



The Layston Newsletter



October 2025

Head's desk

Continuing with this half term's value of 'Creation and Stewardship' we have been reflecting upon how we can look after God's world for future generations to enjoy and cherish. We have also given thanks for the harvest.

What a wonderful half term of learning we have had. The children have had lots of opportunities to experience an exciting curriculum filled with enrichment opportunities. We have had an Anglo Saxon enrichment day, a whole school celebration for our Harvest Festival and an African dance workshop. The African dance workshop gave the children the opportunity

to explore and learn the traditions of African music, movement, and African culture as part of Black History month.

Y4 Buddies

Y4 children have stepped up and made excellent Buddies who have been ready to support anyone at break or lunch who needs a friend, a helping hand or some comfort. They are all a credit to you and are making a big difference settling our younger children into the school so that they feel safe and happy. They are extremely responsible and are relishing this opportunity.

Enrichment:

Royston Town will continue to provide afterschool clubs. Please use the link to book onto these. <https://roystontownfc.ktckts.com/brand/after-school>

Occasional Day

A reminder that Friday 5th December is an Occasional day and school will be closed. Have a safe and restful half term break. Your children have worked hard this half term and we are immensely proud of them.

Best wishes,

Mrs McMurrough

Reception

What an amazing first half term Reception have had. The children have all settled really well. They have been learning our routines of the day and expectations.

We have been learning how to use our environment, both indoors and out.



We made bread linked to our core story of The Little Red Hen and took part in the whole school harvest festival. The children were so brave singing our 'The leaves on the Tree Come Tumbling Down' song.



We have also celebrated Black History Week with an African Dance Workshop.



Year 1

We have had a busy half term creating some amazing memories! It has been lovely to see all the children engaged in their learning.

In Maths, we have been learning about addition and subtraction within 10. Children are beginning to think about parts and whole exploring the cherry model. The children have enjoyed being exposed to writing different fact families.



In English, the children have been learning to write labels, lists and captions. Looking at narratives, writing their own Poetry. We have been focussing on Jasper's Beanstalk by Nick Butterworth, Sam Plants a Sunflower by Kate Petty, Puffin Peter by Peter Horacek and Purple Is..... poem. The children have been saying out loud what they are going to write about. Composing a sentence orally before writing it. Re-reading what they have written making sure it makes sense. Sequencing sentences to form short narratives. Discussing what they have written with the teacher or other pupils.



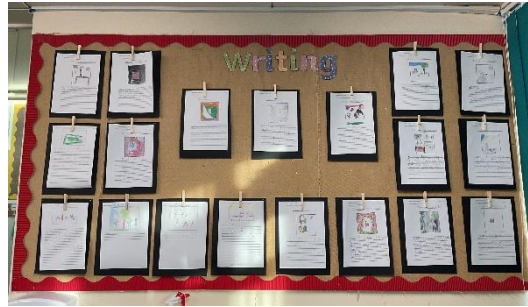
The children had an exciting opportunity taking part in African dancing for our Black History Month. The children created some lovely artwork inspired by our famous black artist. (Alma Thomas)



Year 2

What a great start to the Year we have had in Year 2!

In maths, we have been working hard on really understanding place value. In English, the children have really enjoyed our book 'How to Make Friends with a Ghost' by Rebecca Green, and produced some lovely writing on looking after ghosts and making friends.



In Geography, we have been investigating whether we would prefer to live in a hot or cold place, and learning about the continents as we went. The children have produced some brilliant home learning around this and we've been enjoying sharing it.



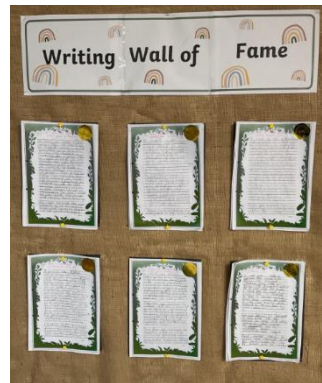
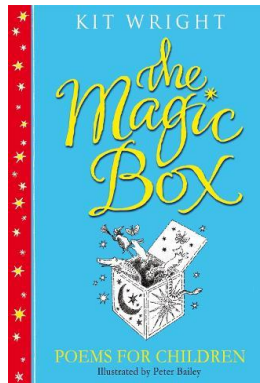
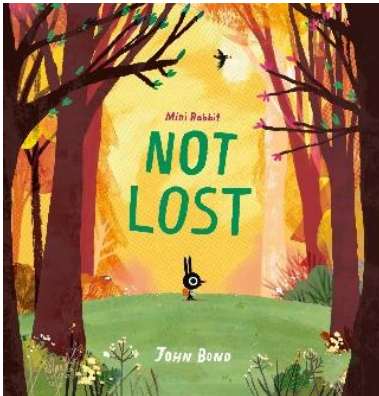
In art, we have been exploring the difference between prints and rubbings, and the children have enjoyed taking their learning outside to Forest School, as well as in the classroom. We also loved taking part in the African Dance workshops and Mental Health afternoon.



