class of 2023, you have been fantastic! Good luck in the future! 😊

# PE, Eco Warriors and Outdoor Learning



We are delighted to announce that we, Layston First School, have achieved the School Games Silver Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements this year include: a successful sports day which so many of you enjoyed, a football tournament for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and a multiskills festival for Year 1. With a total of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. A special thanks to: Miss Moss, Royston Town FC and our Sports Games Organiser Lewis Endacott. We look forward to applying once again in 2024!



Pupils at Layston First School have once again been awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag. The Eco - Schools Green Flag is an international accreditation that recognises efforts to raise environmental awareness amongst young people, whilst taking action to make our school more sustainable. This year, pupils have built on these strong foundations, collaborating with Miss Kelly to work on three Eco-Schools topics: Energy, Litter and Global Citizenship. The Eco team should be extremely proud of their achievement, showing great passion for protecting our planet and is an inspiration to us all.

# Governors

## Parent survey feedback

Earlier this year we asked you to complete our parent survey. The parent survey is aligned to Ofsted Parent View which allows those with parental responsibility to give their views about their child's school.

We had a huge response to the survey, and we really appreciated the time taken by you all to share your views. Parent voice is important to us and forms part of our self-evaluation. The answers to the survey allow us to plan our next steps and provides valuable information around our community of learners, parents/carers, staff, and governors.

Here are the headlines:

- 97% say their child is happy at Layston C of E First School
- 100% say their child feels safe at Layston C of E First School
- 94% say their child does well at Layston C of E First School
- 74% say Layston C of E First School ensures pupils are well behaved
- 95% say they would recommend Layston C of E First School to other parents/carers

The results will inform our approach and plans as we head into our next academic year, and we will continue to update you with the steps we take moving forwards.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss the results please get in touch by contacting the school or dropping me an email.

### **Join the governing body**

If you're interested in becoming a school governor, please do reach out to us. It is a great opportunity to share your skills, experience, and insight to make our school successful for everyone.

For more information about what it means to become a school governor, please follow [this link](#).

Have a wonderful summer!

Cat Morris

Vice Chair

# FOLS

A big thank you from FOLS (Friends of Layston School) for all your support this year, in total you have helped us raise almost £6000 for the school!

A few things we have helped fund this year include the Reindeer visit, Tai Chi workshop, Planetarium, Class Christmas parties, Coronation gifts, Costumes, ice creams and sports day treats and Year 4 leavers gifts. Without the continued support from you all, this wouldn't be possible!

Many of our FOLS members will be leaving us this year as their children move onto middle school, we will be holding an AGM to officially appoint a new Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Publicity officer. The **meeting is scheduled for September 13th 2023 7pm**. We would really like to see as many new faces as possible. Come along to find out what we are about and how you could potentially help out! We won't tie you into anything, we are all busy parents and fully understand everyone has their own commitments, but without a team, FOLS will be very limited in what they can do next year.

Once again we would like to say a big thank you for all the support and look forward to next year's fundraising!

FOLS