

# The Leys Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

★ Accelerating progress

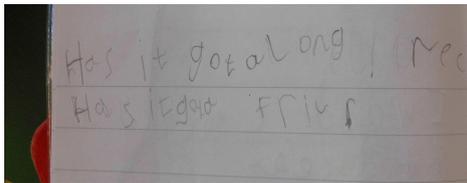
★ Enriching wellbeing

★ Promoting partnerships

23/04/21

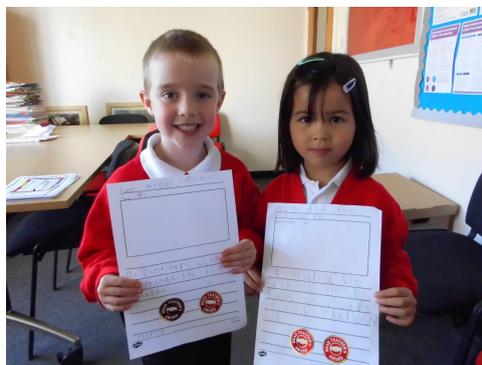
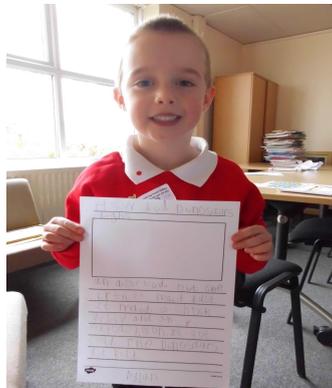
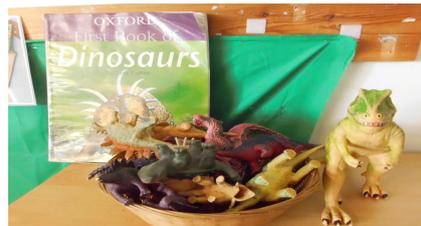
## Star of the Week

	Class
Zephaniah	Oliver
Anderson	Riley
Sendak	Rhys
Carle	Kye
Hargreaves	Leo
Ahlberg	Lily
Dahl	Elliot
Freedman	Bailey E
Strong	Isabella
Pratchett	Bobbey
Morpurgo	Zachary
Tolkien	Gaja
Lewis	Isabella
Rosen	Emmanuel
Shakespeare	Harrison
Dickens	Kelsey
Kipling	Oscar



This week our staff are encouraging our pupils to ASK QUESTIONS which is an important part of learning! Our youngest pupils have been asking some very interesting questions about DINOSAURS this week, and also finding out some fascinating answers!!! Well done to Dylan, Harry and Sophie who have been teaching the Headteacher a few things! WOW! Who knew a Pterodactyl was a flying reptile not a dinosaur!!!!

*What do Dinosaurs eat?*



Class of the week	ROSEN
Friendship Cup	
Headteacher Awards	YEAR
Emily K Kai SH Mayci Lou C Samuel M Albert H Tilly Taylor Sadeya Hannah Kimberley Tommy Emir Jack	FIVE
Ollie E	THREE
Harry Alfie Amber Erin	TWO
Elsie Harrison Joshua W Lewi David Kye	ONE
Dylan Harry Sophie Marnie Jack	RECEPTION

**SHOUT OUT**  
A BIG SHOUT OUT to

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## CLASS OF THE WEEK Morpurgo



This week, Morpurgo class have been focussing on 'The Journey'. During the book, the little girl uses her magical pencil to create a hot air balloon. We decided to use this as inspiration for our D.T project. Firstly, we researched different design ideas and discussed the materials that we needed before creating our Paper Mache balloons. It was a very long process, and took two weeks to fully complete, but the final outcome was amazing! Morpurgo created some excellent, unique hot air balloons!



Writer of the Week-  
Tommy A -  
Tolkien Class

### Forest Setting Description

When the mysterious door came to life, the young girl strolled through to be stopped in her tracks by a tranquil, calm, luscious forest looming over her and dwarfing her. She was left aghast by the enclosed forest, which was almost entirely swallowed up by the chartreuse leaves, vines, bushes and grass. She could hear birds tweeting, leaves swaying and a narrow river flowing majestically.

