



The Layston Newsletter



May 2025

Head's desk

Our school value: Love and Compassion



This half term we have been focussing in school on the values LOVE and COMPASSION. Love is a very important value to us as a school and underpins everything that we do. It is very much 'the why' of who we are. Love is evident in our relationships with each other and in our actions to support our community and our world.

We can grow and learn together because we know that God loves us.

Spirituality:

The children and staff have been developing the reflection areas in their classrooms. The children can show you the signs to help us remember the meaning of spirituality. Spirituality is about our relationship with ourselves, each other, the world, and God or the Universe.

Enrichment:

The children have had a fabulous half term of learning and enrichment opportunities. Last week the North Herts Schools Sports Partnership hosted a multi-skills festival at Layston for Y1 and 2 children. Other local first schools were invited and Millfield First School brought along their Y1 children to take part in this event. The children were all fantastic sports and enjoyed the range of activities on offer. Well done!

Staffing update:

An update on staffing for September 2025. We are pleased to announce that following a successful recruitment process we have appointed Mr Daniel Hardwood as Y4 Deputy Head teacher and Mrs Donna Rolt as our part time SENCO. We will be arranging time for parents and children to meet with our new starters after half term. We are extremely excited for them to join us and we know they will both be a perfect fit for Layston.

Enjoy a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing all children back in school on Monday 2nd June.

Reception



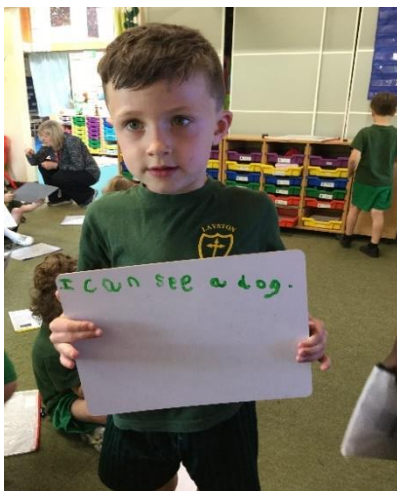
Reception have explored together in their Inventors and Makers workshop.



We have been enjoying the sunshine cooperating in our play, and exploring fossils and maps outdoors.



We are learning to write in sentences...



...and practising our races for sports day!



Year 1

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

In Maths, the children have enjoyed carrying out practical activities when learning about Multiplication, Division and Fractions. It has been lovely to see all the children explain their answers in more detail, using their sentence stems to support their learning.



In English, the children have shown huge fascination when learning about our contemporary fiction books, (Katie in London, Giraffes can't dance and The Snail and the Whale.) They have been role-playing, hot seating, planning and writing their own post cards and animal fact files.



In DT, the children having been learning about sliders and levers. They enjoyed designing, making, plus evaluating their children's book against the criteria.



Year 2

We have had a fantastic half term in Year 2 and the children have enjoyed lots of different activities!



We enjoyed taking part in the Inventors and Makers workshop where we worked together as part of a team to complete different challenges.



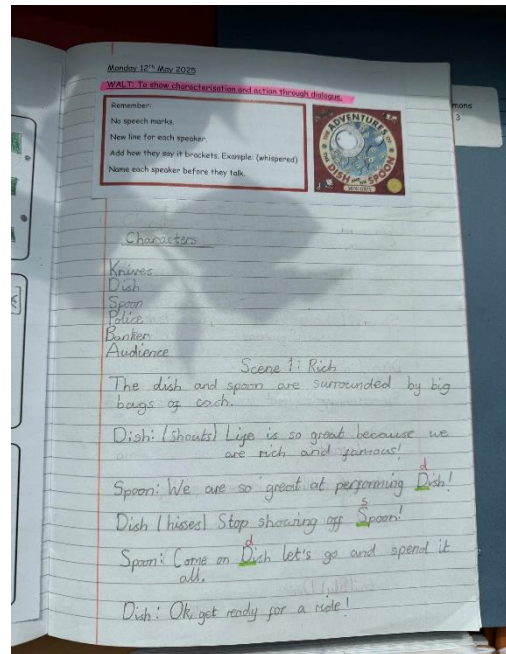
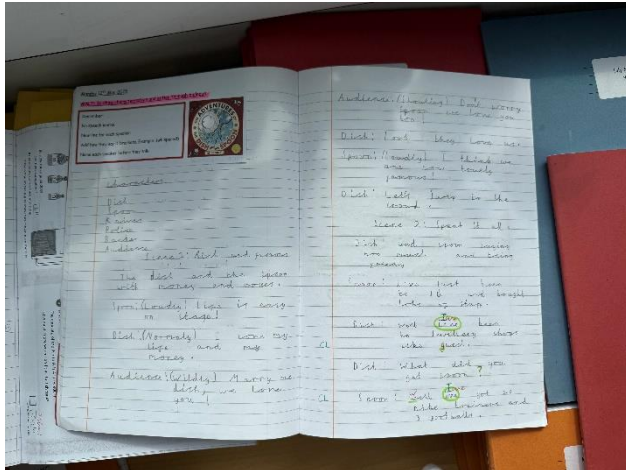
In Computing we have been learning how to be safe researchers. We researched our favourite animals online using different search engines and then created our own presentations using Google Slides.

During our PSHRE lessons we have been thinking about right and wrong choices. We acted out different scenarios and thought about what the right choice would be.



