



Head's desk

May 2026

Humility and Forgiveness

This half term we were focussing in school on the values of Humility and Forgiveness. Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness and mercy compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone.

The children have considered ways in which school helps all members of the community to amend for their mistakes. They have shown kindness and respect to one another and have begun to foster links with charities for those in need.

Teaching and learning:

In Forest School this half term children have been Celebrating Sir David Attenborough turning 100 and all the wonder in nature he's drawn our attention to.

Across the wider school, Y1 children enjoyed a wonderful visit from History off the Page when they were able to experience, explore and investigate the history of toys. All children continue to enjoy their phonics sessions and are making good progress with their reading and writing. Visitors have also noted the excitement and buzz around the regular RWI phonics sessions during their visits and as a result great progress is being made. They continue to take great pride and care with their presentation across all areas of the curriculum.

In EYFS, our curriculum continues to nurture curiosity, confidence and independence and ensures that the children feel safe. We have combined structural learning, exploration and play. Now that the weather has improved the children are able to have outdoor adventures in the wonderful back garden. They have enjoyed foraging for natural objects and are learning to look for signs of the season.

We had a 100% of our Y4 children complete and share their 'unhomework' project this term, celebrating their successes together and demonstrating their creativity in many ways. Well done!

Fundraising at Layston:

FOLS:

A big thank you to our FOLS for raising money for the school by organising a Mad May Hair Day. The children were very creative and had such fun and raised over £60. Thank you FOLS for organising this.

Attendance:

Our attendance is at 96.1% as of 19/05/2026. This is above the national average. We are super proud of our children!

Staffing:

We are sad to inform you that Mrs Rose, the school Business Manager, has chosen to leave the school after prolonged absence due to personal circumstances. We wish her all the best in the future. I would just like to thank everyone for being patient during this time as myself and the senior leadership team have been covering the office.

Today is Miss Mills, our sports coach from Royston Town, last day. We wish her safe travels on her next adventure and wish her all the best for the future.



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Reception

In Reception our topic was learning about Weather and having lots of outdoor adventures. The children enjoyed their nature walks and made nature catchers. They collected lots of interesting collection of nature objects and framed them into beautiful pictures. The children were busy exploring natural world around them and describing what they saw, felt and heard outside. They planted vegetables and strawberries. We encouraged them to use herb garden to make perfumes and they had lots of fun in the mud kitchen.

In Maths the children explored addition as combining two groups and subtraction as taking away objects. They were using ten frames and Numicon to help them build quantities and compare them. **Counting On and Back:** Children learn to find "one more" or "one less" by counting forward or backward along a physical number lines

During our English Sessions we were reading traditional stories. We even had a wedding in our classroom after reading 'The Scarecrow's wedding'. The children wrote their own books about Goldilocks and the Three Little Bears. They made great plans how to build the best and the strongest house for the Three Little Pigs And then wrote about their plans. We will continue to have daily Read Write Inc sessions to develop their phonic knowledge and how to apply their skills in reading and writing simple words.



We concluded this term by talking about friendships and qualities of a good friend. The children enjoyed playing in the garden and making new friends. Wishing you a lovely half term. Have a lovely half term. Mrs Berry and Reception Team

Year 1

We have had a busy half term in year 1 and it has been lovely to see all the children engaged in their learning.

In **Maths**, the children have enjoyed carrying out practical activities when learning about Multiplication and Division. It has been lovely to see all the children explain their answers in more detail, using their sentence stems and range of resources to support their learning.

In **English**, the children have shown huge fascination when learning about Paddington's Post by Michael Bond and Here Comes Mr Postmouse by Marianne Dubuc. They have been role-playing, hot seating, planning and writing their own post cards and letters.

In **Science**, we have been speaking about *what is growing in our gardens?* The children have been identifying and naming common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. Describing the basic structure of a plant.

In **Geography**, we have been answering our enquiry question, what is it like to live in Shanghai? We have been using a world map, recognising continents, identifying oceans and countries outside the UK with a focus on China. We have also been identifying human and physical features of Shanghai.

In **DT**, the children having been learning about sliders and levers. They enjoyed designing, making, plus evaluating their children's book against the criteria.



Year 2

We have had a great start to the summer term in Year 2. The children have been engaged in their topics and shown a great attitude towards their learning.



In English, we have been writing our own instructions for washing an animal based on our book 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. The children enjoyed acting out the instructions. We looked at how we could add lots of detail to our instructions to make them clear for the reader to follow.

In D&T we designed and made our own salads. We used the 'claw' and 'bridge' method to safely cut the vegetables. We then tasted and evaluated our salads to decide how we could make them even better.



In Art, we have been looking at the artist Eva Sonaike. We have explored her work and then created our own textile patterns using bold colours and geometric shapes.



We hope you have a lovely half term!

