



*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,

Teaching, Learning and Enrichment Early Years Advisory Team Visit

This week we had a visit from the Early Years Advisory team to carry out a review of the Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Early Years Provision (EEEYP). We are still awaiting the written report but verbal feedback given to leaders on the day was extremely positive. The adviser observed that all the recommendations for improvement from their earlier visit in March had been achieved. The adviser noticed that the Early Years lead, Mrs Amanda Stamp, had successfully led these positive changes within the setting. There is cohesion across the EY team and they are nurturing and effective, focussing on the needs of the children. All adults can talk about the rationale of the EY curriculum and the children are well motivated. The safeguarding procedures are clear and being followed according to policy. A huge thank you and well done to Mrs Stamp, Mrs McTigue, Mrs Burton, Mrs Porter, Mrs Gamble and Mrs Patterson, Mrs Kozub.

Just Talk Week

Last week was 'Just Talk' Week 2024, Hertfordshire's Just Talk Campaign Week, which focused on online safety. The theme for the week, 'Just be scroll savvy', was explored in collective worship by Mrs Betley and the children were able to explain the risks and how to keep safe, remembering Mr Strahan's online safety talk last half term. Children talked about how to use the internet safely and in a way that is positive for their well-being. The main learning point was talk to an adult if you are unsure or worried.

Severe weather and snow procedure

What are our procedures?

We will post on our website and Facebook page, send a Schoolcomms and notify Hertfordshire information services if we are closing the school. This decision will be made in conjunction with the local Headteachers in Buntingford.

If snow is heavy overnight and leads to a closure the next morning, we will ensure that the Schoolcomms, website and Facebook pages are updated by 7:45am at the latest, however, we will aim for a 7:30am notice.

If a closure decision is made during the day, we will Schoolcomms and post on our website and Facebook. We will also publish a time for collection. Please note that the Headteacher and staff will not leave the site until all pupils are accounted for.





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Reminders:

FOLS Non-uniform day

FOLS are inviting children to come into school in non-uniform on **Friday 29th November** and to bring in a voluntary donation (big or small) for the Christmas Fair tombola. Please remember that we are a nut free school. Alcoholic donations can be handed into the school office or to a FOLS representative on the playground.

Christmas Fair

On **Thursday 5th December** at 3:15-6:00pm FOLS will be holding our annual Christmas Fair in the hall. There will be a range of stalls, including Forest School handmade Christmas decorations. FOLS have been in contact with Father Christmas and he has made time in his busy schedule to visit us. The Santa's Grotto booking page is now set up and tickets are available to purchase.

The link to book is:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsoflaystonschool/index.cfm?event=shop>

Any volunteers to support with stalls would be welcomed. Please see a member of the FOLS team.

Christmas production

For this year's production Years 1-4 children will be taking part in Aladdin. Each family will be given 2 tickets to use over 3 performances. Play performances will take place on Wednesday 11th December 1:30-15:00, Thursday 12th December 1:30-15:00 and Friday 13th December 17:30-19:00. Play tickets will open to Year 4 parents on Friday 29th November at 6pm. Booking will open to all other parents on Monday 2nd December at 4pm. Please note any tickets booked outside of these dates and times will be removed.

Reception children will be performing the Nativity at St Peter's Church for their Christmas performance on Tuesday 17th December at approximately 9:30am. For this performance YR parents will be able to access the online booking system from Monday 2nd December at 6:00pm. These will be limited to two tickets per family due to restricted numbers in the church.

Occasional day

Just a reminder that we have an occasional day in line with other local schools on **Friday 6th December** and therefore school will be closed and you can enjoy a long weekend.

Best wishes

Adele McMurrough
Headteacher