



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



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Mrs A McMurrough

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to update you on the important improvements we have made across the school since our last Ofsted inspection. The entire team has worked incredibly hard, and we're proud to share how far we have come.

Early Years (EYFS): A Strong Start for Our Youngest Learners

We have completely refreshed the Early Years environment so children can learn and explore in clearly defined zones. Key vocabulary is displayed to support language development, and reading is a daily priority.

We now teach phonics using the **Read Write Inc** programme, and all staff have been fully trained to deliver it consistently. Our EYFS team is now fully established and works closely together to ensure children get the best possible start.

Assessment for Learning: Helping Every Child Make Progress

Teachers now use a range of strategies—like mini whiteboards, retrieval practice, and talk partners—to check children's understanding throughout lessons. This means staff can quickly identify misconceptions and adapt teaching straight away. We've also completed training with external advisors to strengthen this even further.

Behaviour: Clear, Fair and Consistent

We have updated our behaviour policy, including a clear "ladder of consequences," so expectations are the same in every classroom. Staff have received training, and we have shared our approach with parents through meetings and communication sessions. You may have noticed the impact at home—**serious behaviour incidents have dropped significantly, and low-level disruption is now minimal**. Children know our routines, understand our expectations, and respond positively to our consistent approach. Staff are now communicating with parents more consistently too.

Governance: Stronger Challenge and Accountability

Our governors now record the challenge and questions they pose during meetings, and have planned to carry out regular visits to school. This ensures leaders are held to account and supported to continue improving.

Leadership: Clear Priorities and Strong Monitoring

School leaders have created a detailed School Evaluation and Improvement Plan and a Rapid Action Plan following the last inspection. We also commissioned an Early Years review and have completed all resulting actions. Leaders now have a clear understanding of what we do well and what we need to continue improving.





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Thank You

We are deeply grateful for your continued support. The progress we have made is the result of strong teamwork between home and school. We look forward to sharing even more positive developments as our journey continues. Please can you complete our parent survey which has been sent out via Arbor email.

Celebrating Spirituality:

This week, we were delighted to welcome Reverend Sarah, who led a thoughtful and engaging Collective Worship on the theme of *Reverence*. She shared the story of St David, highlighting how his deep respect for God and the world around him was shown through his actions and choices.

In a first school, this message supports children's spiritual development by encouraging them to reflect on what it means to show respect, awe, and appreciation in their own lives.

Celebrating Teaching and Learning:

This week Rachel Brown, our Maths Advisor, visited Layston. Rachel worked with Mr Harwood, our new maths lead to support policy and practice. Jennie Ferguson, our Early Years advisor, also visited school. She worked with Mrs Berry to support planning and further development of the back garden area. She was impressed with the progress made and how well the children continue to follow the routines of the classroom.

Inclusion:

At Layston, inclusion remains at the heart of everything we do. We are pleased that a Speech and Language Advisor has been assigned to the school, with many pupils now beginning their sessions. Several staff are also receiving training to lead targeted language groups. This year, we have strengthened our early identification processes and introduced structured wellbeing check-ins to further support pupils' confidence and readiness to learn.

Celebrating Enrichment:

This week our Y4 parents were invited to a meeting to discuss the Hudnall Park residential visit. It was great to see so many Y4 parents there.

Mr Harwood will be running a tag rugby club at lunchtime on Tuesdays for Y3 and Y4 children. The children are really looking forward to this club.

A reminder that next week is World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. Children have been invited to come into school dressed as their favourite book character or in their pyjamas for some cosy reading!





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Dates for your diary:

World Book Day	Thur 5 th Mar
Book Fair	Wed 11 th - 18 th Mar
Parent Conferences held during the school day with your child. How to book and further information about these to follow after half term.	Tues 10 th Mar Y2 Mon 16 th Mar YR and Y3 Wed 18 th Y1 Thur 19 th Mar Y4
KAPLA whole school STEM workshop	Tues 10 th Mar
Y3 Roman workshop	Fri 13 th Mar
Y2 History Off The Page	Thur 19 th Mar
Easter Service	Tues 24 th Mar TBC

Have a lovely, relaxing weekend,

Adele McMurrrough
Headteacher

