



*Loving to learn, Learning to love,
For every child a chance to shine
"...let your light shine before others, that they may see your
good deeds and glorify your father in heaven." Matthew 5:16*



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

20th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spiritual Development:

Last week Mrs Betley led a collective worship on developing spirituality and how we can improve our reflection areas. The children have come up with some wonderful ideas from USB charged tea lights to fragrances and crystals and fidget toys. Mrs Betley loves their multi-sensory approach and will be developing the reflection areas after Easter so look forward to some photos.

Teaching and learning:

In Forest School this week the children have been talking about recycling as Global Recycling Day was on the 18th March. The children have made a recycling symbol out of sticks and have re-used woodland materials in to make a wind chime.

Y2 have had a fantastic visit from Lisa at History off the Page focussing on Florence Nightingale. The children had a wonderful day and were fully engaged thanks to all our parent volunteers.

They were transported to the 1800s, to learn all about Florence Nightingale and her contribution to nursing and the Crimean War. The children created items to sell and use - clay lamps, pill boxes, diaries, sashes, cards, medals, and they had to apply for a job with Florence's team - writing with an old fashioned nib and ink was tricky! After some artefact handling (who knew hot water bottles used to be made of clay?), they spent the afternoon working in Scutari hospital as nurses, cooks, in the laundry, and of course as patients too. What a great way to immerse themselves in the life of a very significant woman.



Comic Relief:

Tomorrow, 21st March is Comic Relief, Red Nose Day. We are inviting the children to come to school in non-uniform and bring a voluntary donation to raise funds for this amazing charity. Donations should be handed to their class teacher.

Easter Service 1st April:

Ticket confirmation emails have been sent out to the first 57 parents/carers who emailed in.

Tickets will need to be collected from the office prior to the service on Tuesday. These will be available to collect from the school office from Wednesday 26th- Friday 28th March. Please do not come to collect your ticket before this date.



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Reminders:

Arbor

If you have not already done so, please sign up to the Arbor Parent Portal and App. As we are no longer using Parent Pay/School Gateway, if you do not create an Arbor account you will not be able to pay for trips, top up and view your child's meal balance or view attendance data. You may also miss out on essential communications. Invites to sign up to and instructions on how to download the parent app were sent out last week. If you have not received an invite, please ensure you check your junk and spam folders before contacting the school office.

A full guide on how to use the parent Arbor App is available on our website under useful information or by clicking the following link <https://www.layston.herts.sch.uk/useful-information/parents-guide-to-arbor/> We strongly recommend that you read this document to familiarise yourself with how to navigate the app and what features are available.

Snacks

As we are a healthy school please can I remind parents if sending in a snack for your child that this is healthy, for example, a piece of fruit or vegetables such as carrot or cucumber sticks. Crisps, chocolate bars or biscuits are not acceptable. Please also consider that we are nut free school so please do not send in snacks containing any type of nuts.

Best wishes,

Adele McMurrough
Head teacher