

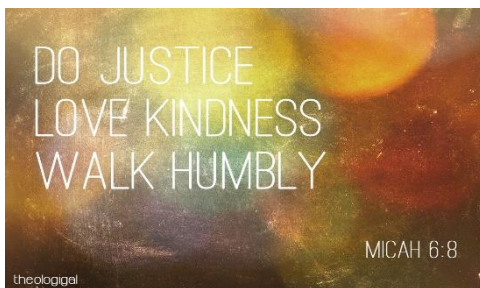


The Layston Newsletter



July 2024

Head's desk



Our Christian Value this half term was 'Justice'. The children explored stories from the bible to help deepen their understanding of the value. Justice supports the promotion of British Values and diversity, equality and inclusion.

As this school year draws to a close we have much to celebrate. The children have continued to enjoy their learning and have demonstrated resilience as they think about the transition into the next year group.

Awards:



PE - We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games **GOLD** Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year. Well done Miss Kelly and RTYFC!




Layston was awarded a bronze award in the RSPB Wild Challenge this term. This is to acknowledge that we do lots to help nature as well as activities to experience nature.



Attendance:

We continue to prioritise attendance and are delighted to celebrate all the children who have achieved 96% attendance and above over the Summer Term (up to 17th July). In total there are 51 awards for 96% attendance and above, and these certificates will be handed out in collective worship on Monday morning.

Certificates have been awarded as follows:

	Golden Certificates = 100% Attendance	Total Gold 2
	Silver Certificates = 98% Attendance	Total Silver 27
	Bronze Certificates = 96% Attendance	Total Bronze 22

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

Goodbyes:



We bid farewell to our Year 4 children and we wish them good luck as they begin the next step of their learning journey at middle school. We know that they will continue to shine and do us all proud. They have been compassionate, thoughtful and resilient.

We also say goodbye Miss Wheatley. Miss Wheatley will be leaving to start a full time teaching role at a school in Stevenage. We wish her good luck for the future and we thank her for all her hard work this year. Our TA, Mrs Baker, is also moving on to a new role. Thank you too for all your hard work and kindness.

Road safety:

Mrs Betley has delivered a road safety collective worship. However, we have provided a couple of links that you may find useful to share with your children prior to and during the holidays.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qo-JGoEgm7g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odL77zH42Vs>

Reminder:

We are ending the summer term on Tuesday 23rd July at 1:30pm. The new school term starts on Wednesday 4th September at 8:45am.

As ever, it is a privilege to work with your wonderful children so thank you all for entrusting them to our care. On behalf of all the staff at Layston we wish you all a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you back at school in September.

Reception

Reception have been working so hard at their reading and applying their phonics into their writing. The children have all been working so hard and showing great perseverance in their learning.

We have been learning about different mini-beasts and exploring the school grounds to see what we could find. Worms, snails and spiders were the favourites. The highlight of the term, has definitely been the visit from Garg. We saw so many different animals and the children were really brave at stroking or holding the animals.



We made and decorated cakes for the FOLS cake sale.



We have observed over time how our caterpillars changed into butterflies and learned about lifecycles of the frog too.



Year 1

We have had a busy half term creating some amazing memories! It has been lovely to see all the children engaged in their learning.



In Maths, we have been learning about money. The children have been learning to count and recognise coins and notes. The children have also been learning about time. Telling the time to the hour and half hour. Year 1 have been amazing when explaining their answers in more detail, using their sentence stems to support their learning.



In English, the children have enjoyed reading *The Magic and Mystery of Trees* by Jen Green. Creating fact file booklets. The children have also been exposed to rhyming poems, creating their own Dr Seuss poem. As always, the children have enjoyed role-playing showing their fantastic acting skills!

We finished off the term with our trip to Shepreth Zoo! Enjoyed by all. The children were all superstars representing Layston School. It has been delightful to see all the children blossom as individuals and they have been a pleasure to teach. Wishing them every success when moving into year 2!



Year 2

We have had a busy half term in year 2. The children have continued to work hard and have impressed us with their positive attitude towards transition into year 3. We will miss you!

Rye Meads

Last week we went to Rye Meads for our school trip. We went on a bug hunt and identified lots of different plants.

Everyone had a brilliant time!



History

In History we have studied three significant nurses; Florence Nightingale, Edith Cavell and Mary Seacole. We studied their lives and acknowledged how they changed modern nursing for the better!

Art

In Art we have looked at Vincent Van Gogh and created our own interpretations of his famous *Starry night*. They look amazing!



