



The Layston Newsletter



March 2024

Head's desk

We started the second half of the spring term exploring the value of Reverence and Respect. Children have been given opportunities to experience feelings of awe and wonder in their Forest School activities this term. They have also through our golden rules been encouraged to show respect for each other and adults in our school community.



Teaching and Learning:

Our school community have been busy helping to develop our YR outdoor area. Thank you to Mr Brand for putting up the new play house to Tyler's dad for building the water wall, to Mikey's parents for making a mud kitchen and to YR team for creating such an engaging environment for the children to explore.



In Forest School this week the children have been celebrating Easter by creating nature Easter eggs and thinking about symbols of Easter. The children also took part in a fun Easter egg hunt.




The whole school walked to St Peter's Church to celebrate Easter with a special church service. Each class performed an Easter song and the worship group worked with Reverend Kirsty to create a prayer for the service. Layston choir and the recorder group also filled the church with joy with their beautiful singing and recorder playing. We were so proud of all our Layston children.

Attendance

We continue to prioritise attendance and are delighted to list all the children who have achieved 100% attendance over the Spring Term (up to 26th March).

- Reception - Tyler, Daisy, Daphne, Chloe
- Year 1 - Buddy, Mason, Amelia, Eva
- Year 2 - Ameliana, Ella-Grace, Alfie
- Year 3 - Annie B, Amber, Sonny, Albert, Ethan
- Year 4 - Taylor, Thomas, Riley, Elodie

Certificates have been awarded as follows:

	Golden Certificates 100% Attendance	total Gold 20
	Silver Certificates 98% Attendance	total Silver 28
	Bronze Certificates 96% Attendance	total Bronze 16

In total there are 64 awards for 96% attendance and above.

Overall percentage for children across whole school is **92%**.

Wishing all our families, a Happy Easter and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 15th April.

Reception

Reception have had a busy half term. They have been working so hard. With many thanks to Mikey's parents for making our new mud kitchen - pictures to follow.

We have been learning about our local area and walked around the town to look at human features and physical features of our environment.



We also had a wedding with Reverend Kirsty and the children were very good at acting out the wedding. The bride and groom looked beautiful!



This week we have been learning about the Easter Story and how Jesus died on the cross. We made our Easter gardens to show the symbolism of the cross. We made Easter Nests and had an egg hunt!



We have also cooked and enjoyed Gingerbread men and built bridges for the Billy Goats Gruff.

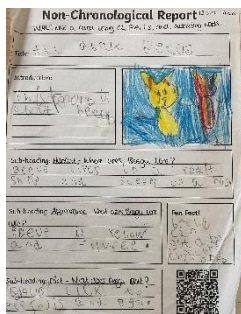
Year 1

We have had a busy term in year 1 and it has been lovely to see all the children engaged in their learning.

In Maths, Year 1 have shown a great interest when learning about lengths and heights, as well as learning about Mass and Volume. Year 1 have enjoyed using Cubes, Cuisenaire rods, Scales and different shaped containers to support their understanding.

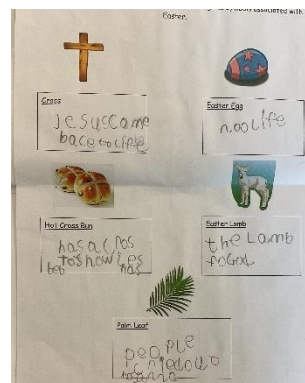


In English, Year 1 have been working really hard on their report writing. The children have also been planning and writing their own senses rhyming couplet poem.



In RE, the children are learning about different Easter symbols as well sequencing and recalling the Easter Story. They especially enjoyed eating some scrummy Hot cross buns!

Have a lovely Easter, from the Year 1 Team!



