



October 2024

## Head's desk



### Values:

Our new value for the first half of the autumn term is 'Community'. This Christian Value comes from a Greek word 'Koinonia' which means 'that which is in common'. In school, we have ensured that everyone feels included, children

support one another, and everyone makes a contribution and knows that they are valued and important. We have also thought about how we can involve the wider community in our harvest fundraising by supporting the Buntingford Food Support. A huge thank you to everyone who donated food items at our Harvest Festival, every little thing we can do to look after our neighbour makes a difference.

### Y4 Anglo Saxon Day

Our Y4 children have enjoyed an amazing Anglo Saxon workshop. They learned about all aspects of Anglo Saxon life using a wide range of resources. What an exciting experience!

### Enrichment

#### African Drumming Workshop

One of the ways we have celebrated Black History Month has been to welcome a drumming workshop into our school, funded by FOLS (thank you FOLS!). Celebrating diversity and inclusion is incredibly important to us at Layston and we are immensely grateful for the opportunity to learn from others.

#### Y4 Buddies

Y4 children have stepped up and made excellent Buddies who have been ready to support anyone at break or lunch who needs a friend, a helping hand or some comfort. They are all a credit to you and are making a big difference settling our younger children into the school so that they feel safe and happy. They are extremely responsible and are relishing this opportunity.

#### Occasional Day

A reminder that Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December is an Occasional day and school will be closed.

Have a safe and restful half term break. Your children have worked hard this half term and we are immensely proud of them.

Best wishes,

Mrs McMurrugh



# Reception

What an amazing first half term Reception have had. The children have all settled really well. They have been learning our routines of the day and expectations.

We have been developing our core strength by using the trim trail and the children are gaining in confidence in using this.

YR have started their reading journey and are doing so well! We are all extremely proud!

We have baked cakes using balances scales, which involved lots of maths.



We made bread linked to our core story of The Little Red Hen and visited the church for Harvest. The children were so brave singing our Dingle Dangle Scarecrow song.

We have had a visit from the PCSOs to talk about their job and we all had a go sitting in the police car! Mrs McTigue had too much fun trying out the different sirens! (Or the woo woo as she calls it)!



# 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, we have been learning about addition and subtraction within 10. Year 1 have been building on their learning, writing number sentences by looking at addition fact families. In computing we have enjoyed learning to use the Beebots.



In English, our focus book has been Farmer Duck by Martin Waddell. The children have enjoyed learning about labels, lists and captions. The children had great fun acting out the story and they did some lovely writing in their books afterwards.



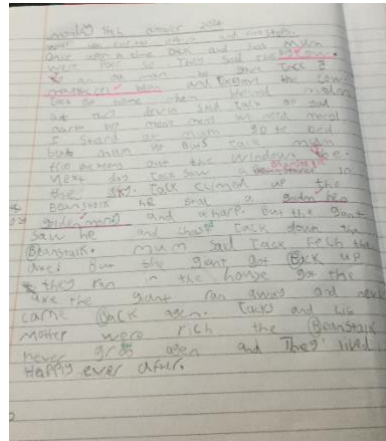
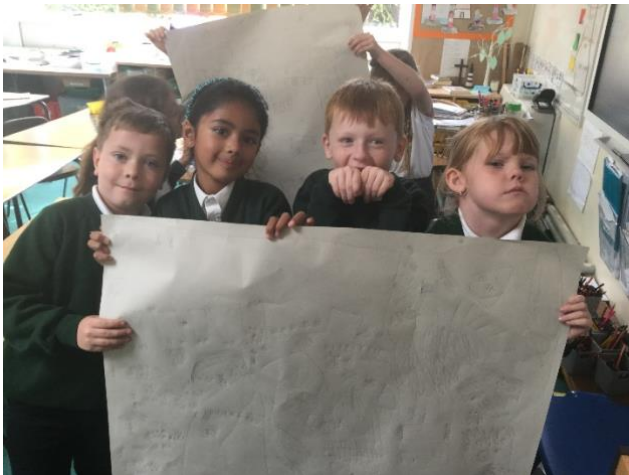
In Science, the children have been learning about the weather and the different seasons. They have recorded the daily weather including measuring the temperature and the rainfall. In Geography, the children have shown high levels of interest learning about the UK looking at globes and atlases.



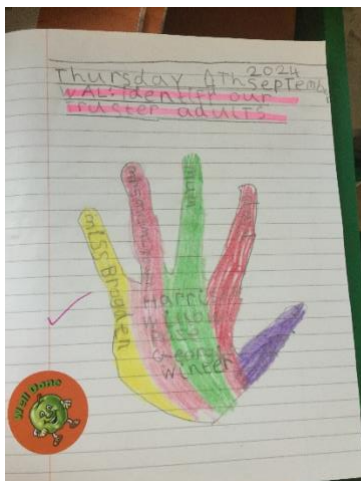
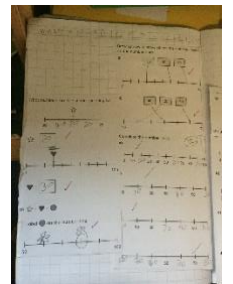
# Year 2

We have had a great half term in Year 2 and it has been so lovely to see the children settle into the new school year!

