



The Layston Newsletter



May 2024

Head's desk



Our school value: Humility and Forgiveness

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

Ofsted update: We have been pleased to share the many successes from our Rapid Action Plan (RAP) from November 2023's Ofsted <https://www.layston.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/heads-letter-19.04.24.pdf>. The RAP has been completed and our local authority visit just before Easter validated the progress and hard work made by our team. As always, we continue to work hard to provide the best education for

your children and are incredibly proud of the school.

Parent chat: Thank you to our one parent who attended Parent Chat on 21st May. We shared our home learning practices across the school and transition arrangements.

Teaching and learning: Our open afternoon for parents was a huge success, with 82% of parents attending to enjoy and share their children's progress in writing. This is a remarkable turn out and we thank you for your continued support of the school and your child's learning journey.

Community litter pick: Well done to our Eco Warriors and Miss Kelly for the community litter pick that took place last week. Several members of the Buntingford community stopped to thank our Eco Warrior team for this act of service.

Forest school: Children celebrated National Bee Day by talking about pollination and playing a bee game with Reception class.

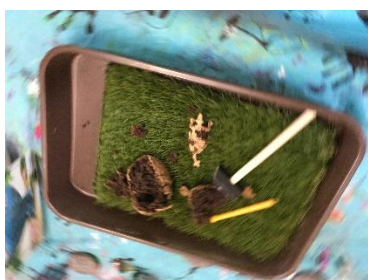


Reception

Reception have had such a busy ½ term.

We thank FOLS for their kind donation to buy our new water / investigation tray. (pictures from Mrs McMurrugh).

We have become palaeontologists. We had a visit from James Emmanuel to talk to us about fossils. The children really enjoyed this!



We are working on being really brave writers as there is so much to remember. We are using our phonics to help us.



We have been practising our maths skills, making 10 outside in chalk.

We had a special visitor which the children really enjoyed. Meet Barney.



We learnt that Barney is a Herman tortoise, is a reptile and can live for 80 to 100 years. He is 7 years old and his favourite food is strawberries!

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, Division and Fractions. It has been lovely to see all the children explain their answers in more detail, using their sentence stems to support their learning.

In English, the children have shown huge fascination when learning about our contemporary fiction books, (*Katie in London*, *Giraffes can't dance* and *The snail and the whale*.) They have been role-playing, hot seating, planning and writing their own post cards and animal fact files. They were all super excited when pretending to go to London for the day linking in with our focus book. The children loved buying their own train tickets at Layston station. Then it was all aboard on our journey to London where we visited London Eye, Buckingham Palace and Big Ben. Finally, ending our exciting trip with a luxury Afternoon tea at The Layston Ritz! The children displayed wonderful manners along with their posh accents, enjoying the finger sandwiches and scones.

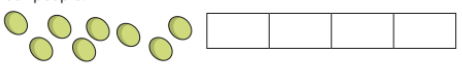
In PSHRE, we had an exciting opportunity when a Policeman and Fireman visited the children, as we were learning about different people who help us in our community. The children had the chance to ask questions and wear equipment.



Year 2


What a busy half term we have had! The children have worked so hard and have made us very proud with their achievements.

Use the bar model to help share the 8 grapes equally between four people.



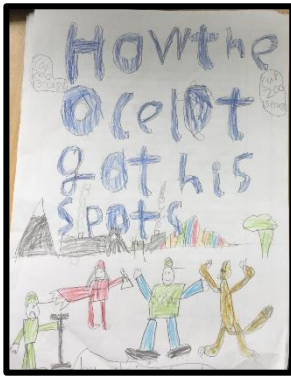
The grapes are split into _____ equal parts.
Each part is worth a _____
 $\frac{1}{4}$ of 8 is equal to _____

Share the 12 strawberries into four equal groups.



$\frac{1}{4}$ of 12 = _____

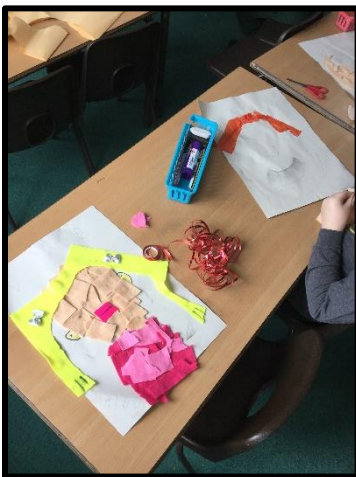
In Maths, we have been learning about fractions. We can now find $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of an amount using our division facts and bar models to support us. The children have worked hard at using the correct terminology around fractions.



In English, we have been reading 'How the camel got its hump' and 'How the rhino got its skin' by Rudyard Kipling. The children acted out the stories using finger puppets and then wrote their own creation myths! We have been focussing on using adjectives and inverted commas for speech in our writing. We have made a class book of all our stories to go up with us to Year 3!



In Computing, we have become stop motion animators! We have created backgrounds, props and characters to tell a short story. The final products are incredible and the children are very proud!



In PSHRE, the children have been creating collages of someone who is important to them and who helps them.

They look amazing!

Well done everyone on another fantastic half term!

Miss Wheatley and Miss Morten ☺



Year 3

We have had a lovely half term in Year 3, the children have worked extremely hard and that has been shown across all areas of the curriculum.

