



*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
Head teacher: Mrs Adele McMurrough

7th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that all Layston children and families have had a wonderful summer break. As we start a new academic year, I would like to share some reminders in order to support your child's start to school. We loved welcoming all Layston children to school and were especially proud of our new reception children. As I walked around the school after drop off, every single child was calmly engaged with their teacher.

We have made some changes to the names of our classes this year. The children have been involved in this and have chosen the name for their new class. See below:

YR/1 - Hedgehog class

Y2 - Owl class

Y3 - Hare class

Y4 - Falcon class

Year group curriculum maps, timetables and autumn term information booklets are being finalised. You will be able to view these on the school website (Education - Class Pages) by the end of the school week.

Arrival and collection information:

Arrival	Gates will open at 8:40am. Please arrive in school on time so children can enter their classrooms at 8:45am. The entry gates will close at 8:55am and late arrivals must sign in via the office. The registration period ends at 9:00am.
Collection	Gates will open just before 3:15pm. Please arrive to collect your child at 3:15pm when school finishes. Gates will close by 3:25pm. At pick up, please wait patiently on the bottom playground, in your allocated class zone, for your child's class teacher to dismiss your child to you. This is to ensure that handovers at the end of the day are smooth and children are safe. Thank you for your patience and support with this. YR/1 Hedgehog class to be met at gate by Preschool. Y2 Owl class by the enclosed sand play area. Y3 Hare class by the bike shelter. Y4 Falcon class by the side of the demountable.

Any child arriving after 9:00am but before 9:30am will be marked as late. Our attendance policy can be viewed on the school website.

Year group Forest School and PE times are below and available on the calendar on the school website

Year group	Forest School Day	PE days
Y4 Falcons	Wednesday	Monday and Friday
Y3 Hares	Tuesday	Wednesday and Friday
Y2 Owls	Tuesday	Wednesday and Thursday
Y1 Hedgehogs	Wednesday	Thursday and Friday
YR Hedgehogs	Monday	Thursday and Friday





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Uniform:

Children should wear uniform including black school shoes on days when your child does not have PE or Forest School, unless there are extenuating circumstances. <https://www.layston.herts.sch.uk/useful-information/uniform/> All uniform and equipment must be named. All long hair should be tied back and please keep hair accessories simple, small and in line with our uniform policy.

What will my child need in school?

Your child will need:

- Water in a water bottle
- A healthy snack, remember we are a nut free school
- Coat
- Sun hat, weather dependent
- Forest School and PE kit, this can be worn into school instead of uniform on relevant days. Please include joggers in cooler weather because most PE sessions will be outdoors.
- A small school bag, including a change of clothing for younger children

School meals:

School dinners for Y3 and Y4 pupils.

A reminder to parents of children in Years 3 and 4 that school meals must be **paid for in advance before meals can be ordered**. Payments can be made by topping up your child's Arbor account either:

- **Weekly in advance**, or
- **Monthly in advance**

Please ensure sufficient funds are available on your account before placing meal orders. This helps us manage meal numbers accurately and ensures your child receives their chosen meal. If you need any assistance with Arbor payments, please contact the school office. Thank you for your support.

The menu choices are available on our website <https://www.layston.herts.sch.uk/useful-information/lunch-menu/> Please discuss this with your child the day before to check they are happy with the options. Children can also bring in their own healthy packed lunch. At Layston, we promote healthy lifestyles. With this in mind, we ask for your support in encouraging your child to eat healthily and if supplying them with a home packed lunch or snack, that the food items are healthy. **Please note that we are a 'nut-free' school.** All children should bring a suitable bottle of water into school every day which they can re-fill. Please view our website for school lunch options.

Economic support:

Please view this area of the website. <https://www.layston.herts.sch.uk/economic-support/>

Volunteers in school:

We are delighted to invite you into school to volunteer with either reading, Forest School and/or cookery. If you would like to volunteer in school please can you register your interest by emailing the school office as soon as possible admin@layston.herts.sch.uk An induction meeting for parent volunteers will take place on Wednesday 30th September at 9:00am.

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.





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Individual children's photos	Tuesday 22 nd September
Y4 Anglo Saxon Workshop	Wednesday 23 rd September
Reading/Phonics meeting for YR parents	Thursday 24 th September 2:45-3:15pm
Parent Volunteers Meeting	Wednesday 30 th September 9:00-9:30am
Harvest Festival	Tuesday 29 th September/ 20 th October 9:30am St Peter's Church
Black History Month African Dance	TBC
Celebrating World Mental Health Day	Friday 9 th October
Flu Immunisation	TBC
Open morning for prospective parents for Reception intake next year.	Tuesday 6 th October 9:30-10:00am
Parent Consultations	Monday 19 th & Thursday 22 nd October 3:30-6:30pm

Teachers will be updating you on any trips and enrichment during the autumn term.

If you have any questions or require any support please contact your child's class teacher via the school office email address: admin@layston.herts.sch.uk address. For any SEND or mental health queries please contact Mrs Rolt DRolt@layston.herts.sch.uk
Layston staff are all very much looking forward to working with you all again.

Best wishes,

Adele McMurrough
Headteacher

