



# The Layston Newsletter



## Head's desk

Feb 2024

We started the new Spring term exploring the value of Wisdom. Christians believe that true wisdom comes from God. As they grow in faith so wisdom will increase. In the Bible wisdom is seen as both a gift from God and a characteristic of God. In his parables Jesus taught that placing trust in God and recognising what is of value in life brings fulfilment.



PARENT CONFERENCES WEEK BEGINNING 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH. PLEASE BOOK YOUR SPACE VIA THE WEBSITE USING THE BOOKING SYSTEM.

We celebrated Christingle on 30<sup>th</sup> January. The whole school came together in our school hall to make a Christingle using an orange, red tape, 4 cocktail sticks, sweets and a candle. Rev Norman led the service and explained the meaning of Christingle and why Christians celebrate Christingle. The children really enjoyed taking part in this service and hopefully they were able to share this with you afterwards at home.



We would like to say a big thank you for the kind words of support and encouragement post Ofsted report. We have been overwhelmed by how many of you have taken the time to either email or speak to us in person to let us know how positive and successful you and your child's experiences of Layston have been.

Our breakfast and after school club have proved a hit with those who attend with its calm, friendly atmosphere and high adult to child ratio. Should you wish to book please follow this link.  
<https://laystoncofefirst.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Thank you to the parents who attended our Parent Chat to discuss therapeutic responses to behaviour. It was very constructive for everyone.

## Reading at Layston

Thank you to everyone who visited the Layston Book Fair we sold lots of books and stationery and earned the school £103.94 worth of rewards to spend on new books! We thank you for your continued support and the love of reading that you help instil in the children by reading with them at home.

We will be starting to visit the school library weekly after half term to allow the children to choose one book to take home to read for pleasure. Please make sure your child's library book is in their bag to be changed each week as they will not be allowed to get a new one if the previous one isn't returned.

Library timetable:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 4		Reception	Year 1	Year 3
				Year 2

## World Book Day - 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Dressing up

This year for World Book Day we are inviting the children and staff to dress up as a word! This year we will be focussing on building the children's vocabulary and how this can help us as readers to fuel our imagination when visualising characters and settings.

We encourage you to be adventurous with your vocabulary choices - their word could even describe their favourite book characters: courageous; mischievous; bright; sluggish; enthralling; intriguing. If your child would still like to come dressed as a character, then this is great but encourage them to think of a word to describe the character e.g. Harry Potter: magical, Matilda: clever etc. Use a thesaurus to stretch your child's vocabulary choice.

**Please do not spend lots of money on buying a costume!** Use what you have at home already. You could come dressed in all black and your word could be *gloomy*, you could come dressed in pyjamas and your word could be *cosy*. Have fun with it!

### Reading Breakfast

We will be hosting a **Reading Breakfast** with the support of FOLs in the morning where you are invited to come and read with the children. Timings on this are TBC after half term.

### Assembly

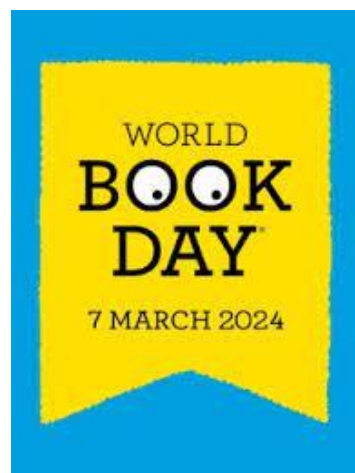
We will have a whole school assembly to show off our costumes and play a game of guess the word the teachers have come dressed as!

### Class based activities

The children will be off timetable for the whole day to allow them to be immersed in the day focusing on reading for pleasure and broadening vocabulary.

Please contact Miss Wheatley if you have any questions about World Book Day.

Have an enjoyable half term break and we look forward to seeing you all for the second half of the spring term.



# Reception

Reception have had a busy half term. Firstly we would like to thank Kerry Dedman for making a fabulous water wall to enhance our water area and the new reading nook, which will be moved to our back garden.

We have been to space this half term, using props to act out going to space, linked to our core text. We also looked at the first moon landing by Neil Armstrong and compared to the images and videos when Tim Peake went to space.

We also learnt how the astronauts got their food and tasted some astronaut food. We used our senses to smell, taste and see what it looked like, with different reviews!



We also learnt from Tim Peake how the astronauts go to the toilet in space.



We are working hard at being brave writers and use our phonics to write simple CVC words and captions, linked to our stories and our morning jobs and during our independent learning time.

We have looked at where the continent of Asia is on the globe and google Earth and listened to the story of Lunar New Year. We learnt that some of us were born in the year of the dog and the year of the pig. This year is the year of the dragon. We compared this celebration with celebrations that we have. We had a taste of lots of Chinese food and then made a pictogram of what we liked best and least.

All the food disappeared very quickly!



# 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, the children have enjoyed carrying out practical activities when learning about addition and subtraction within 20. It has been lovely to see all the children explain their answers in more detail, using their sentence stems to support their learning.

In English, they have enjoyed role-playing, hot seating, planning and writing their own versions on our focus fairy tales. (Cinderella, The Three Little Pigs and Little Red and the Very Hungry lion).