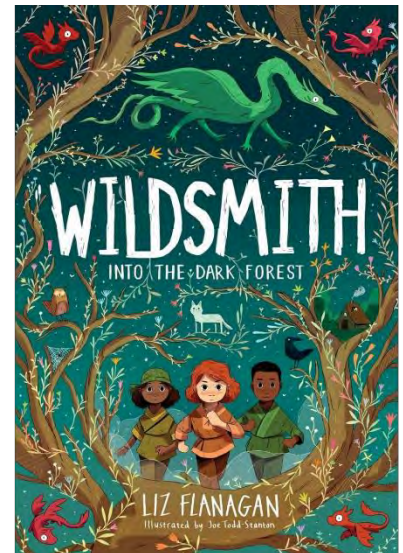
Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic half term and should be incredibly proud of all they have achieved. The children have shown great effort, determination, and enthusiasm across all areas of the Year 3 curriculum. From working hard in maths and writing to exploring exciting topics in science and foundation subjects, they have approached every challenge with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. Well done, Year 3, for an excellent half term!

In computing this half term, we have really enjoyed our unit on filming and editing using a green screen. The children worked collaboratively in groups to plan, present, and record presentations on a topic of their choice. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity, and communication skills while learning how editing techniques can be used to create effective videos. We were very impressed with their confidence and enthusiasm throughout the project!



This half term, we have thoroughly enjoyed our guided reading text, *Wildsmith*, which introduced us to a world full of mythical and magical creatures. The children loved exploring the exciting adventures, rich vocabulary, and imaginative settings within the story. Through our discussions and reading activities, they developed their comprehension skills while sharing thoughtful ideas and predictions about the text.

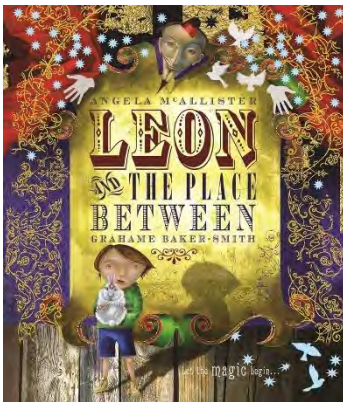


Year 4

Year 4 have been outstanding in their penultimate term at Layston. They have become experts on rivers, understanding the water cycle, courses a river may take, how rivers are used and locating rivers around the globe. I've been really impressed by the way they have applied our geography vocabulary and made links between lessons.



Fractions and decimals are now areas of confidence where they used to be a nightmare for some children. Adding, comparing and using decimals, including representing place values in different ways, are skills that Year 4 have been able to demonstrate in a variety of ways. They look forward to using this knowledge in our money unit after half term.



Have you ever been persuaded to visit a foreign location or British holiday hot spot? Year 4 were able to write outstanding persuasive leaflets after we looked to promote Buntingford. We then turned our attention to narrative writing inspired by *Leon and The Place Between*.

This week we completed our paper sculpture. I was really impressed by the perseverance and detail shown - we even had a whale launching itself out of the sea.

Finally, I would like to say a huge congratulations to all of Year 4 for completing, sharing and celebrating their 'unhomework' challenges last week. Everyone loved sharing their creations and hard work. It has been fantastic to see the children's creativity on display and for them to take pride in their efforts.

PE, Eco Warriors and Outdoor Learning

Eco Warriors:

The Eco Warriors have been very busy this half term helping to care for our school environment. They worked hard alongside Mrs Ballard to clear the willow tunnel and showed great teamwork and determination throughout the task. The children are looking forward to continuing their support with forest school maintenance jobs next half term as they help to keep our outdoor areas tidy and enjoyable for everyone.



PE:

Physical Education continues to be an exciting and important part of school life. This half term, pupils have been developing their skills in a range of activities!

All of the Year 3 and 4 girls had the opportunity to take part in a girls' football festival at another school this half term. The children showed excellent effort, teamwork, and determination throughout the event while developing their football skills and confidence. Most importantly, they had great fun and represented the school brilliantly with their positive attitudes and enthusiasm.

Selected Year 3 and 4 boys and girls teams recently represented the school at an inter-schools football tournament held at Royston Town FC. Both teams showed fantastic teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the competition. The girls' team performed brilliantly and were crowned tournament winners, while the boys' team also played exceptionally well and reached the final, narrowly missing out on first place. We are very proud of all the children for their excellent effort and positive attitudes.



Forest School



It has been another busy half term in the Forest. Recently, we have been celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. We've learnt about the impact he has had in inspiring wonder and appreciation for nature across the world.



The children even created their own mini-documentaries in the style of David Attenborough, using his hushed whisper and his favourite word - "extraordinary.". We are fortunate to have such diverse habitats at Layston, full of mini-beasts, plants, and small creatures to explore.



The Butterfly Conservation charity is holding, for the first time ever, a nationwide survey to find Britain's favourite butterfly. Have a look online and vote for your favourite: <https://britainsfavouritebutterfly.co.uk/> or do the quiz to find out which butterfly matches your personality. In Forest School, we have been on the lookout for butterflies too. So far, Layston's favourite is the holly blue — though this may change as the seasons progress.





In addition to this, we have tended to the school allotment, growing rhubarb, broad beans, carrots, onions, garlic, pumpkins and courgettes. Each class has had their turn to weed or water the plants. And then, to quench our thirst after lots of energetic game playing, we have made and tasted some dandelion tea. A bit like marmite, either loved or hated!



Well done Layston pupils for all your nature curiosity and great exploring this half term.

Have a good week's holiday,

Lily Lou & Ivy Eileen