Year 2

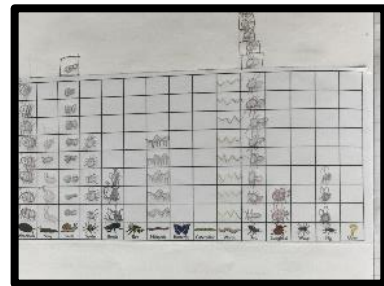
In **Art** this half term we have created our own Islamic Tiles. We have learnt about geometric patterns and how to create them. We used a geoboard (on the chrome books) to create Islamic patterns and then used squared paper to create geometric designs. We then painted our geometric design on a tile. We have created some beautiful tiles!



In **Science** our focus has been on 'Living things and their habitats'. We have learnt about what all living things need to do to stay alive.

Movement
Respiration
Sensitivity
Growth
Reproduce
Excrete
Nutrition

Microbe	Habitat 1
Worm	Soil
Ant	Soil
Spider	Under a rock
Beetle	Under a log
Fly	Air
Wasp	Under a log
Butterfly	On a flower
Caterpillar	On a leaf
Worm	Under a log
Ant	Under a log
Ladybird	On a leaf
Wasp	Under a log
Other	



We also went on a mini-beast hunt and looked at microhabitats. We created pictograms of the data we collected.

In **PSHE** we have studied Fairtrade and how important it is to recognise fairness within the farming community. We have also looked at keeping ourselves safe by discussing the difference between a secret and a surprise. We use role-play a lot in PSHE to help us understand what to do in a variety of scenarios.



Well done year 2 for another hard-working half term. Have a lovely Easter break 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 our own Fables, with our focus text being War and Peas by Michael Foreman! The children thoroughly enjoyed using their own creative ideas to help them write a story based on a chosen moral. We then shared our final stories with some of the Reception children!



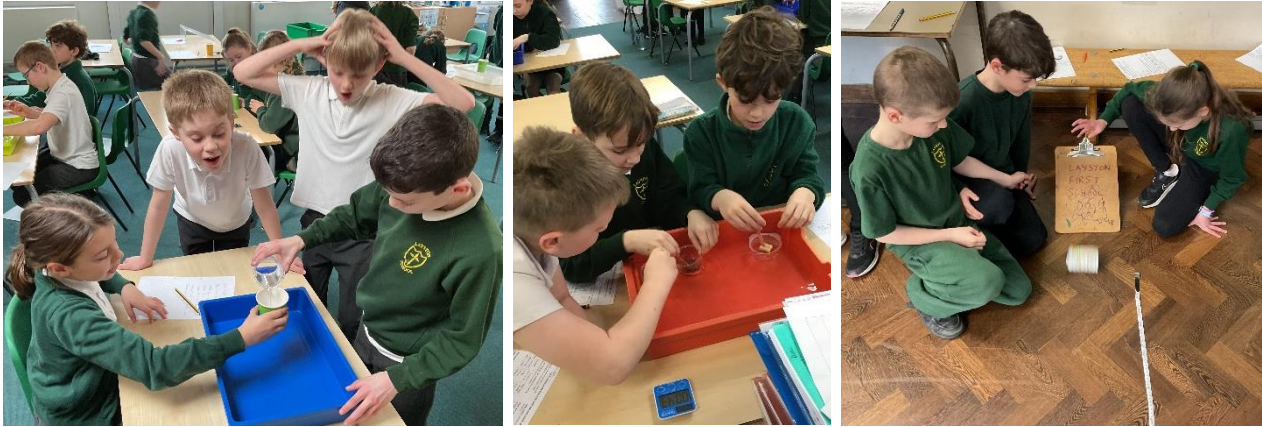
In Maths we have explored length and perimeter, more recently moving on to fractions. The children have showed resilience and determination in Maths across this half term. This has been evident in the quizzes we have done to assess learning.

In History we have explored the Roman topic. The children have had various opportunities to complete lots of practical activities in this topic, including our Roman workshop day which was thoroughly enjoyed by all!



Year 4

I know I say this every time, but it's been a busy half term! In science, we've completed lots of experiments including melting chocolate, plugging holes in leaky cups and rolling cans from different heights.



