



# The Layston Newsletter



October 2023

## Head's desk

Continuing with this half term's value of 'Creation and Stewardship' we have been reflecting upon how we can look after God's world for future generations to enjoy and cherish. We have also given thanks for the harvest.



What a wonderful half term of learning we have had. The children have had lots of opportunities to experience an exciting curriculum filled with enrichment opportunities. We have had an Anglo Saxon enrichment day, a whole school visit to St Peter's church to celebrate our Harvest Festival and an African dance workshop. This workshop was led by Vivian Gayle, a talented dancer who has appeared in the West End theatre productions of Lion King, Thriller and Dirty Dancing. The African dance workshop gave the children the opportunity to explore and learn the traditions of African music, movement, and African culture as part of Black History month.

### Staffing:

Following a successful recruitment process we are delighted to welcome Beth Wheatley to our team. She will be providing maternity cover for Miss Wilcox. In order to support a smooth transition for the class we have appointed her to start her role as Year 2 class teacher after October half term. She will be working alongside Miss Wilcox and the team for half a term in the lead up to Christmas so the children get to know her and benefit from 2 excellent teachers. Miss Wheatley will also be

able familiarise herself with the school, the children and their parents. We will be arranging an opportunity for Y2 parents to meet her shortly after half term.

We say good bye to Mrs Price at the end of this half term after many years of dedicated service to Layston School. She leaves Layston to begin a new role at Addenbrookes in the paediatric unit. We know that she will be amazing and a real asset to any team. She will be greatly missed but we wish her all the best. Mrs Best and Ms Russell will be covering Mrs Price's hours until a permanent teaching assistant has been appointed.

### **Lost Property:**

We have a huge amount of lost property in school. We plan to put the lost property out in the hall for parents to reclaim items that are unnamed, otherwise these will be donated to FOLS second hand uniform.

### **Enrichment:**

We are excited to offer the following clubs starting the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> November. These are as follows:

Science club with Mrs Barnes on a Tuesday at 3:15-4:00pm YR classroom.

Signing club with Mrs Betley on a Thursday at 3:15-4:00pm YR classroom.

Girls Football club with Miss Croucher on a Monday at 3:15-4:00pm on the field.

Netball club with Miss Kelly on a Friday at 3:15-4:00pm field or hall.

Book via parents evening system. Booking opens 6:00pm 21<sup>st</sup> October and closes on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 9:00am. Bookings are on a first come first serve basis and limited to 1 club per child.

Link:- <https://laystoncofirst.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Have a wonderful half term break

Best wishes,

Mrs McMurrrough

# Reception

Reception have had a fantastic first half term! They have settled in really well.



We have been learning how to use our environment, both indoors and out.



We have been learning how to use our words to describe how we feel.



We have visited the library and made bread linked to our story of the Little Red Hen.



We have made self-portraits.





# 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 addition and subtraction within 10. Children are beginning to think about parts and whole exploring the cherry model. Year 1 have been building on their learning, writing number sentences by looking at addition fact families.



In English, our focus book has been *Plenty of Love to Go Round* by Emma Chichester. The children have enjoyed learning about labels, lists and captions.



In History, the children have been looking at explorers learning about Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong. The children have really enjoyed role playing, asking questions and sequencing events. In Geography, the children have shown high levels of interest learning about the UK looking at globes and atlases. As well as trying a few tasty biscuits from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.



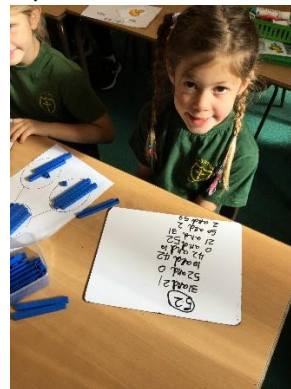
## Year 2

We have had a great half term in Year 2 and it has been so lovely to see the children settle into the new school year!

In English, we have been exploring fairy tales and enjoyed acting out Jack and the Beanstalk. We then planned and wrote our own versions of the story.



In Maths we have been looking at place value, exploring how we can partition numbers into tens and ones. We have also compared numbers and placed them on a number line.



In Computing we have been exploring programming using the app Scratch Jr. We have looked at how we can create and debug algorithms in order to move our sprites (characters) on the app.



