



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



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL
The Causeway, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9EU
Tel: 01763 271235 Email: admin@layston.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs A McMurrough

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful start to the term it has been. I am so proud of how well the children have settled into their new classes and how quickly they are picking up the new routines!

Staffing:

We are sad to let you know that Mrs Strachan will not be returning as she has taken on a new role that better suits her current situation. We thank her for her long service, dedication and creative presence in the school. She will be greatly missed. Mrs Foster will resume the TA role in Y3 and we are appointing an additional SEND TA for Y4.

In addition to this Mr Strahan is reducing his working hours and no longer works on Fridays. However this has been covered by Mrs Scarrott as HLTA, PE with RTFC and Forest School with Mrs Ballard and Mrs Patterson.

Miss Wilcox will be taking maternity leave from the end of the autumn term and we know that you will offer your congratulations and best wishes. Again we are recruiting for maternity cover.

Wrap around care:

Buntings will be with us until Christmas and we are exploring all available options to meet the needs of our families going forwards. We will update you in the next few weeks.

Drop off and pick up arrangements:

The school day will start at 8:45am and finish at 3:15pm. Please drop off your child/ren in the bottom playground just before 8:45am (using either gate). There will be a whistle at 8:45am and children will make their way to their classroom from 8:45am, ready to learn by 9:00am at the latest when registers close. At pick up, please wait patiently on the bottom playground, in your allocated class zone, for your child's class teacher to dismiss your child to you. This is to ensure that handovers at the end of the day are smooth and children are safe. Thank you for your patience and support with this.

YR to be met at gate by Preschool

Y1 outside their classroom

Y2 by the enclosed sand play area

Y3 by the bike shelter

Y4 by the side of the demountable

Uniform:

Children will be expected to wear school uniform. **All uniform and equipment must be named.** All long hair should be tied back and please keep hair accessories simple, small and in line with our uniform policy.





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



What will my child need in school?

Your child will need:

- Water bottle
- A healthy snack, remember we are a nut free school
- Coat
- Sun hat, weather permitting
- Forest School and PE kit, this can be worn into school instead of uniform on relevant days. Please include joggers because most PE sessions will be outdoors.
- A small school bag, including a change of clothing for younger children

School meals:

The menu choices are available on our website. Please discuss this with your child the day before to check they are happy with the options. Children can also bring in their own healthy packed lunch.

Economic support:

Please view this new area of the website. <https://www.layston.herts.sch.uk/economic-support/>

Curriculum:

We continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum for our children and this is available on the website for you to view. Cooking sessions will continue this term. Forest School and PE will continue and the days are as follows:

Year group	Forest School Day	PE days
Y4	Friday	Tuesday and Friday
Y3	Tuesday	Wednesday and Thursday
Y2	Thursday	Wednesday and Friday
Y1	Wednesday	Tuesday and Thursday
YR	Monday	Thursday and Friday

School attendance

Attendance will be recorded and monitored in line with our policy and Government and Hertfordshire guidance. We appreciate your cooperation in continuing to improve attendance figures and we know you appreciate our high expectation of school attendance. If your child is not going to be in school, please notify the office by 9:00am.

Volunteers in school:

We are delighted to be able to invite you back into school to volunteer and support with either reading, forest school and/or cookery. If you would like to volunteer in school please can you register your interest by emailing the school office as soon as possible. An induction meeting for parent volunteers will take place on Thursday 21st September at 9:00am.





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



Dates for diaries

Here are a few key dates for the first half of the autumn term. We will update you as and when additional dates are added with regard to school visits, visitors in school and FOLs fundraising events.

Meet the teacher	Week beginning 11 th September at 2:45-3pm Y1 12.9.23 Y4 13.9.23 Y2 14.9.23 Y3 15.9.23 YR 19.9.23
Parent Volunteers Meeting	Thursday 21 st September 9:00-9:30am
Open morning for prospective parents for Reception intake next year.	Wednesday 27 th September 9:00-10:00am
Individual children's photos	Thursday 28 th September
Reading/Phonics meeting for YR parents	Wednesday 11 th October 9:00am
Harvest Festival	Tuesday 10 th October 9:30am St Peter's Church
Parent Consultations	Tuesday 17 th & Wednesday 18 th October 3:30-6:30pm
African Dance Workshop	Friday 20 th October

Teachers will be updating you on any trips and enrichment during the autumn term. RTYFC will continue to run after school clubs at Layston. Please see their website for booking details.

<https://roystontownfc.ktckts.com/brand/after-school>

Sports photos:

Miss Kelly our PE lead is updating our sport at Layston display board. Please could you send in photos of your children playing sport, being active or getting sporting awards to nkelly@layston.herts.sch.uk

RAAC:

You may well have seen in the news that some schools have been affected by the presence of RAAC in their buildings. RAAC, or Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, is a lightweight form of concrete which was used in the past in schools and other building construction. After some time and in some circumstances this concrete can collapse.

I wanted to write to reassure that buildings on our school site which were constructed within the period of 1959 and 1989, which is when RAAC was most used, have already been surveyed by building surveyors appointed by the County Council and no RAAC was found. However, the Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach, increasing the age bracket from 1950 to 1995. Therefore to guard against any possibility, however remote, that RAAC was used in any part of the school within those new dates, the County Council is arranging to have additional reassurance checks carried out in the near future. We have no reason to believe RAAC was used in this school, but nonetheless a survey is taking place to confirm this.

Best wishes

Adele McMurrough

Headteacher

