



Loving to learn, Learning to love.  
For every child a chance to shine



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL  
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Headteacher: Mrs A McMurrough

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Harvest Festival:**

Last week the worship group children made a Harvest sheaf with Reverend Kirsty. The children made a beautiful bread image of corn, bound with a plait, complete with a tiny harvest mouse. The corn represents the harvest provided by God's world. The mouse reminds us that we share this world and its resources with other creatures. The plait represents being held together by God's love. The children were wonderful both in their performances and as an audience, especially our youngest YR children. Choir and recorder groups were equally brilliant! Well done to all our Layston children.



**Harvest food collection:**

Thank you all for your kind donations. Mrs Betley has been in touch with Buntingford Food Support for the food to be collected today and distributed.

**Teaching and Learning:**

**Ofsted update autumn term:**

Autumn update 24	
<p>1. Ensure clarity of focus within the School Development Plan (SDP) results in more accurate school self-evaluation.</p>	<p>We have re-evaluated the School Development Plan (SDP) and Self Evaluation Form (SEF) and streamlined this into one document - School Evaluation and Improvement Plan (SEIP). This has been shared with all staff and governors after consultation with our School Education Advisor (SEA). School Education Advisor (SEA), visited the school to review data and progress against actions from a previous visit. Milestones have been added to the SDP and SEF. -Head teacher (HT) and Teaching and Learning Adviser (TLA) created English action plan for this term, drawing from priority areas and actions from SEIP and Early Years Rapid Action Plan (EY RAP). TLA and HT mapped out remaining visits until the end of the spring term to ensure key priority areas in action plan can be monitored and subsequent training planned.</p>
<p>2. Ensure EYFS learning environment enables the EYFS curriculum to be enacted in the classroom.</p>	<p>Senior Leadership Team (SLT) monitoring and observations from Nicky Murphy (TLA) for English noted on her recent visit noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years (EY) routines and expectations have been well established with pupils demonstrating excellent learning behaviours</li> <li>• EY Class teacher (CT) using taught phonemes to support transition between activities (phonics - mark making)</li> <li>• Calm and purposeful learning environments across the school</li> <li>• 'Streamlined' EY zones</li> <li>• Baseline analysis for phonics and spelling being completed to identify gaps in learning and children at risk of falling behind their peers</li> <li>• HT/DHT reading with vulnerable/lowest 20% of pupils to support teachers and monitor pitch of independent reading books</li> <li>• Baseline for phonics and spelling being completed to identify gaps and pupils at risk of falling behind their peers.</li> </ul>





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3. Ensure subjects are planned from Reception so that learning builds on foundational knowledge.	Following on from the Herts for Learning INSET training at the start of term staff have incorporated reading for pleasure recommendations across their classes - TLA to lead follow up staff workshop in Aut2.
4. Clarify end points so that clear assessment procedures can be devised and implemented.	Working with HFL to deliver additional Subject Leader support for Science, Computing and History during the autumn and spring terms to look at curriculum planning and delivery. Charlotte Jackson visited 10/10/24 to work with our Science lead.
5. Develop a shared understanding of leader's vision in how children are supported to manage behaviours.	SLT behaviour learning walk showed that children were settled and focused and engaged in learning tasks. SLT updated the behaviour action plan as a result of the audit. Susie Betley (SB) Therapeutic Thinking Tutor refresher training and completed the behaviour curriculum map.
6. Embed the whole school approach to supporting SEND pupils.	SB delivered staff workshop on SEND to Class teachers.

**FOLS:** A reminder that FOLS are organising a disco after school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> for Layston children from 4-6pm.

**Black History Month:**

As October is Black History Month, we have booked an African Drumming Workshop for 24.10.24 to support our celebration of Black History.

**Parents' Consultations:**

Parent consultations are scheduled for Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 3:30pm-6:00pm. Please arrive at the school office entrance just before your allotted time so that we avoid overcrowding in the hall. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Sickness:**

Please remember if your child is sick or has diarrhoea they must remain off school for 48hours. This is to stop the spread of bugs and protect both children and staff.

Best wishes

*Adele McMurrrough*

Headteacher

