



The Layston Newsletter



Head's Desk

We start the new Spring term exploring the value of Wisdom. Christians believe that true wisdom comes from God. As they grow in faith so wisdom will increase. In the Bible wisdom is seen as both a gift from God and a characteristic of God. In his parables Jesus taught that placing trust in God and recognising what is of value in life brings fulfilment.



We have had a very positive start to the spring term with plenty to be proud of. Our value this half term is 'Wisdom'. The children have been encouraged to act responsibly and think about the wisdom of their words and actions. They have explored the difference between being clever and being wise and to respect the wisdom of parents and teachers. We have discussed the meaning of common proverbs and talked about the importance of listening. The children have written thoughtful prayers and designed interesting posters.



We celebrated Christingle at St Peter's church on 29th January. The whole school walked to the church and all the children made a Christingle using an orange, red tape, 4 cocktail sticks, sweets and a candle. Rev Ian led the service and explained the meaning of Christingle and why Christians celebrate Christingle. The children really enjoyed taking part in this service and hopefully they were able to share this with you afterwards at home.

We continue to promote reading and writing in school and this half term we have been extremely fortunate to have organised active literacy workshops for every child in the school.



The children had a fantastic time, here are some of their comments:



Lilly - I really enjoyed it and I was happy for the other team to win even though I scored no points. It was fun!

Niamh - It was all part of the fun even though I lost. I love running around!

Jack - I liked watching others score.

Darcy - it was fun because I like sports. I didn't mind if I didn't win as it was all about taking part.

Following these inspirational sessions, children have gone onto write reports, instructions and rules for playing games.

Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

The children in Y4 have been keen to raise funds for a local charity, the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Service. Poppy and Ava have designed a colouring competition and have delivered a collective worship to the whole school to explain the charity for which they are raising funds. They have asked children to colour in a poster and guess the number of sweets in the jar. Children are encouraged to bring in a £1 to take part in the competition. Winners will be announced on Friday 6th March!



Staffing

We have some very exciting news to share with you - Mrs Woolford is expecting her second child. She will be leaving at the end of May to have her baby and will be back next year. We send congratulations and best wishes to both Mrs Woolford and her husband at this very exciting time!

As always we appreciate and value your involvement and support to help us achieve the very best for all children at Layston School. Have a safe and restful half term break and we look forward to seeing the children refreshed and ready to learn.

Reception

We have had a busy half term in Reception since the Christmas break.

We learnt about Chinese New Year, the year of the rat and celebrated by cooking stir fry and enjoying it with noodles, soy sauce and prawn crackers.



We painted and carefully cut out dragon masks and made lanterns to hang. We even created a giant dragon.



We learnt how to use and mix primary colour powder paints to create our own Kandinsky style circles.

We explored the art work of an artist called Kandinsky.



Our Kandinsky circles became the body for our dragon.

We proudly spotted our circles, noticing how unique they all are.



During Forest school we have been bird watching and using mud and natural resources to create faces.



Active literacy - in our session we were challenged to firstly identify whether two words rhymed. We then went on to match rhyming words with our own.



This half term we have been enjoying yoga stories and have also opened our woodwork area.

Year 1

This half term Year 1 have been enjoying:



...exploring how strong different materials are by building the 3

Little Pigs houses and trying to blow them down with a special 'wolf hairdryer' in science!



...practising the skills of cutting and spreading. We made delicious cheese and ham sandwiches with salad in food tech.



Yummmm!

...active literacy where we had to find

rhyming

pairs and use our

phonic skills.



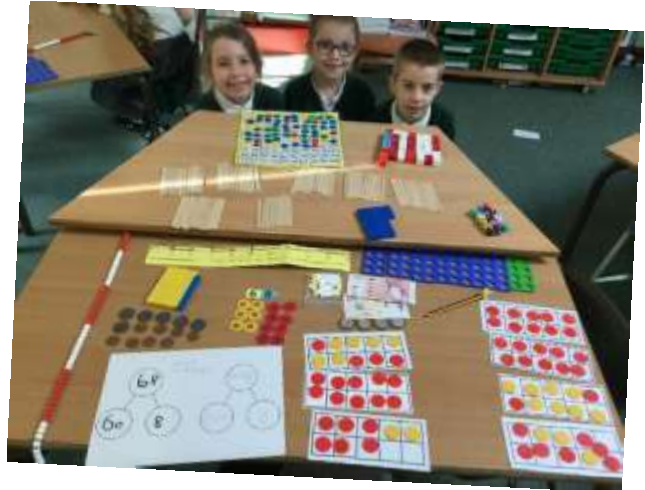
...estimating amounts in maths and identifying which group has more objects and which group has fewer. Some of us even worked out how many more.



Year 2

It's been a busy start to 2020!

In maths, the children had fun finding hidden 2D shapes in the classroom. We've been learning how to tell the time to the nearest 15 minutes (and some children have even mastered it to the nearest 5 minutes). They seemed to enjoy the "active" lesson where they had to match clocks to time cards spread around the hall. We've also been doing lots of work involving 2-digit numbers and we explored making 2-digit numbers in lots of different ways.



We did an investigation all about triangles and we even tackled a problem involving a magic plant that doubles in height every 24 hours!



The children seem to have really enjoyed the space homework and it was clear that a lot of effort had gone into it.

In science, the children carried out some investigations to find out which paper towel was the most absorbent (there were five to test). Would it be the most expensive one or perhaps the slightly cheaper but thicker brand?



They also tested a variety of balls to see which ones were the bounciest.



The children enjoyed making (and devouring) a stir fry in a recent cooking lesson.



Year 3

We have been spending a lot of time doing Science this half term!

First we investigated which surfaces are reflective...



And then we started becoming geologists by studying rocks. First we grouped them into some simple categories...



And then we looked closely at some different types of rocks such as obsidian, marble and granite and described them.



We had a great time in active Literacy, and even wrote some amazing reports!



Year 4

Like a rugby player going through the Scottish defense, this half term has whizzed by.

Yes, the fresh New Year face has now disappeared (from Mr Whittet) and we are back in the daily routines of arrive, learn, pretend to laugh at Mr Whittet's jokes and go home.

This term we are focussing our attention on the Amazon (not the online retail giant) and ancient Egypt. So far we have looked at where the Amazon is and worked out why it is so hot and wet. We have compared the area with other biomes to compare any similarities or differences. We have researched famous Egyptian landmarks and shared our findings with the class. We have also built shadufs to try and get water from "the river Nile".



We also learned about Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a famous Glaswegian artist and architect. We looked at his rose design and even created our pieces of art based on it.



I wonder what else we'll get up to in our last year at Layston. Only time will tell.