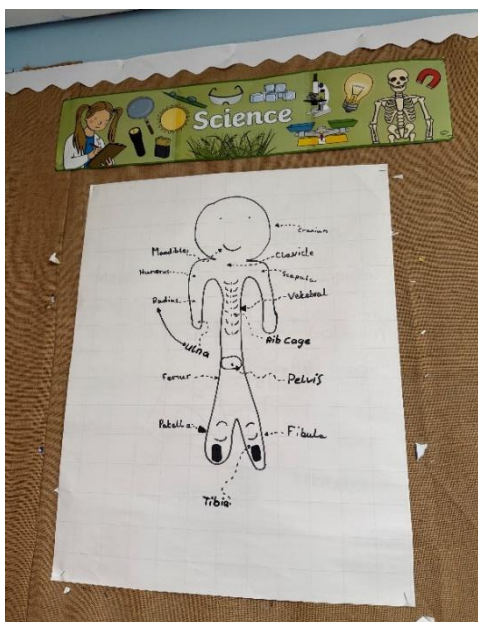
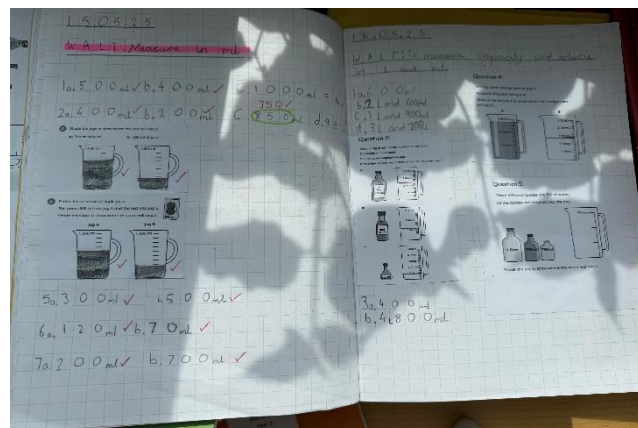
Year 3

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 play scripts this half term, which the children acted out. The children then created their own play scripts following the story of The Adventures of the Dish and Spoon. The outcomes were lovely and the children put a lot of effort into these.

In Maths we have continued to develop our knowledge on Capacity.

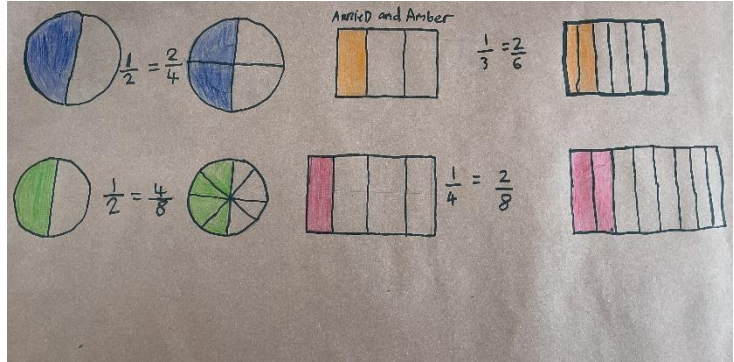


In Science we have explored the bodies of humans and animals. Exploring the different types of skeletons that animals can have. We have enjoyed exploring how different muscles in our body work together to create movement.

I am extremely proud of the compassion and determination that we have seen this half term and I am sure this will continue into the final half term!

Year 4

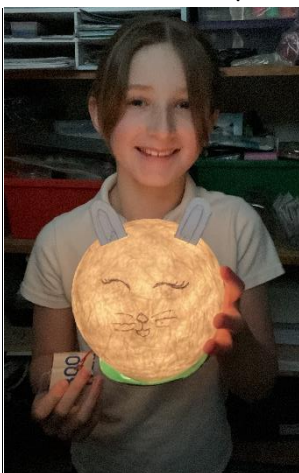
We've crammed a lot into the last five weeks! In science, we completed a unit on sound and have just started learning about the digestive system. In maths, we finished our unit on measurement and moved on to fractions!



In history, we enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt. Mummification was good fun and the children did a fantastic job sculpting the tops of Canopic jars.



In D&T, we finally completed our night lights. They looked very professional!



In English, the children wrote some lovely descriptive writing inspired by a book called The Raft. We're now having a go at some scary stories!

Forest School

This half-term has been very hands-on for everyone from Reception to Year 4 in Forest School. We began by each finding our 'tree twin', that special tree in the forest whose branches match the lines on our hands.



Then we used our hands and tools safely to make different objects. We used the bow saw with an adult to make "log dogs" which we led around the forest and looked after very well. Some of us sawed smaller wooden discs or Forest currency which we decorated and took home.



Here are some log dogs all tied up on King Tree after their busy time playing in the forest the previous day.

We then used palm drills to hollow out elder beads and made bracelets. We used hammers to make hapa zome (Japanese leaf bashing) tokens.



Some older children used the draw knife and the shave horse to have a go making gypsy flowers. They are commended for their excellent concentration and perseverance.



In addition to all this, we have also tended to the allotment and enjoyed watching the rhubarb, the broad beans, the onions and garlic and the strawberries grow. We have also learnt about bees and played games collecting nectar from pretend colourful flowers and spreading pollen to other flowers.

I wonder how much everything will grow next week.



Have a lovely half term

FOLS

HALF TERM

FOLS would like to thank you for your support this half term, it has flown by!

Mad hair day was a fantastic success and it was lovely to see everyone embrace it with all the creative hairstyles, well done to our class winners.

Our discos are always popular and what better way for our children to end this half term than to let their hair down and get their dancing shoes on!

we wish you all a lovely half term break!