We've done lots around the Easter story. We used drama to retell different parts of the story. These were filmed and edited together to make our very own Easter story video. The children have also written their own retellings of the Easter story.



The children made awesome video book reviews on World Book Day. They filmed and edited them themselves. Year 4 parents should have received a link to these in an email.

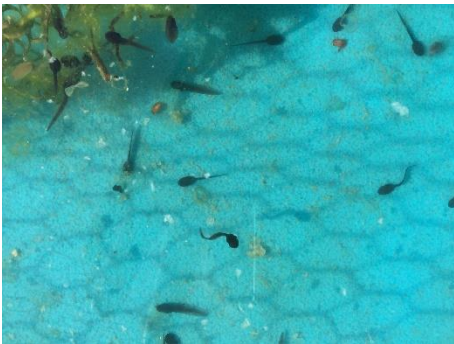


PE, Eco Warriors and Outdoor Learning

- Our eco warrior team have been updating our action plan coming up with some lovely ideas for the whole school to have the opportunity to take part in. After the Easter holidays the Eco`s will continue to create anti-litter posters being displayed around school. Children will also take part in a whole school litter pick within and outside of the school grounds, along with the support from our governors.

Forest School

Pupils have once again worked very hard in their Forest School sessions this half term. We have planted out spring flowers, harvested from the allotment (with rhubarb being especially enjoyed in rhubarb and pear muffins) and prepared the beds for our seed potatoes.



We have also enjoyed watching frogspawn hatch and the tadpoles, avoid the hungry ducks and newts, and manage to grow.

Hunting for Easter eggs hidden around the forest has been great fun. How many do you think we found?



Some beautiful nature Easter eggs were also made displaying symbols of our Easter celebration.



Ivy Eileen, Lily Lou and Hattie the Hedgehog would like to wish everyone a very happy Easter.



Governors

Governor Update

As you know, we shared Ofsted's report on the school and our response to it just before half term. I wanted to take this opportunity to share an update.

Firstly, can I say thank you to all of you who shared your reactions with the school. The overwhelming majority of these were supportive and suggested that your own experiences of the school do not match Ofsted's judgement. This has been very heartening for staff as they work hard on the areas for improvement that were identified.

Secondly, it has been great to see the staff team and the whole school community working together to take the school forward. This has been especially noticeable with the changes we have been making to the learning environment to support the learning of our Reception class. We are very grateful to all those who have helped build our new infrastructure.

At the governors' meeting last week we discussed progress on the Rapid Action Plan which we put in place to address the areas highlighted by Ofsted. I am pleased to say that we saw good progress in all areas. The impact of this is reflected in the latest teacher assessments of where children have reached in their learning and in the regular external reviews that we commission.

Most importantly all of this has been achieved without impacting on the wonderful positive atmosphere in our school, which was reflected in the children's participation in our Easter service at St Peter's church this week.

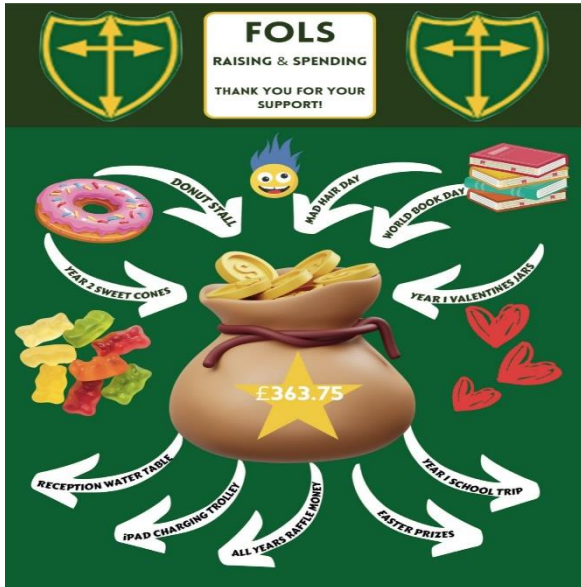
I'm sure you will want to join me in thanking all the staff for their hard work and hoping they enjoy a well-earned break over Easter.