In English we have explored play scripts this half term, which the children acted out. The children then created their own play scripts following the story of The Adventures of the Dish and Spoon. The outcomes were lovely and the children put a lot of effort into these.



In Maths we have continued to develop our knowledge on fractions. We have now moved on to exploring mass and capacity where the children have been able to link their learning to the Spring 2 home learning project.



In Science we have explored the bodies of humans and animals. Exploring the different types of skeletons that animals can have. We have enjoyed exploring how different muscles in our body work together to create movement.



I am extremely proud of the resilience and determination that we have seen this half term and I am sure this will continue into the final half term!

Year 4

We've crammed a lot into the last six weeks! In science, the children have been learning about sound. In maths, we started on new unit on measurement.



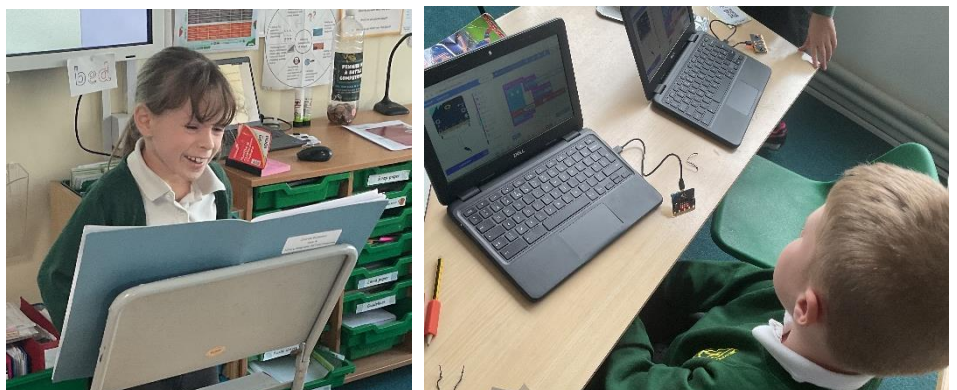
In history, we enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt. Mummification was good fun and the children did a fantastic job sculpting and painting the tops of Canopic jars.



In D&T, we finally completed our night lights. They looked very professional!



In computing, the children entered the Dragon's Den to pitch a virtual toy they'd designed, and to try and secure thousands of pounds of investment. We also had fun programming Micro:bits.



PE, Eco Warriors and Outdoor Learning



Our Eco Warriors have been wonderful ambassadors for Layston School on their litter pick around Buntingford.

Well done for your community spirit and service to us!

Members of the local community thanked them and were impressed by their conscientiousness.

We awarded all our Eco warriors with Values Awards. Thank you Miss Kelly for organising this.



Forest School

Nature has taken centre stage in Forest School this half term. Maybe the unusually high rainfall we've had and the recent appearance, at long last, of some warmth is to blame, or maybe our Maypole dancing was super effective. 😊 Everything is growing!

Wildflower displays are abounding - on the field, in the forest undergrowth and in our meadow. Children



enjoyed making crowns for our May Kings and Queens, and can identify

many wildflowers. This growth has fuelled an interest in biodiversity. Even though Layston is fortunate to have superb variety in habitats, we have explored how our biodiversity can be increased further.



Fabulous suggestions have been made by children: to make seed bombs and insect homes, which we have created. Year 4 children completed a biodiversity survey and through that have identified further actions

we can take to increase Layston's biodiversity. These actions will feed into the 3 Year Forest School maintenance plan.



The theme for Earth Day 2024 was "Planet vs plastic". We hunted down and collected all the plastic blown into our hedge and across the field, being determined to reduce litter where we can and help planet Earth win in the battle with plastic.

Our tadpoles have also fascinated us, growing week by week. We are delighted to see their legs appear.



FOLS

Pennies in a Bottle Competition



We've been really impressed with how many pennies the children have been bringing in. The total so far is **£138.16** with the winners being **Year 2 with an amazing £52.25**. Year 1 being close runners up

The bottle have now been emptied but the totals are rolling over in to next half term so keep bringing all in that spare change.

Summer Disco

We are so excited to be hosting our Summer Disco. The autumn disco was a huge success and we're sure this one will be too. We can't wait to see the children having lots of fun on the dance floor.



Summer Fair

We are planning our Summer Fair for Friday 12th July. These events are loads of fun for all the children and parents alike, but they are only possible if we get enough volunteers to help on the day. If you are able to spare a few hours on the day, or if you have any fun ideas that you would like to see happening, then please contact your Class Rep or email us on friendsoflaystonschool@mail.com.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Details
Wednesday 22 nd May	Y3 Cake Bake	Come and buy our yummy cakes on the playground after school
Thursday 23 rd May	Summer Disco	Tickets available online at PTA.events
	HALF TERM	
Friday 14 th June	Non-Uniform Day	Non-uniform day in celebration of the King's Birthday- suggested donation £1
Wednesday 19 th June	Reception Cake Bake	Come and buy our yummy cakes on the playground after school
Thursday 20 th June	Sports Day	Support FOLS by visiting our tea and coffee stand
Thursday 27 th June	Back-up Sports Day	As above
Friday 5 th July	Quiz Night	More info to follow
Friday 12 th July	Summer Fete	After school- More info to follow