Year 3

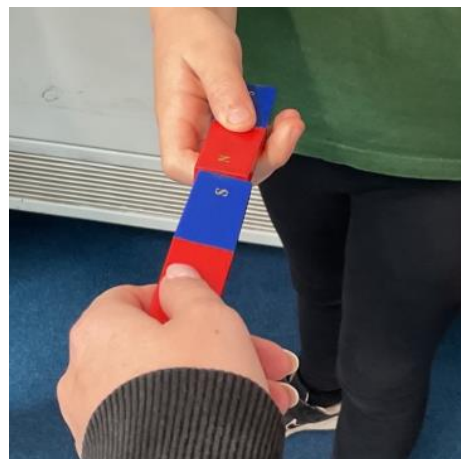
It's been a very busy half term in Year 3 but one we have thoroughly enjoyed!

In English, the children have enjoyed exploring both units. Firstly, we explored the story *Mini Rabbit*, where the children created their own narrative based on the text. We then moved on to looking at poetry, where our focus text was *The Magic Box*. This unit has allowed the children to display their creative and descriptive writing.



In Maths, we have explored place value in 3-digit numbers. More recently, we have moved on to exploring addition and subtraction using 2 and 3 digit numbers where the children have displayed determination and resilience!

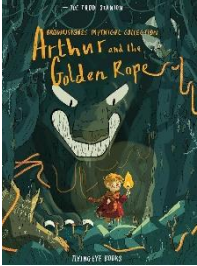
In Science, we have explored forces and magnets. The children have enjoyed carrying out lots of practical experiments as part of our learning.



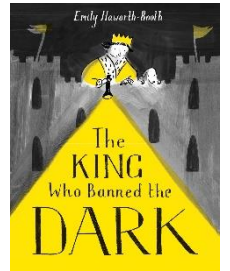
In PSHE, we have focused on building healthy relationships and displaying teamwork this half term. We have explored the importance of working collaboratively and the children have shown excellent effort and teamwork skills throughout!

Year 4

Along with learning about the Anglo-Saxons, tales of dangerous quests and becoming experts with place value, Year 4 have also taken up the challenge of being superb role-models for the rest of the school.



In English, the class have explored *Arthur and the Golden Rope* to develop their narrative writing. We created detailed graphic novels before learning how to accurately punctuate and include direct speech in our story writing. Not only that, but we have used similes and metaphors in our Harvest poems and have now moved on to persuasion with *The King Who Banned the Dark*.



In maths, Year 4 have investigated different ways to represent integers up to 10,000 along with rounding and Roman numerals. More recently, they have taken up the challenge to use the inverse operation to check their addition and subtraction calculations.



Our science topic of electricity has led us to consider how electricity is used and how we can keep ourselves safe. The class are looking forward to creating their own electrical circuits after half term.



The class loved our Anglo-Saxon day, where we were lucky enough to try on armour, handle artefacts and even have a go at some archery. We learnt about the Battle of Maldon, the history of the Anglo-Saxons, and were able to be transported back in time thanks to our visitor. The children looked great in their outfits too.

During our Wellbeing day, we considered what we can be grateful for with our gratitude tree. We also wrote positive affirmations for our learning partners, completed mindful breathing and considered who we can talk to when we are finding things challenging.



After some outstanding auditions, we are excited to have assigned roles for our Christmas production of *Olivia*.

Forest School

Autumn is our favourite season of the year! Layston pupils, from Reception to Year 4, have been fully emersed and delighted by the seasonal treasures in the Forest. Seeing as it's a mast year, with an adundant crop of berries and nuts, we have used tools safely to make wonderful creatures out of pine cones, acorns, sticks and conkers. Who knew conkers made excellent microphones and dumb bells and animals, and gave us the opportunity for friendly mindfulness in the forest.



We dug up the potatoes grown before the Summer holiday, 87 of them. We then cooked them in the forest. Some children who don't usually like potatoes were impressed by how delicious they tasted. "smooth", "fluffy", "yummy"! The broad beans sown by Reception have all germinated and are growing well. We look forward to tasting them in the Summer term.



Older children have been learning some knots and are doing very well. These skills will help us when it comes to putting up tarpaulin shelters and tying our shoelaces. Some Year 4's are also exploring pulleys and ziplines.



Have a wonderful half-term and enjoy being out in Autumn!

Ivy Eileen and Lily Lou

FOLS

FOLS have had a great first half-term!

Sweet Stall

Year 2 had their sweet stall fundraiser and made £80.97. Thank you to the year 2 parents who contributed and to the parents who bought sweets after school.

Autumn Disco

We also had our annual Autumn Disco which, as usual, was a huge success. All the children had so much fun! Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who gave up their time to help on the night and who stayed to clean up after. We couldn't host these events without you! A huge thanks to Bonnie at *The Wonderland Kitchen* who made all the yummy cakes for the children to enjoy on the night.

Christmas Cards

FOLS have been in school helping children to decorate their Christmas Card designs ready to be sent off to Class Fundraising. We've loved seeing all of their creative ideas!

Designs will be returned in a few weeks and you will receive an order form to purchase Cards and other Christmas goodies.

We are also hoping to arrange a school Tea-Towel which will make great Christmas presents. All proceeds will go to the forest school to help purchase new logs for the log circle. Watch this space!



Christmas Fair

We are very excited to announce that the Christmas Fair will be happening after school on Friday 21st November.

A separate email will be sent out after half term with details on how to book to see Santa and how to buy raffle tickets. We will also be asking for tombola donations in exchange for a non-uniform day- date TBC.

As usual we will **need your help!!** Please let us know if you are able to help run a stall by either emailing us or speaking to your Class Rep.

Thank you for all your continued support. **FOLS**