In Art, the children have been engrossed when exploring the work of Frida Kahlo. The children have been working very hard on their primary and secondary colours, using different types of brushes to make different types of lines when painting. They have also been amazing especially when recalling facts.

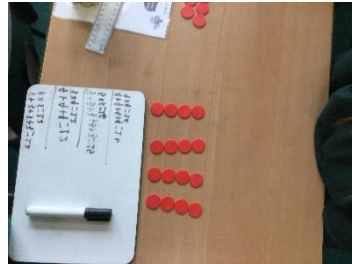
To finish of the term, Y1 have really enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year, taking part in lots of fun art and craft activities. They even had the opportunity to try different Chinese foods. We have also been learning about how Shrove Tuesday is celebrated in the UK, decorating and eating pancakes as well as taking part in a pancake flipping contest.



# Year 2

## Maths

In Maths we have been learning how to multiply and divide numbers. We have worked practically with counters to calculate our answers. We have learnt to use arrays for multiplication and sharing circles for division. We have been so impressed with how the children have embraced this new learning!

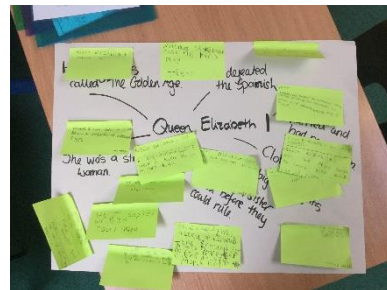
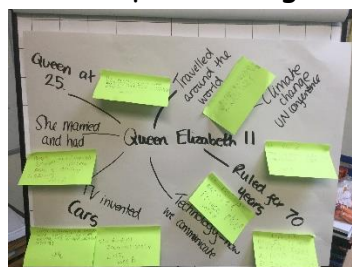
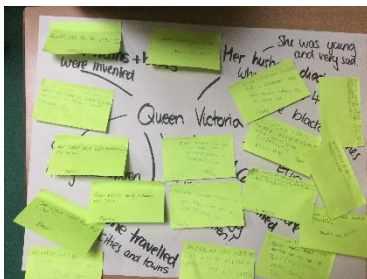


## History

We have been learning about three of the most famous queens that each ruled this country for a very long time.

Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II.

We have studied each time period and looked at the changes that happened during each queen's reign.



## PSHE

Our topic has been 'Keeping ourselves safe' the children have learnt about e-safety, safety around the home and safety around medicines.



The children have worked so hard this half term. Well done year 2! Have a great half term and we will see you soon. Miss Wheatley and Miss Morten 😊

## Year 3

We have had a lovely half term in Year 3, the children have worked extremely hard and that has been shown across all areas of the curriculum.

In English we have written an alternative chapter to The Finger Eater creating our very own ways of Gudrun preventing the Ulf eating any more fingers. The children had some creative and amusing ideas! We have then moved on to exploring the Atlas of Adventures learning about various iconic world locations!



In Maths we have further explored multiplication and division. The children have worked very hard, learning lots of new methods and mathematical concepts. We have also played a lot of TTRockstars to increase our multiplication and division knowledge and we are encouraging the children to continue this practice at home!



In Science we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring and examining various rocks and fossils. The children found the unit very interesting and we had a lot of excellent scientific discussions.



## Year 4

We've crammed a lot into the last six weeks! In maths, we finished our unit on addition and subtraction with an active revision session in the hall. The children enjoyed finding the area of classroom objects using paper squares, and we used resources to help make sense of division.



In English, we've been writing playscripts and persuasive speeches. This week, the children shared their favourite speech with the class. In science, we finished our unit on electricity by making and testing handmade switches.



In art, the children created their own versions of Claude Monet's water lily pond. In D&T, we got our night lights under way (I think they will need all of half term to dry!)





## Forest School



All Layston classes have certainly sprung into the start of the Spring term, with their characteristic enthusiasm and joy, and we have done lots of amazing learning in the forest.

We made bird feeders and noticed how ravenous the little birds have been. The sunflower seeds we put out disappeared within an hour! Blue tits, robins, sparrows and even some long-tailed tits have filled branches of the forest and we have delighted in their chattering noises. I think the birds also enjoyed listening to our story on 'how the robin got his red breast'.



Despite wet weather, we danced our way to Chinese New Year and 2024 being the "Year of the dragon". We hope things we grow in the coming year continue to flourish and we renew our commitment to looking after the Layston environment.



This half-term ended with us making a fire. Well done to all the bright sparks who are perfecting this skill. Under the trees we whisked up a batter, cooked our

pancakes over a (sometimes slightly damp and smoky) fire and enjoyed eating them with a dash of lemon juice and a sprinkling of sugar. *Nom nom!*



Have a good half-term break everyone and enjoy your opportunities for getting out into nature.



# FOLS

Thank you for your support this half term with fundraising events for our school.  
Here are a few dates for your calendars for the second half term.

1st March - Mad March Hair Day

7th March- World Book Day dress up and Reading Breakfast. We are inviting parents in to join us for breakfast and to read a book with their children, 8.30- 9.15.

More detailed information to follow after half term about these events.

Have a lovely half term break!

FOLS team.