



*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

Headteacher: Mrs A McMurrough

Dear Parents and Carers,

Celebrating Spirituality:

A few highlights from last week in Forest School. Everyone showed great resilience, coming out in the seasons first really cold weather. Our Reception class were brilliant at finding circles, squares and triangles around the forest and lots of beautiful repeated patterns were created. Our Year 4 children did some Olympic puddle jumping!



Celebrating Teaching, Learning and Enrichment:



On Thursday 20th November our Y2 children went to Mill Green Museum and working mill as part of their learning on The Great Fire of London. They had a wonderful selection of activities and experiences, from artefact handling to making their own bread. They even saw the water mill in action and had a go at grinding wheat with a quern stone. The children were brilliant and had a fabulous day of learning.

Celebrating Attendance:

Attendance: 07/11/25-13/11/25

YR 87.2%

Y1 90.38%

Y2 98.89%

Y3 93.91%

Y4 96.27%

Very well done to our Y2 class who had the highest attendance, once again.

Celebrating enrichment and parental engagement:

Thank you to everyone who came to the FOLS Christmas Fair! It was lovely to see the children having so much fun. We were very lucky to have Santa visiting in his Grotto and everyone enjoyed listening to the wonderful choir singing Christmas Songs. What a great way to start the festive season!!



The winner of the Christmas Hamper was Cassie Bedford and the winner of the Giant Teddy (who was called Snowflake) was Logan Simmons. We hope they both enjoy their prizes!

A massive thank you for all your tombola donations and for the amazing volunteers who helped set up, man a stall and stayed to clear up. We couldn't do it without you- with your help we managed to raise a huge **£850!**





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



We will also have a raffle at the Christmas Play with some brilliant prizes that have been donated from local businesses. If you have a prize that you could donate, please get in touch with your Class Rep. Tickets for the raffle will go on sale soon.
Thank you for your continued support,
FOLS

Celebrating charity fundraising:

A huge thank you to our school community for your generous donations to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We raised £170.95. Thank you.



Highlighting severe weather and snow procedure

What are our procedures?

We will post on our website and Facebook page, send a communication via Arbor and notify Hertfordshire information services if we are closing the school. This decision will be made in conjunction with the local Headteachers in Buntingford.

If snow is heavy overnight and leads to a closure the next morning, we will ensure that the website and Facebook pages are updated by 8:00am at the latest, however, we will aim for a 7:45am notice.

If a closure decision is made during the day, we will send a communication via Arbor and post on our website and Facebook. We will also publish a time for collection. Please note that the Headteacher and staff will not leave the site until all pupils are accounted for.

Highlighting 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.

Occasional day - school closed	Friday 5 th Dec
The Christmas production	Wednesday 10 th December 1:30-3:00pm, Thursday 11 th December 1:30-3:00pm Friday 12 th December 5:30-7:00pm.
YR Christmas Nativity	Tuesday 16 th December at St Peter's Church at 9:30
Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day	Wednesday 17 th Dec
End of term	Friday 19 th Dec 1:30pm

Christmas production

For this year's production Years 1-4 children will be taking part in Olivia. Each family will be given 2 tickets to use over 3 performances. Play performances will take place on Wednesday 10th December 1:30-15:00, Thursday 11th December 1:30-15:00 and Friday 12th December 17:30-19:00. Y4 children will need to return to school at 17:00 to get in costume. Y1-Y3 should return to school at 17:10. Parents will be allowed to take their seats 10 minutes before all the performance commences.



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



Play tickets will open to Year 4 parents on Friday 28th November at 6pm. Booking will open to all other parents on Monday 1st December at 4pm. Please note any tickets booked outside of these dates and times will be removed.

Reception Nativity:

Reception children will be performing the Nativity at St Peter's Church for their Christmas performance on Tuesday 16th December at 9:30. For this performance YR parents will be able to access the online booking system from Tuesday 2nd December at 6:00pm. These will be limited to two tickets per family due to restricted numbers in the church.

Occasional day

Just a reminder that we have an occasional day in line with other local schools on **Friday 5th December** and therefore school will close and you can enjoy a long weekend.

Best wishes

Adele McMurrough
Headteacher