



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



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL
The Causeway, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9EU
Tel: 01763 271235 Email: admin@layston.herts.sch.uk
Head teacher: Mrs Adele McMurrough

18th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Spirituality:

Our half termly value is Creation and Stewardship. Rev Kirsty came in to speak about God creating the earth and in school we have linked this to taking care of all God's creatures. During Forest School sessions last week, a muntjak deer was spotted in the forest which caused great excitement amongst the children.

Teaching & Learning:

This week, our learning walk focussed on behaviours for learning. The children were all settled, focussed and enjoying the learning in class. The classrooms all look wonderful. The teaching environments are exciting and engaging and the learning walls are being used and added to by the children. We had a visit from Ben Fuller-the Assessment and Learning lead at Herts for Learning. This was a very positive day and he was pleased with how staff interacted and engaged with the children.

Communication:

Any queries or enquiries regarding your child should be raised with your child's class teacher in the first instance. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher please send an email to admin@layston.herts.sch.uk to arrange this. Please only speak to the class teachers if passing on vital information so they can see the children in safely. We appreciate your understanding.

Road Safety and Parking:

We are mindful of road safety and how easy it is for a young child to slip their parents hand and run into the road. We would therefore kindly remind our parents and carers to drive with caution and vigilance on the roads around school at all times. We have also noticed some dangerous parking around the school at pick up and drop off. We understand there is very little space and it is very busy but we would ask that you park further away and walk the last part of the journey if you have to drive. In addition, we need to maintain emergency vehicle access at all times so we ask that you park clear of the gates. We would also remind parents to turn off the engines whilst waiting to reduce emissions and the impact on the environment.

School attendance

Y1 96%

Y2 97%

Y3 96%

Y4 100%

At Layston, we want our children to feel safe, happy and enjoy coming to school. Our attendance target is 96% but we are always aiming for 100%. Research suggests that missed sessions are directly linked to a drop in achievement; the greater the attendance, the greater the progress and achievement. Good Attendance will help to give your child the best possible start in life. This is why we believe it is so important to attend school every day.

- Learning is a progressive activity; each day's lessons build upon those of the previous day(s).
- Lessons include discussions and hands on experiences which are missed by those who are absent.

What can parents/carers do to increase their child's attendance?





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- **Avoid taking holidays or short breaks during term time.**
- Encourage punctuality – doors to classrooms are opened at **8:45am** and are closed at **9.00am**. Registers are taken at **8:45am**. This allows registers to be called and for school to start promptly.
- Talk regularly with your child about school and how they feel. They are more likely to attend if they feel supported and any anxieties they may have are listened to.
- Phone us as soon as possible to tell us why your child is absent and when you expect them to return. Putting the school number in your phone can save you some time.
- Only allow days at home for genuine illness.
- Know the routines of the school day to prepare your child effectively.
- Praise and reward good attendance.

Our attendance policy can be viewed on the school website <https://www.layston.herts.sch.uk/key-information/#attendance>

Cooler weather:

We are having a typical autumn where the weather swings between hot and sunny and cool and rainy. Please ensure that your child has a named coat in school and is wearing appropriate footwear. All fleeces, sweatshirts and cardigans must be named.

Healthy snacks:

A gentle reminder that we are a healthy nut free school. If your child brings a snack to school, we ask that this is a healthy option. Examples of healthy snack options are: cheese and crackers, fresh or dried fruit or vegetable snacks such as carrot sticks. A reminder that grapes should be cut in half to avoid choking.

Dates for diaries

Here are a few key dates for the first half of the autumn term. We will update you as and when additional dates are added with regard to school visits, visitors in school and FOLs fundraising events.

Y4 Anglo Saxon Workshop	Monday 29 th September
Reading/Phonics meeting for YR parents	Tuesday 23 rd September 9:00-9:30am
Parent Volunteers Meeting	Wednesday 1 st October 9:00-9:30am
Harvest Festival	Tuesday 7 th October 9:30am Layston School Hall
Black History Month African Dance	Wednesday 8 th October - all day
World Mental Health Day	Friday 10 th October
Flu Immunisation	Tuesday 14 th October
Open morning for prospective parents for Reception intake next year.	Wednesday 15 th October 9:30-10:00am
Parent Consultations	Monday 20 th & Wednesday 22 nd October 3:30-6:30pm
Dental talk YR	Friday 24 th October

RTYFC will continue to run after school clubs at Layston. Please see their website for booking details. <https://roystontownfc.ktckts.com/brand/after-school>

If you have any questions or require any support please contact your child's class teacher via the school office email address: admin@layston.herts.sch.uk address. For any SEND or mental health queries please contact Mrs Rolt DRolt@layston.herts.sch.uk



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Best wishes,

Adele McMurrough
Headteacher