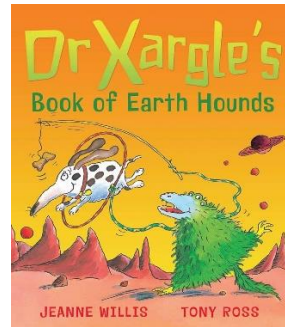
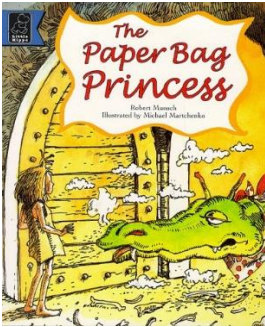
We hope you have a lovely half term! 😊



## Year 3

It's been a very busy half term in Year 3 but one we have thoroughly enjoyed!

In English the children have explored two texts this half term: *The Paper Bag Princess* and *Dr Xargle's Earth Hounds*. We have thoroughly enjoyed both books. The children have worked very hard on their writing and produced some amazing work.



In Maths we have recapped place value and calculation methods that they have previously learnt. We have now started to introduce the column method which the children have shown real determination in.



In PSHE we have focused on building healthy relationships and displaying team work this half term. We have explored the importance of working collaboratively and the children have shown excellent team work through this.





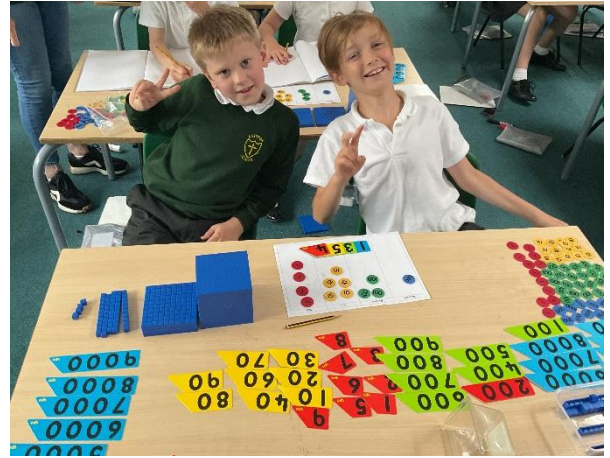
## Year 4

We have squeezed a lot into the first seven weeks! Here is just a sample of what we've been up to...

In English, we have been writing adventure stories involving mythical creatures.

In maths, we have been working on place value and numbers up to 10,000!

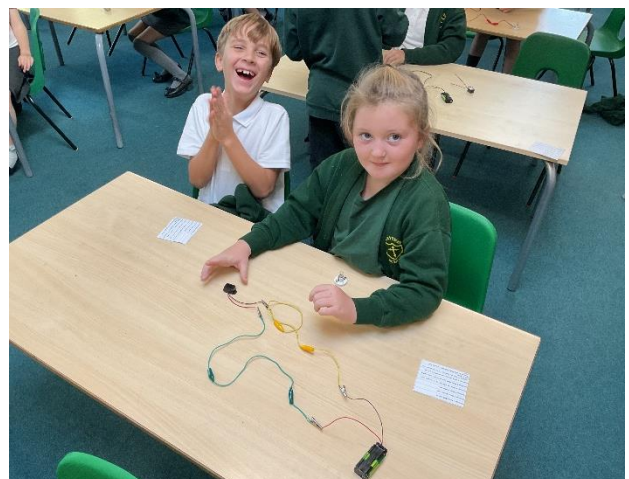
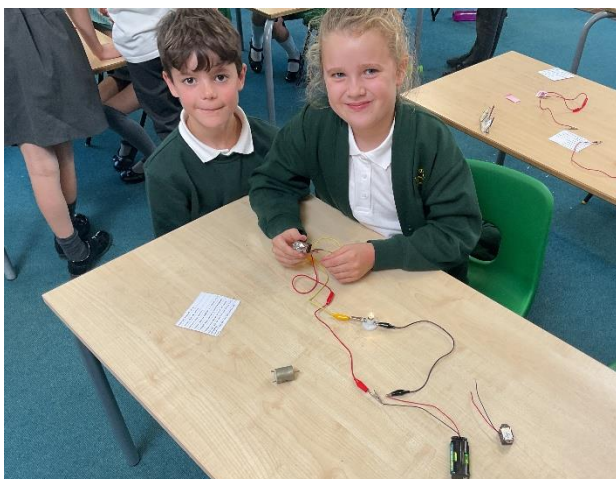
In computing, the children designed their own games in Scratch.



We had a memorable Anglo-Saxons workshop. From archery to archaeology, there were loads of interesting and interactive activities throughout the day.