PSHRE

In PSHRE we have been learning about different cultures and how they benefit us. We did some dancing and tried foods from around the world.



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 explored the use of persuasion texts this half term. We finished the unit by writing a persuasive letter to Tesco to encourage the use of plastic bags being stopped. We then moved on to looking at Haiku poetry which we thoroughly enjoyed. The children were able to write and perform their own Haiku poems which we shared with Year 4!

In History we have been exploring the History of Buntingford! We have used the chrome books to research about historic buildings in Buntingford and historic individuals from the town. We enjoyed a walk around Buntingford identifying any of the historic buildings we recognised from our research.



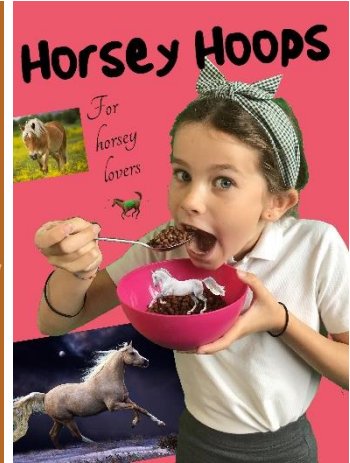
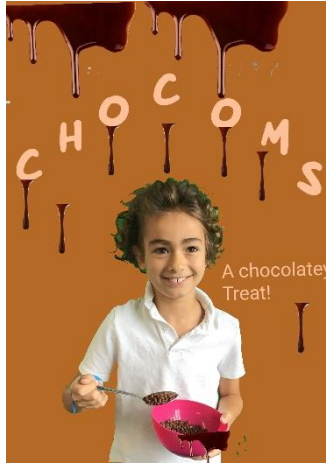
We have also been creative in DT this half term. We have been researching and exploring the importance of a healthy and balanced diet. The children were then able to plan, create and consume a wrap or toastie. The children were able to use different cutting, grating and spreading techniques when making their product.



It has been a pleasure to teach Year 3 this year and I am very proud of all the children for the hard work and progress that has been made. I am sure this will continue into Year 4 and I look forward to watch them continue to flourish.

Year 4

Well that was a busy half term! In D&T, we made bread rolls. The children also designed and made their own cereal boxes using a combination of iPads and Chromebooks.



The children had a great time at Hudnall Park. I'm still recovering!



Oh and then there was the leavers' service! I was really proud of how all the children performed.



Class of 2024, you have been awesome! Good luck in the future! 😊

PE, Eco Warriors, Forest School and Outdoor Learning



Magic arrived in Forest School this half term with a beautiful enchanted door inviting everyone through to an imaginary place. Layston pupils enjoyed visiting the most amazing creative places and used excellent vocabulary to describe it to us on their return. Maybe some of us will be going to those places in our summer holidays?

Other magic took place when we used tools safely to create beads for bracelets out of elder twigs. Older children used a whittling knife sensibly to make themselves an elder pen.

Pond dipping gave us all the opportunity to identify creatures that live in the school pond. Lots of newts were spotted and their patterns admired, many pupils delighted in distinguishing between the males and females. We also marvelled at the damselflies above the pond. Our tadpoles grew into froglets and we decided to release them into the wild. Look out for our frogs when you cross the ford.





Talking about the process of making paper from trees... we made pulp out of tissue and water and then tried making our own piece of paper. We used wild flowers, leaves and grasses to decorate it. This was not an easy task but some beautiful paper was made.

When the week of the water fights arrived, there was great

excitement and energy beforehand and lots of fun and squeals and yells in the forest during the activity. Excellent resilience and good sportsmanship shown, not to mention spot-on aiming!



Lots of hard work and digging and weeding in the school allotment yielded an impressive harvest including broad beans, onions and garlic. Cheese and onion twists (made using school grown onions) were devoured eagerly. Pitta bread strips dipped in garlic butter were also enjoyed with some children trying garlic for the first time.



Currently the school courgettes are flourishing and the rhubarb looks ready for a third harvest!



In more recent Forest School sessions pupils have enjoyed den building. Following our 3 "den commandments" these have kept plants and trees safe, children and adults unhurt and everyone having fun. Some dens have included multiple rooms, kitchens, fireplaces, sofas, televisions and hot tubs. One Year 3 den even included a shower which sprinkled real rain water on you when you stepped inside! Great team work and creativity, Layston!



We have also squeezed in time to play and vote for the Greatest of All time Forest School game. It seems like the "blind dragon" game is a popular one.