Colin Wilson
Chair of Governors

FOLS

What we have been doing this term?

We've had a fantastic term raising money for the school.



Highlights were definitely Mad Hair Day and the World Book Day breakfast. Your children all looked amazing and we hope they all enjoyed it.

Our main focuses for this year are;

- Enrichment- This includes subsidising special days for the children in school such as the Y1 toy day, the Easter Bonnets and helping teachers to fund 'raffle prizes' which encourage positive behaviour and extra reading in classes.
- School Development Plan- We would like to support the school with their SDP and one of the ways that we can do that is to help the YR class with their outside area. Watch this space!
- The demountable- the school has big plans for the

outside demountable classroom and we can't wait to support them in this.

Easter Tombola

Thank you to everyone who donated to the tombola and to those who supported us by buying tickets in the playground. We raised an amazing £144.38!!

Easter Picture Competition

Well done to those children who brought in their pictures for the Easter Picture Competition. They were all wonderful and it was so hard to pick a winner.

The winners were –

YR- Olive D
Y1- Ella R
Y2- Rocco S
Y3 – Lily H
Y4 – Edward S

The Easter Bonnet Parade

We have been so overwhelmed with the efforts gone in to the Easter Bonnets. They were all amazing!! We loved seeing the creativity and imagination in various designs and all the children looked so happy parading them around the hall with their friends.

Reverend Kirsty very kindly came to judge the bonnets and she had such a difficult job having to pick a winner from each class. Well done everyone!

This has previously been something that FOLS have charged for but this year we decided to give them out for free- we hope the children enjoyed making them.

The winners are:

- YR – Oscar
- Y1 – Lilah E
- Y2 – Alfie P
- Y3 – Ed M
- Y4 – Olivia E

Join Us!!

Friends of Layston School (FOLS) are Layston School's PTA and we are a registered Charity. We are always looking for new members to come and join us or for any new ideas for fundraising. You don't need to attend every meeting or to spend hours on end baking cakes! We appreciate any offers of help, whether it be taking the lead on a fundraising event, printing posters or just discussing ideas. Lots of our discussions are done over Whatsapp so you can dip in and out at your convenience. We'd love to invite you to our Social on 3rd May! Anyone is invited, just pop along to see what we're about or just come along for a chat and a drink. The more the merrier!

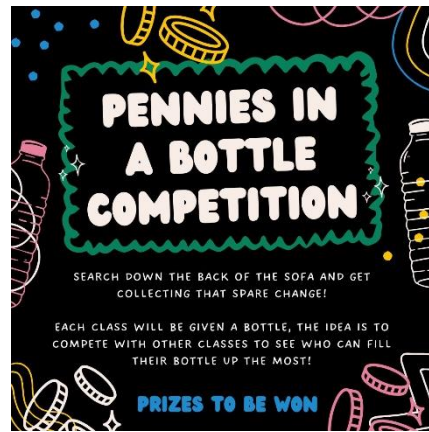


Pennies in a Bottle Competition



The children are loving bringing in their pennies for the Pennies in a Bottle Competition.

Keep bringing in that spare change. We will be checking how class is getting on when we return from the Easter Holidays.



each

Dates for your Diary

We will be adding more dates and details to this at our next meeting so will send out more information soon.

Wednesday 22 nd May	Year 3 Fundraiser	Cake Bake
TBC- possibly 23 rd May	Summer Disco	Will confirm ASAP
Wednesday 19 th June	Year R Fundraiser	Cake bake in the playground after school
Friday 5 th July	Quiz Night	More info to follow
Saturday 13 th July	Summer Fete	More info to follow

We

would like to thank everyone for their continued support throughout their year. If you have any questions or feedback, or would like to join us for a meeting or our social, then please email us on friendsoflaystonschool@gmail.com or talk to your Class Rep.

Happy Easter!

From FOLS

