



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



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL
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Head teacher: Mrs Adele McMurrough

28th Feb 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term.

Spiritual development:

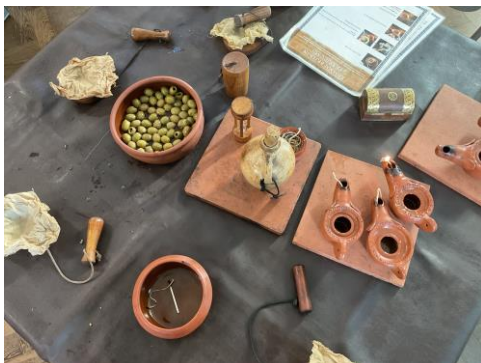
Staff and Governors have been exploring how we deliver spiritual development as a church school. Although we are a Church School we promote a range of religious and non-religious spiritual pathways. This is expanded upon in our SMSC policy (see website). However, we know many of you won't have the time to read this so we will share snapshots in the Head's letter.

At Layston, we see spirituality as a relationship with four aspects. It is our relationship with ourselves, other people, our world, and something greater than the material world, for example, God/the Universe/awe and wonder. This week we would like to share our spiritual development opportunities within Forest School. In Forest School the children have been noticing signs of spring around Layston, especially daffodils! The children have also been celebrating early for World Wildlife Day (actually on 3 March). The children have been learning about the nature 'red list' and animals that are critically endangered or endangered and what threatens them.



Teaching and learning:

The children have had a wonderful week of learning. Year 3 enjoyed finding out what life was like in Roman Britain. They had the chance to make a necklace, a Roman mosaic tile and a Roman rota game! It was a fabulous experience for everyone involved.



Ofsted progress:

1. Ensure clarity of focus within the School Development Plan (SDP) results in more accurate school self-evaluation.	School Evaluation and Improvement Plan is reviewed every term by Senior Leadership Team. SLT have worked with Governors on a 3 year strategic plan. SLT have led staff and governor workshops, for example, sharing the SEIP and developing Spirituality.
2. Ensure EYFS learning environment enables the EYFS curriculum to be enacted in the classroom.	We continue to work with Anna Hunter, Early Years Advisor, to support curriculum development in Early Years following up on any actions outlined in the EEEYP review in October.
3. Ensure subjects are planned from Reception so that learning builds on foundational knowledge.	Subject leaders continue to work with HFL advisers, Charlotte Jackson, Claire Watson, Nicky Murphy and Kate Kilner Dilks to support the development of the Foundation Subjects from YR-Y4. Elliott Plumb, a RWI trainer will also be visiting us to further develop phonics.
4. Clarify end points so that clear assessment procedures can be devised and implemented.	Ben Fuller, from HFL, is scheduled in to support Assessment for Learning across the school in the spring and summer terms. He will deliver a twilight training session for staff and half day follow up monitoring in school.
5. Develop a shared understanding of leader's vision in how children are supported to manage behaviours.	The updated behaviour policy was shared with families and staff and is on the website. Parental engagement policy has been shared with families and staff.
6. Embed the whole school approach to supporting SEND pupils.	Mrs Betley continues to oversee SEND support and planning and liaise with staff and parents to ensure consistency.

Spring term events:

Please check the calendar on the school website for all school events. I have highlighted the key dates below.

Key dates:

Date	Event
6 th March	World Book Day and Reading Breakfast from 8:30-9:00 - dress up as a favourite character or come in PJ's or something comfortable to snuggle up and read a story.
24 th March	YR Learning Conference
25 th March	Y3 Learning Conference
26 th March	Y1 Learning Conference
27 th March	Y2 Learning Conference
28 th March	Y4 Learning Conference
1 st April	9:30am Easter Service St Peter's

Parent/teacher learning conferences:

These will take place during the day of the week commencing 24th March. The school booking system will open for bookings at 6pm on Monday 3rd March. Please use the link below to book your appointment

<https://laystoncofefirst.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Thank you:

A huge thank you to FOLS and parents for their generous gifts to school from our Amazon wish gift list. It is very much appreciated by us all at Layston.

Best wishes,
Adele McMurrough
Head teacher