



April 2025

Head's desk

We started the second half of the spring term exploring the value of Thankfulness. Christians believe that God loves and cares for them in many different aspects of their lives. They know their response to this provision should be one of thankfulness and praise.



Spirituality:

Mrs Betley is busy collecting items requested by the children for our reflection areas. These will be evolving over the summer term.

Teaching and learning:

The children have had a fabulous Spring 2 and they have shown gratitude and thankfulness in their learning. The Y3 children have enjoyed a fabulous Romans experience earlier this term when they took part in a range of activities including designing mosaics, creating roman pendants. Our Y2 children also enjoyed a visit from History off the Page to enhance their learning about Florence Nightingale. They were transported to the 1800s, to learn all about her contribution to nursing and the Crimean War.

The children demonstrated thankfulness during our Easter service at St Peter's church. Each class performed a song and our worship group delivered a prayer of thanks to God. I was very proud of all the children.




Donations

Thank you all for your generosity in raising money for charity this term. Your donations were greatly appreciated. We raised £135.42 for Comic Relief.

Attendance

We continue to prioritise attendance and are delighted to see that 50 children have achieved 100% attendance over the Spring Term (up to 1st April).

Certificates have been awarded as follows:

	Golden Certificates 100% Attendance	50 total Gold
	Silver Certificates 98% Attendance	17 total Silver
	Bronze Certificates 96% Attendance	23 total Bronze

In total there are 90 awards for 96% attendance and above.

Overall percentage for children across whole school is **94%**.

Wishing all our families a peaceful and happy Easter and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 22nd April.



Reception



Reception would like to say a massive thank you to Cumberlows for the donation of topsoil for our Mud kitchen, along with a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Suchley for organising and delivering to our back garden. (Also to Lauren Hickey for making sure they could get into the school grounds).

We have had a busy half term and done lots of cooking and tasting new things. We have made gingerbread men and have done some fruit tasting linked to our story of Handa's surprise. We also made cupcakes for our wedding celebration that Reverend Kirsty performed for us. We have made hot cross buns to support our learning about Easter and the significance of the cross on top.



We have built bridges for the Billy Goats Gruff and made sure that they were safe and had collaboration to support each other.

Have a lovely Easter break and we will see you on 22nd April.

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, Scales and different shaped containers to support their understanding.



In English, Year 1 have been working hard on their report writing. The children have also been planning and writing their own senses poem. I would like to say a Big Well Done! For all of the amazing home learning which has been completed so far in Year 1.

In RE, the children have been sequencing the Easter Story and learning about the meaning of different Easter Symbols. The children enjoyed eating some scrummy hot cross buns as well as carrying out lots of fun Easter activities including, Easter egg hunt and making their own Easter nests.

Have a lovely Easter!

Miss Kelly and Mrs Downs



Year 2

What a lot of learning we have fitted into this term! Some highlights...



World Book Day was a lot of fun, and the children enjoyed bringing in and sharing their favourite stories, and some book themed quizzing!

In D and T we have practised our knife skills, designing and creating salads for a school picnic. Yum!



Our biggest highlight was our visit from History off the Page, bringing Florence Nightingale's Scutari hospital to life! The children have since written some excellent reports on her life.



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.

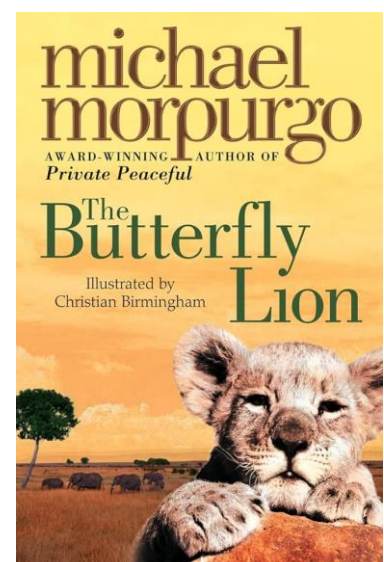
In Maths we have explored length and perimeter, more recently moving on to fractions. The children have showed resilience and determination in Maths across this half term. This has been evident in the quizzes we have done to assess learning.