In English, we have been exploring fairy tales and enjoyed acting out Jack and the Beanstalk. We then planned and wrote our own versions of the story.

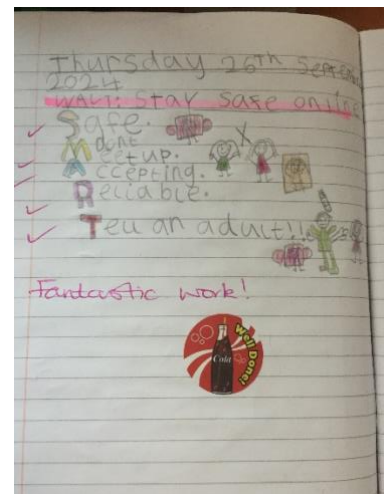


In Maths we have been looking at place value, exploring how we can partition numbers into tens and ones. We compared numbers and placed them on a number line. We've also been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s! In Computing we have been exploring programming using the app Scratch Jr. We have looked at how we can create and debug algorithms in order to move our sprites (characters) on the app.



In PSHRE we have learnt to identify our trusted adults and how to keep ourselves safe online.

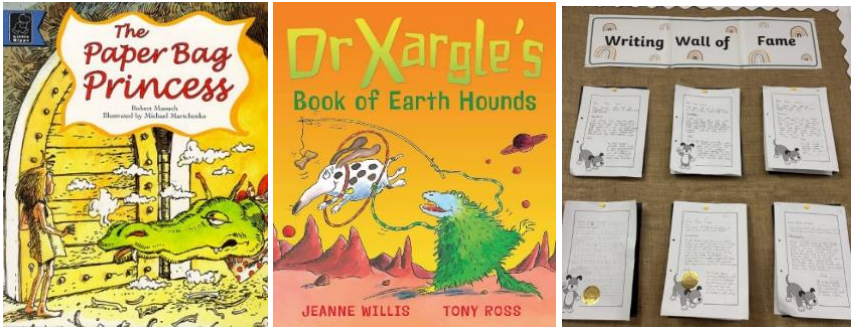
We hope you have a lovely half term! ☺



# Year 3

It's been a very busy half term in Year 3 but one we have thoroughly enjoyed!

In English the children have explored two texts this half term: *The Paper Bag Princess* and *Dr Xargle's Earth Hounds*. We have thoroughly enjoyed both books. The children have worked very hard on their writing and produced some amazing work.



In Maths we have recapped place value and calculation methods that they have previously learnt. We are now starting to introduce the column method which the children have shown real determination in.



In PSHE we have focused on building healthy relationships and displaying team work this half term. We have explored the importance of working collaboratively and the children have shown excellent team work through this.



## Year 4

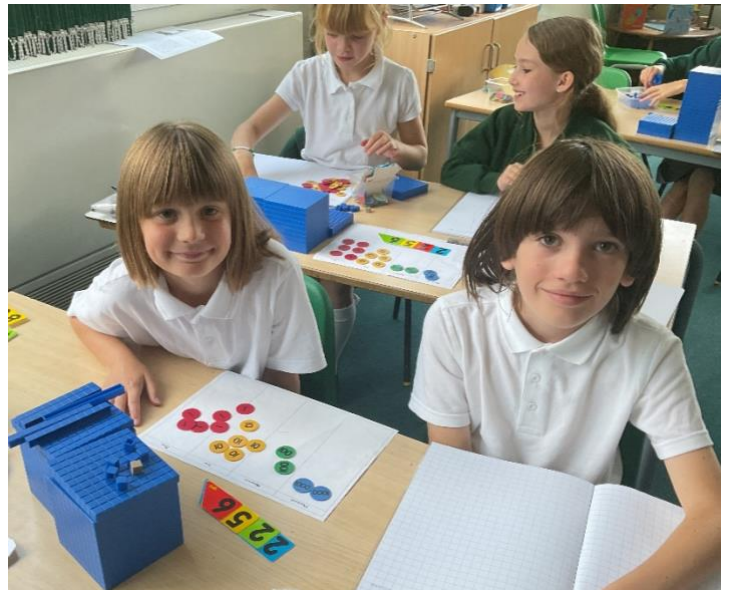
We've squeezed a lot into the first eight weeks! Here is just a sample of what we've been up to...

In English, we have been writing adventure stories involving mythical creatures.

In maths, we have been working on place value and numbers up to 10,000!

