



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



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Mrs A McMurrough

Dear Parents and Carers,

Teaching and learning:

The children have been busy developing their writing in English this week. Y4 have used their imaginations to develop story maps for their own mythical stories, writing sentences using conjunctions. Y3 have been exploring different types of sentences using the story of 'The Paper Bag Princess'. Y2 have been applying adjectives to their sentences using the story 'Rapunzel'. Y1 have been working on writing simple sentences based on 'Farmer Duck'. Our youngest children have been busy exploring all the learning zones and learning to write their names.

Staffing update:

I am writing to inform you that Mrs Price will be leaving Layston at half term. This will be a huge loss for Layston and we are extremely sorry to say goodbye to her. Mrs Price has worked at Layston for 12 years and has dedicated herself to the children and families of Layston during this time. Mrs Price will be taking up a new post at Addenbrookes Paediatric Teaching Unit. This is an opportunity that she cannot turn down as it will give her the career progression and salary opportunities she needs. Mrs Price has our full support and we wish her all the best for her new role and I know that you will wish her every success. We have begun the recruitment process and will update you as soon as we have any news.

School attendance

At Layston, we want our children to feel safe, happy and enjoy coming to school. Our attendance target is 96% but we are always aiming for 100%. Research suggests that missed sessions are directly linked to a drop in achievement; the greater the attendance, the greater the progress and achievement. Good Attendance will help to give your child the best possible start in life. This is why we believe it is so important to attend school every day.

- Learning is a progressive activity; each day's lessons build upon those of the previous day(s).
- Lessons include discussions and hands on experiences which are missed by those who are absent.

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! So 90% is not ideal.

What can parents/carers do to increase their child's attendance?

- Talk regularly with your child about school and how they feel. They are more likely to attend if they feel supported and any anxieties they may have are listened to.
- Phone us as soon as possible to tell us why your child is absent and when you expect them to return. Putting the school number in your phone can save you some time.
- Only allow days at home for genuine illness.
- **Avoid taking holidays or short breaks during term time.**
- Know the routines of the school day to prepare your child effectively.





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- Encourage punctuality - doors to classrooms are opened at **8:45am** and are closed at **9.00am**. Registers are taken at **8:45am**. This allows registers to be called and for school to start promptly. Arrival after **9:10 am**, unless there is a satisfactory explanation, is recorded as an unauthorised absence (late after registers close).
- Praise and reward good attendance.

Lateness matters too

Lateness both to school is strongly discouraged so that valuable learning time is not missed.

What do I do if my child is going to be late?

We do appreciate that in certain circumstances, such as transport problems, lateness cannot be avoided.

- If your child is going to be late (i.e. after 9:00am) for any reason, including medical appointments, please telephone the school office prior to the appointment. This will enable us to keep our attendance registers accurate.
- Upon arrival, you **must** sign your child in at the office so that there is a record of his/her presence in the building. It is always better to come to school later than not at all, so please ring first so that we know if there has been an emergency.

Pick up time

Children should be collected promptly at the end of the school day. It causes children distress when they are left waiting at the office wondering where their parents are. If you are going to be late for any reason, please call the school office so that we can reassure your child. The children finish at: 3.15pm.

Cooler weather:

We are having a typical autumn where the weather swings between hot and sunny and cool and rainy. Please ensure that your child has a named coat in school and is wearing appropriate footwear. All fleeces, sweatshirts and cardigans must be named.

Healthy snacks:

A gentle reminder that we are a healthy nut free school. If your child brings a snack to school, we ask that this is a healthy option. Examples of healthy snack options are: cheese and crackers, fresh or dried fruit or vegetable snacks such as carrot sticks. A reminder that grapes should be cut in half to avoid choking.

Best wishes

Adele McMurrough

Headteacher

