



*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 McMurrough

5<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the final half of the summer term. I hope you all enjoyed the sunshine over the break.

### **Spiritual Development:**

This week's "Toast and Tales" sessions have given children time to reflect, share stories and enjoy the outdoors together. Around the fire, they have noticed signs of growth in nature - from blooming wildflowers to lengthening hedges - helping them develop a sense of awe and wonder. These quiet, shared moments support children's spiritual development by encouraging reflection, gratitude and connection with both the natural world and each other.

### **Curriculum and teaching:**

SLT have been pleased to see the progress the children have made during Read Write Inc phonics sessions. Parents' commitment and support has been vital. The children's confidence has grown so much since September. Please keep on reading at home and practising phonics - the hard work is really paying off.

In addition, during our learning walks this week, it was great to see clutter free classes with up-to-date safeguarding documents evidenced and all staff informed. The children have been engaged in their learning across the curriculum, with improvements in recording calculations and handwriting. Our handwriting and presentation stands out compared to other local schools.

We would also like to congratulate to Year 4 for all completing their multiplication check this week. The children should be very proud of their hard work, determination and focus to rapidly recall their times tables. It is clear that the additional practise completed at home has benefitted the children and will stand them in good stead when moving to Edwinstree.

### **Kindness Shout-Out of the Week**

- **Flossy** in Y4 for being a kind friend to all.
- **Isla** in Y3 for being considerate of other people's feelings.
- **Rory** in Reception for being kind and including others in his games.

Well done to all three pupils for being such positive role models and helping to make our school a kind and supportive place.

### **Attendance**

Whole school statutory attendance this week stands at 94.6% which is below our target of 96%. This is as a result of lateness and unauthorised holidays. Term time holidays are not permitted and may lead to fines.

**Year 4:** 98.08%

**Year 3:** 90%

**Year 2:** 95%

**Year 1:** 98%

**Reception:** 88.19%

### **Staffing and Class Organisation for September**

As we begin planning ahead for the next academic year, I am pleased to share with you our teaching arrangements for September.





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Our staffing structure for 2026-2027 will be as follows:

- **Reception / Year 1:** Mrs Amanda Stamp  
(based in the current Reception and Year 1 classroom areas)
- **Year 2:** Miss Nicole Kelly  
(based in the current Year 2 classroom)
- **Year 3:**
  - Miss Wilcox (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
  - Miss Kelly (Thursday, Friday)  
(based in the current Year 3 classroom)
- **Year 4:** Mr Harwood  
(based in the current Year 4 classroom)

We are fortunate to have a strong and experienced team who are already working closely together to ensure a smooth transition for all children. Teachers have been sharing planning, resources and detailed information about each child's learning and development.

In the coming weeks, we will begin our transition process. As many of the children are already familiar with their teachers, and teachers already know the children's starting points well, we anticipate that transition and settling-in periods will be shorter than usual.

This continuity means that learning can begin **immediately in September**, allowing us to maximise valuable teaching time from the start of the term. We will share further details about transition activities shortly, including opportunities for children to spend time in their new classrooms.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

**Diary dates:**

Girls Football club	Y3 & 4, every Monday at 3:15-4:00pm
Tag Rugby club	Y3 & 4, Tuesday lunchtimes
Phonics club	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri lunchtimes
Choir	All year groups, Monday lunchtimes
Y4 Egyptian Day	8 <sup>th</sup> June.
Y4 Hudnall Park Residential trip	June 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> .
Y2 Rabbi Imrit Shillor visiting	11 <sup>th</sup> June
Non uniform day	18 <sup>th</sup> June
Sports day	19 <sup>th</sup> June 9:30-11:30 (Reserve 26 <sup>th</sup> June)
Y1 Shepreth trip	2 <sup>nd</sup> July
Reports out	6 <sup>th</sup> July
Transition Day	9 <sup>th</sup> July - Year 4 to Edwinstree, YrR-3 Transition morning.
Summer Fayre	10 <sup>th</sup> July
Open afternoon	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Leavers service at St Peters	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July TBC
Y4 Leavers BBQ 15:15-16:30	21 <sup>st</sup> July
End of term - finish at 1:30pm	23 <sup>rd</sup> July

Best wishes,  
Adele McMurrough  
Head teacher