In science, we've started learning about electricity. The children really enjoyed building and testing circuits.





# PE, Eco Warriors and Forest School and Outdoor Learning

We have certainly enjoyed the mild, dry Autumnal weather in Forest School this half term. Warmer weather has helped our fingers and hands and we have explored different knots and Nordic weaving to create friendship bracelets and key rings.



Those with energy have impressed us with their Chinese Jump Rope skills and even adults have had a go doing this.

The potatoes we grew in the school allotment have been harvested. A bumper crop this year of over 200 were dug up. These were then boiled over the fire and eaten amongst the trees.

"The only potatoes I like are Forest School potatoes", one boy was heard confidently declaring to an adult. We agree, they are delicious!







Reception have done very well coming out to Forest School, learning about the hammock, enjoying the swing, hunting for our lost minion and some even bravely climbing on the Forest 'trampoline'.

Year 4 enjoyed celebrating International Forest School Day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Many fairy fires were lit and applauded. Hot chocolate with marshmallows and chocolate sprinkles added to the sense of celebration. Layston is fortunate to enjoy Forest School every week.



# Governors

## ***Follow Up to Parent Survey***

In the July Newsletter Cat Morris, our Vice Chair, updated you on the results of our parent survey carried out earlier this year. The headline results were all very encouraging. We did notice that a few comments on pupil behaviour flagged that some parents would like a more in depth understanding of the school's behaviour policy and ethos. The behaviour policy is available for all on the school website. Obviously behavioural issues will always arise as young children learn and develop internal discipline, but the governors have discussed the results and wanted to update you on the behaviour policy.

We promote and teach pro-social behaviours (those behaviours which are helpful to the individual and others) and offer opportunities for restitution and forgiveness after episodes of anti-social behaviour (those behaviours which are not helpful to the individual and others).

Our 'Three Golden Rules' support this:

I am ready to learn and allow others to learn.

I am thoughtful, kind, and polite to everyone.

I look after our school and everything in it.

All our responses to behaviour are therapeutic in line with our 'Therapeutic Thinking' training and we understand nurture as essential to promoting positive mental health and well-being in all members of our school community. For further information please see our [behaviour policy](#).

As a school we are exploring further ways of supporting parents' understanding of our policy and ethos.

## ***Governing Board***

I'd like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to Emma Hampton whose term as a parent governor has come to an end. Emma has been hugely supportive of the work of the governors and the school, particularly as regards Safeguarding, SEND and co-ordinating governor training. We are very grateful for all she has done.

As a result of the completion of Emma's term, there is now a vacancy for a parent governor on the board. This is a great opportunity to share your skills, experience and insight to contribute to the success of Layston. Please consider whether you might be able to help in this way and feel free to talk to any of the existing governors if you would like more information on what's involved. We aim to be represented at all school events but are always happy to answer questions or hear feedback.

Finally, the governors are very appreciative of the work and support for Layston provided by FOLS. But it's worth pointing out that this is a separate organisation from the school. If you have any suggestions or comments on the work of FOLS, please do contact them directly.

Colin Wilson,  
Chair of Governors



# FOLS

We've had a busy start to the year behind the scenes at FOLS. Most of the committee stepped down at our AGM because their children have moved from Layston so we have a new Chair and Treasurer and are very lucky to have a whole host of new volunteers, all excitedly planning new ideas for FOLS.



Our first big event was the Autumn Disco which was a huge success. The children had a wonderful time and showed us their best dance moves in the dance competitions. We raised £249.72!! Thank you to all the fantastic volunteers and staff who helped run the disco and who stayed to clean up after, we couldn't have done this without you.

The disco was also our first time using our new communications and payments platform, [pta-events.co.uk/Friends of Layston School](http://pta-events.co.uk/Friends%20of%20Layston%20School). This seems to work well as it helps to take the pressure of parents, volunteers and office staff alike. If you haven't already, please register as we will be using this platform for further events in the year.

## UPCOMING DATES

- 19th October- Bubble Pop in the playground- £1 a balloon
- 30th November - FOLS Christmas Fair
- 8th December - Christmas Bingo
- Date TBC- Christmas Dress Up Day

More details will be released soon.

If you are interested in joining FOLS or if you have any great fundraising ideas, please contact us at [friendsoflaystonschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflaystonschool@gmail.com). We will also be looking for volunteers for the Christmas Fair!

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a lovely half-term break

FOLS