Have a great summer holiday everyone. Enjoy the chance to get out into nature if you can.

Ivy Eileen & Lily Lou

FOLS

FOLS have had a very busy half term, mostly planning for our summer fair, FUNDAY FRIDAY!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support us.

Thank you to all the volunteers who turned up early to help set up, who ran stalls, and who stayed late to help tidy up.

Thank you to Miss Croucher and Mrs Foster for daring to take the stocks. You are great sports and the children loved throwing sponges at you 🥰!!

Thank you to Mrs McMurrough for all her help throughout the day.

Thank you to [Christina Marks School Of Performing Arts](#) for bringing the lesson outside for everyone to enjoy. The dancers were brilliant!

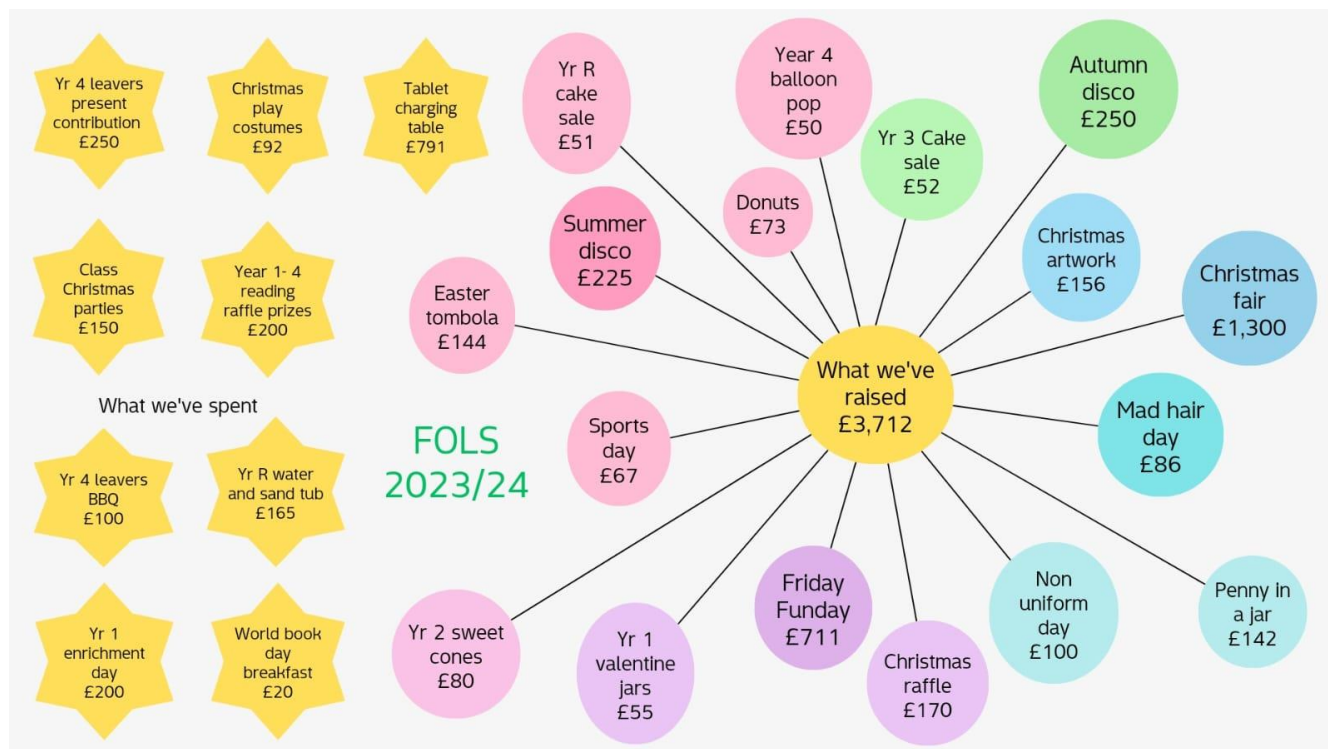
Thank you to PCSO Paul for coming along to show us your support and for all your help tidying up after the fair.

And thank you to all of our lovely families for showing up and supporting FOLS. Have a great weekend x



We've also had non-uniform days, cake sales and sports day to enjoy too!

We have had a great year and would like to thank you all for your continued support to Friends of Layston School.



We would love to see some new faces on the committee next year so please consider joining us. Drop us an email at friendsoflaystonschool@gmail.com.

We hope you all have the best summer,

From FOLS x