In computing, the children designed their own games in Scratch.

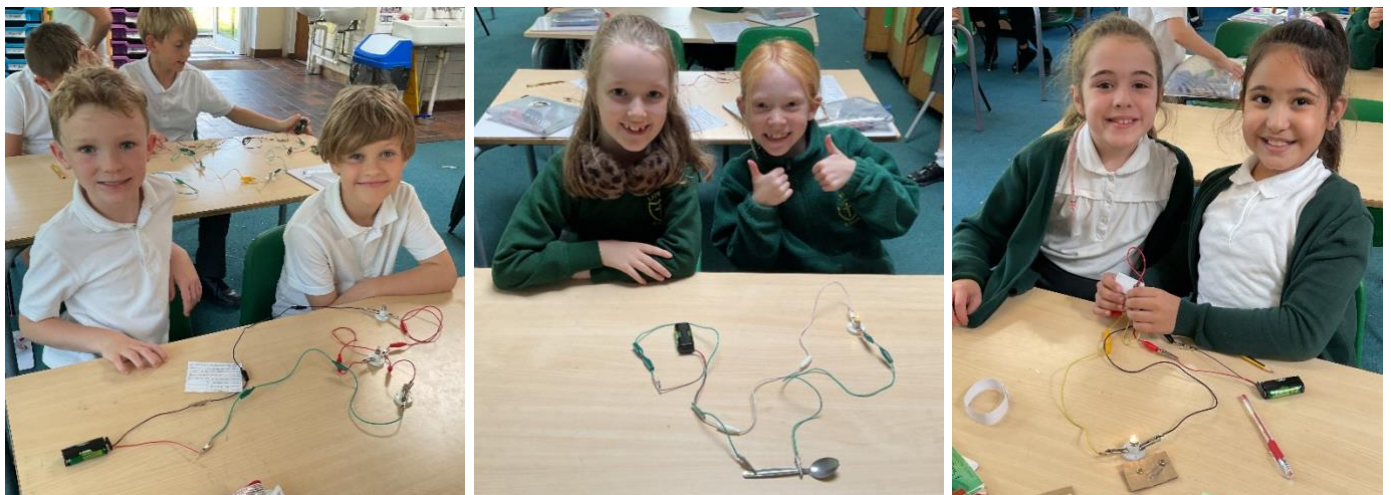
In art, we made wire sculptures.



We had a memorable Anglo-Saxons workshop. From archery to archaeology, there were loads of interesting and interactive activities throughout the day.



In science, we've been learning about electricity. The children really enjoyed building and testing circuits. We tested things to find out if they were conductors and made our own switches.



## Forest School



Autumn at Layston is looking beautiful and in our recent Forest School sessions we have been celebrating the colours and vibrancy of the season. We've enjoyed the sounds of scrunching leaves and the gentle falling 'pitter patter'. Some children have made leaf boats, leaf pictures, leaf puppets and leaf animals. Reception collected their favourite leaves and looked very grand, we think, in their leaf crowns!



Year 4 are learning about Andy Goldsworthy and are starting to copy his style of land art. Looking stunning so far!



In addition to all these creative activities we have been busy in the allotment. Potatoes were dug up (lots of them!) which we enjoyed cooking over the fire and eating in the log circle. Broad beans, peas, spring onions and winter salad leaves have been planted and we are excited they are starting to appear already.



Hattie the Hedgehog is very well looked after. This term she has been gifted 2 brand new outfits. Thank you to our budding fashion designer!



Everyone has chosen new Forest School names this term, a plant, animal or type of weather that is liked. We used clay to then represent our name with many wonderful creations - we have axolotyls, amaryllis flowers, emu's, puppies, arctic weather, leopards and more! Will this help us remember our Forest School names?



Well done Layston, as always, you have been wonderful learning about nature. Have a good half term!



FOLS have had an exciting start to the year.

We have had our first **school disco** which as always, was a huge success.



All the children seemed to have lots of fun and we even had 2 reception children winning the best dancer competition.

Thank you to all those who volunteered on the evening. We couldn't do it without you.

### **Christmas Cards**

Last week FOLS went in to the classrooms to help children design their Christmas cards. The children showed wonderful creativity, we can't wait to show you their designs.

All artwork will be sent off to Class Fundraising and parents will soon be able to purchase, Christmas Cards, baubles, mugs and other items, all in time for Christmas. More details to follow after half term.



### **Dates for your Diary:**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30 pm- FOLS AGM**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November- Non-uniform day (see separate email)**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December- Layston Christmas Fair - more details to follow**

We have loved having some new faces on the FOLS team this half term. If you are thinking of joining us or would like to know more about what we do then email us on [friendsoflaystonschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflaystonschool@gmail.com)

or come and see us at the AGM.

We hope you all enjoy your half term break!

**Thank you for your continued support,**