



*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](mailto:admin@layston.herts.sch.uk)  
Head teacher: Mrs Adele McMurrrough

26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Spirituality:**

This week in Forest School we have been celebrating the Autumn Equinox, showing gratitude for things from the summer. The children had experience of watching a fire as a symbol of us taking light into the darker months to come.

**Teaching & Learning:**

The children have been busy in Phonics this week. We have started the Read Write Inc. phonics sessions following on from the training that all staff received on the INSET day at the start of term. The children have joined their new phonics groups and have really impressed the staff with their phonics knowledge, especially when using their Fred fingers to identify the sounds.

**Harvest Festival:**

Our harvest festival is on the **7<sup>th</sup> October at 9:30 am** in the school hall. We are delighted to invite parents to join us, however we have a **restriction on numbers within the school** for safety reasons. With this in mind, each family will be given 1 ticket to the Harvest Festival. Bookings will open to all parents from today, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm.

**School attendance:**

Fri 12<sup>th</sup>- Thur 18<sup>th</sup> Sept

Y1 95%

Y2 98%

Y3 97%

Y4 97%

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%.

**Lateness matters too**

Lateness both to school is strongly discouraged so that valuable learning time is not missed.

**What do I do if my child is going to be late?**

We do appreciate that in certain circumstances, such as transport problems, lateness cannot be avoided.

- If your child is going to be late (i.e. after 9:00am) for any reason, including medical appointments, please telephone the school office prior to the appointment. This will enable us to keep our attendance registers accurate.
- Upon arrival, you **must** sign your child in at the office so that there is a record of his/her presence in the building. It is always better to come to school later than not at all, so please ring first so that we know if there has been an emergency.

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

**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.





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### Enrichment:

School run clubs will begin in October. An email regarding each club will be sent out to the relevant year group parents. Places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Y4 Anglo Saxon Workshop	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September
Parent Volunteers Meeting	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 9:00-9:30am
Harvest Festival	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 9:15am Layston School Hall
Black History Month African Dance	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October - all day
World Mental Health Day	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October
Flu Immunisation	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October
Open morning for prospective parents for Reception intake next year.	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 9:30-10:00am
Parent Consultations	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 3:30-6:00pm
FOLS School Disco	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 5:30-7:00pm
Dental talk YR	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:admin@layston.herts.sch.uk) address. For any SEND or mental health queries please contact Mrs Rolt [DRolt@layston.herts.sch.uk](mailto:DRolt@layston.herts.sch.uk)

Best wishes,

Adele McMurrough  
Headteacher