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

Headteacher: Mrs A McMurrough

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy week we have had at Layston! I have been enjoyed dropping into Phonics sessions this week to see our Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics programme in action across the school. It has been a pleasure to share the high-quality teaching taking place in classrooms and to see the enthusiasm children have for their learning. Children have settled well into their phonics groups and continue to make strong progress. Our afternoon phonics tutoring sessions are also proving highly effective, with many children making rapid gains as a result of this additional support. Staff are confident in their delivery and there is a consistent approach across the school, ensuring that all children are well supported on their journey to becoming fluent, lifelong readers.





Enrichment:
On the 12th November our Y2 children will be visiting Mill Green Museum as part of their learning about the Great Fire of London.

On the 13th November our Y3 children are visiting Celtic Harmony as part of their History topic about the Celts. We hope they have a fabulous day and that the children are super ambassadors for Layston School.



Anti-bullying friendship week:
From the 16th to the 20th November it is national anti-bullying week and classes will be engaged in a range of activities to promote happy and healthy relationships. They are also invited to wear odd socks on Monday 16th to acknowledge the start of anti-bullying week. The theme this year is, 'Break the Silence' which encourages pupils to speak out when things are not ok.

Remembrance Day:
This week the children have been able to make a donation to the Royal British Legion by purchasing a poppy to commemorate Remembrance Day. We will be laying a wreath on behalf of the school on Sunday at the Buntingford war memorial.



Charity fundraising:



On Friday the 13th November, we will be inviting the children to come to school wearing something yellow or spotty and bring in a voluntary donation to raise funds for Children in Need.

Staffing news:

Following a successful recruitment process, we are delighted to announce that **Dr Hannah Berry** has been appointed as our Year 2 Class Teacher and will join us in January 2027. Dr Berry brings a wealth of experience in both Key Stage 1 and EYFS, and many of you may already know her from the time she spent supporting children in our Reception class last year. She is familiar with Layston's values, vision and ethos, and has already built positive relationships with our children and staff. In addition to her classroom experience, Dr Berry is a mathematics specialist and holds a PhD in Mathematics, bringing significant expertise and enthusiasm for developing children's confidence and achievement in the subject. We are delighted to welcome her to the Layston team.

After 21 years of dedicated service at Layston, **Mrs Foster** will be leaving us on Friday 20th November to take up an exciting new opportunity working within children's residential care. This has been a difficult decision for her, reflecting the strong connections she has built within our school community over the years. We would like to thank Mrs Foster for her commitment, care and contribution to the life of the school, and we wish her every success and happiness in her new role. She will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and families alike.

Communication:

To streamline morning drop off it would be really helpful if you could email any communication for your child's teacher via the school office at, admin@layston.herts.sch.uk .This will ensure that children are handed over safely to their class teacher and learning can begin promptly in the classrooms.
Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate class teacher so that a response can actioned in a prompt and timely manner within working hours. Thank you for your support with this.

School uniform:

Please can we ask that all items of school uniform are named. As the weather is changing, please make sure your child has a coat in school every day and wellies to wear on the field.

Local Opportunity:

As a school we work closely with St Peters and they have recently advised us that they are looking to appoint a Benefice Administrator on a part time basis. If you would like any additional information please contact Rev'd Kirsty Wainwright vicarabw@gmail.com the closing date is the 14th November 2026.

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.

Y2 Mill Green Museum visit	Thursday 12th Nov
Y3 Celtic Harmony visit	Friday 13th Nov
Children in Need non uniform day	Friday 13th Nov
FOLS school disco	Friday 13th Nov
Anti-bullying week - odd sock day	Monday 16th Nov
Second round of flu immunisations	Thursday 19th Nov
Non uniform day (Tombola donations FOLS)	Friday 20th Nov
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

Attendance:

- Year R - 95.8%
- Year 1 - 93.1%
- Year 2 - 95%
- Year 3 - 94.8%
- Year 4 - 96.3%

Well done Year 4 for exemplary attendance. Please remember, Hertfordshire targets an attendance of 96%. Letters will be going out for those children with attendance less than 96%, in line with our attendance policy and procedures.

Best wishes

Adele McMurrough
Headteacher