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!



We have also enjoyed our Whole Class Reading this half term, with our focus text being *The Butterfly Lion* by Michael Morpurgo. The children were hooked on this story and wanted to find out what happened as soon as possible!



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 testing the strength of different paper towels, 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.



On World Book Day, the children made some awesome video book reviews.

They filmed and edited them themselves. Once they're all uploaded, I will share them via an emailed link.



Forest School

The Forest is buzzing this week: many bumblebees are buzzing around the blossom and many children have been buzzing with excitement as Easter eggs have been hunted for. A suitable fun ending to a busy half term.



We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with pancakes cooked over the fire, sharing the responsibilities of mixing the batter, lighting the fire, cooking pancakes and even flipping some. The overall verdict was that they tasted very good.



There has been lots of learning going on in the Forest. We learnt about squirrels and their special adaptations. We've heard about the nature red list and completed charades for different animals. We have done some measuring of different tree heights and distances. We've planted in the



allotment and soon will begin harvesting. We have been amazed at the frogspawn hatching and the tadpoles growing. Seeing which animals visit the forest at night time continues to fascinate us.



We would like to wish all Layston families a very happy Easter and a relaxing holiday.



FOLS

HAPPY EASTER!

We want to thank you all for your kind donations to the tombola and want to express our delight at the fantastic response to the easter colouring competition. The creativity and effort put into each entry was wonderful to see, it was a joy to see the vibrant and imaginative artwork from our talented pupils.

It was hard to pick the best as they were all so good but the winners for each class are:

Emmie - Year R

George - Year 1

Hallie - Year 2

Keris - Year 3

Annie B - Year 4

Well done to you all, we can't wait to see what you come up with for our **Egg Decorating Competition**, please bring your creations in after the easter break.

*we wish you all a
very happy easter!*

FOLS
FRIENDS OF LAYSTON SCHOOL

Governors

A lot seems to have happened since my update last term. The full governing board ("FGB") has met twice during this term. Several governors attended a very positive joint Spirituality Workshop with staff. We've also made regular visits for other purposes and witnessed the great work the school does at first hand. But it's fair to say that regular budget monitoring meetings have been more challenging in the current economic climate!

At one meeting governors held a strategy workshop where we identified the many things the school already does well and brainstormed ideas and suggestions for further development. These are being worked up into a 3 year strategic action plan to sit alongside our existing school development plan which has a shorter focus. Governors are also reflecting on how we can best support the school going forwards, including reviewing our school visit policy and programme.

We have been pleased to see the school continue to make good progress on the areas for improvement identified in the Ofsted report last year. A number of external advisers have helped us with this process to ensure we incorporate best practice. Hard work from all staff has seen agreed actions implemented quickly and robustly. It will take time before all this work is reflected in measurable learning outcomes for all pupils, but already good results are visible in many areas.

It has been great to be back to a full complement of teaching staff this term following staff sickness and to welcome back Helen Wilcox and Helen Kelly from maternity leave. Conversely staffing in the office has been reduced due to sickness and we thank you for your patience during this challenging time. We are also very grateful to all those who have stepped in to help address the inevitable issues that have arisen. We hope to be back to normal next term.

There will be an opportunity next term to express our gratitude to senior staff who are moving on to pastures new. We will miss them. At the same time we always welcome the fresh perspective and new ideas that new recruits bring and we look forward to your support in helping their replacements to feel welcome in due course.

Finally I would like to thank Katie Groves for her contributions to the board over the last 18 months. Katie has had to stand down due to the pressure of other commitments. I would like to welcome Katie Orger who has been co-opted in her place. Katie will be leading our work planning for the replacement of the "dismountable" building in the lower playground.

If you have any comments or questions please do speak to any of the governors.

Colin Wilson,
Chair of Governors