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
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Headteacher: Mrs A McMurrough

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spirituality:
This week, our children have been immersing themselves in the wonders of the natural world through Forest School activities, from exploring the signs of autumn and creating leaf art to building fairy villages and making music with tap sticks. These experiences offer valuable



opportunities for spirituality as pupils pause to notice the beauty, change and diversity of God's creation. Through exploration, creativity and moments of awe and wonder, children develop a deeper appreciation of the world around them, reflect on their place within it, and strengthen their sense of gratitude, curiosity and connection with nature.

Teaching, Learning and Enrichment:
Antibullying week:
During Anti-Bullying Week, the children have been thinking about how we can all play our part in making Layston a kind, welcoming and inclusive school. It has been lovely to see children showing kindness, looking out for one another, including others in their games and understanding the importance of being an upstander when someone needs help. These small everyday actions help us live out our school values and let our light shine.

Children in Need
We would like to say a huge thank you to all our families. You raised a grand total of £78 for Children in Need!



Attendance:

6/11/2026 – 12/11/2026	13/11/2026 – 19/11/2026
Year R – 95%	Year R – 90%
Year 1 – 95.63%	Year 1 – 92.5%
Year 2 – 97.11%	Year 2 – 90.87%
Year 3 – 97.67%	Year 3 – 96.19%
Year 4 – 88.57%	Year 4 – 90%

Attendance and Lateness

As we move through the term, we have noticed an increasing number of children arriving late to school. We would like to remind families of the importance of arriving on time each day, ready to start learning.

Our mornings begin with phonics sessions and other targeted learning activities that are carefully planned to support children's progress. When children arrive late, they miss important teaching and opportunities to settle into their day positively. Repeated lateness can have a significant impact on learning over time and can also disrupt the learning of other children who are already engaged in their lessons.

Regular attendance is equally important. Children who are frequently absent can find it more difficult to keep up with their learning and may miss valuable opportunities to develop friendships, confidence and a sense of belonging within school.

We appreciate that there are sometimes unavoidable reasons for lateness or absence, and we are always happy to offer support where needed. However, we ask all families to make every effort to ensure their child attends school every day and arrives on time.

As part of our attendance procedures, families will receive a letter if their child's attendance falls below 96%.

Thank you for your continued support in helping every child make the most of their time at school

Christmas production



For this year's production Years 2-4 children will be taking part in Pirates of the Curry Bean. Each family will be given 2 tickets to use over 2 performances. Play performances will take place on Wednesday 9th December 1:30-15:00 and Friday 11th December 17:00-19:00. Play tickets will open to Year 4 parents on Friday 27th November at 6pm. Booking will open to all other parents on Monday 30th Nov at 4pm. Please note any tickets booked outside of these dates and times will be removed.

Reception and Y1 children will be performing their Nativity production, A Miracle in Town, at St Peter's Church for their Christmas performance on Tuesday 15th December. For this performance YR and Y1 parents will be able to request tickets from Monday 30th Nov at 4pm. These will be limited to two tickets per family due to restricted numbers in the church.



To request tickets please email admin@layston.herts.sch.uk advising of your child's name, year group and the performance date and time you require. Please note that tickets are on a first come first serve basis.

FOLS non-uniform day
Thank you for all the current contributions for the Christmas Fayre tombola. Our school are grateful for your generous donations! We look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Fayre on Monday 7th December at 3:30pm.

Christmas Fair
On Monday 7th Dec at 3:15-5:30pm FOLS will be holding our annual Christmas Fair. There will be a range of stalls. FOLS have been in contact with Father Christmas and he has made time in his busy schedule to visit us.

Occasional day
Just a reminder that we have an occasional day in line with other local schools on **Friday 4th December** and therefore the school will be closed and you can enjoy a long weekend.

Rudolph Run
We're proud to be taking part in the Rudolph Run in support of Isabel Hospice. Every donation will help to provide care and support to local people and their families when they need it. If you'd like to support our fundraising efforts, please donate via our JustGiving page: https://www.justgiving.com/page/layston-first-school-first-school-1
Thank you for helping us make a difference in our local community.

Gentle reminders
Smoking and vaping
Please may we remind our families that we are a non-smoking site and this includes vapes. We ask that you do not smoke or vape on or outside the school site. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parking
Please park considerately as it has been brought to our attention that parents are parking on the yellow zig zag lines outside the school gates. Remember this is an emergency exit and an emergency vehicle, ie, ambulance or fire engine must be able to access the school site at any time. We would also like to remind parents that the car park is for staff use only. Thank you for your support and cooperation with this.

Staffing
Tomorrow we say a fond farewell to Mrs Foster after an incredible 21 years of dedicated service at Layston. While we are very sad to see her leave, we are also excited for her as she embarks on a new adventure working in children's residential care.

Over the past two decades, Mrs Foster's patience, commitment and support has been greatly valued by pupils, staff and parents alike. She has been an important part of our school community.

On behalf of everyone at Layston, I would like to thank Mrs Foster for everything she has done for our school. We are extremely grateful for the care and dedication she has shown throughout her time here.

We wish her every happiness and success in this exciting new chapter and know that she will have a similarly positive impact on the children and young people she supports in her new role.

Dates for diaries

Here are a few key dates for this term. We will update you as and when additional dates are added with regard to school visits, visitors in school and FOLs fundraising events.

Non uniform day (Tombola donations FOLS)	Friday 20th Nov
Rudolph Run	Thursday 3rd Dec
Occasional day – school closed	Friday 4th Dec
Layston Christmas Fayre 3:30-5:30pm	Monday 7th Dec
Christmas productions	Wednesday 9Th Dec 1:30-3:00pm Friday eve 11th 5:30-7:00pm
Reception and Year 1 Christmas Nativity at St Peters	Tuesday 15th Dec 9:30am
Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day	Wednesday 16th Dec
End of term	Friday 18th Dec 1:15pm

Best wishes

Adele McMurrough
Headteacher