While the young girl floated downstream in her crimson boat like a feather in the aquamarine waters, she saw a colossal castle that towered over her with golden crowns upon the top of them and individual towers formed the base structure of the castle.

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23/04/21

Well done to Emily K and Albert in Rosen class who designed and made some incredible models during the Easter holidays. Pupils were given a challenge to build a house for a teddy bear which was - waterproof, windproof and structurally sound! These young designers have risen to the challenge and impressed us all!!! If anyone needs a young architect let us know!!!



WELLBEING



**This week we have made our first referrals to our new Mental Health Support Worker, Leila Touhami. The Stevenage team have asked us to share the information below with parents.**

## Introducing: The Mental Health Support Team

The new Stevenage Mental Health Support Team is part of the NHS working directly in schools to help improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. The team has been commissioned to work across 20 schools within the Stevenage area. Your child's school will be supported by an Educational Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP) working in collaboration with school staff. We aim to help all children to succeed and achieve their full potential.

EMHPs provide a range of services, including:

- Group work / workshops for primary pupils around emotions and confidence,
- Group work / workshops for secondary pupils/parents,
- One-to-one sessions for primary parents around helping their child's anxiety,
- One-to-one sessions for secondary pupils around guided self-help for mild to moderate mental health issues,
- Drop-in sessions for Secondary pupils to discuss worries/issues affecting their mental health,
- Supporting 'peer mentoring' programmes,
- Signposting children with higher needs to access the right support,
- Offering educational workshops to interested parents,
- Offering training and consultation to school staff,
- Building on schools' current wellbeing provision.

The support offered will look slightly different from school to school depending on need. Referrals to the service are made by school. If you have any questions about the MHST, please feel free to contact us on [hpft.mhststevenage@nhs.net](mailto:hpft.mhststevenage@nhs.net)

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★ Accelerating progress

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## Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural and British Values

Year 2 has had a really exciting week! They have welcomed some new members to their Year group... **tadpoles!** The children have been learning about the changes the tadpoles will go through as they turn into frogs. They are also learning about what they need to grow up happy and healthy and how they can best care for living creatures.



## Music



## UPDATE

In this last year, across every primary school in the UK, the subject of Music has suffered a great deal because of the Covid-19 restrictions that we have all had to live with. There has been no singing together as a school, or even as a class. Instruments could not be shared as normal because of the dangers of passing on infection and, if instruments have been used at all, they have had to be thoroughly disinfected and/or left in "isolation" for several days between uses. Some schools have not used any instruments for months! Teachers have not been allowed to go between pods or bubbles, so Mrs Gwinnett, who usually teaches our music lessons to several different year groups, has not been able to teach her usual classes since March 2020. There was a slight reprieve in September and October, but then that had to stop again with the November lockdown. It has been very challenging to find new ways of working so that Music at The Leys continues as it should !

However, staff here appreciate the value of music as an important subject in its own right. They are aware of how science has proved that music-making and performing helps to grow the brain and strengthen connections between auditory and motor skills. Therefore, participating in music-making helps our learning for everything in life! Music is also a vital tool for positive mental health and well-being. Most people know

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that listening to a favourite upbeat song can lift our mood, cheering us a little. Also, we somehow know instinctively, that listening to a slow song will help us to calm down if we are stressed or worried. In fact it has a physical effect, as the slow beat slows our heart rate and breathing which is very soothing. This is why a lullaby at bedtime is so special and sleep inducing.



So, staff here at The Leys School, have worked hard to keep music alive and well at our school! Pupils, in their separate class pods, have been chanting in rhythm, clapping rhythms and even using sign language for lyrics instead of singing out loud. They have been waving clean scarves to the beat and using body percussion instead of instruments. For many children it has been quite liberating to be allowed to stamp, clap and tap their tables, instead of playing the usual tambourines, bells and drums!

During the lockdowns, children have been sent links to especially created videos online. Children have joined in with them, playing rhythms on wooden spoons, dancing and singing with their families at home! Mr Sapsed's Friday Dance videos became legendary! Thank you Mr Sapsed!

As part of their learning at home, or in their key worker pods at school, our KS2 children have studied and listened to many different musical instruments on the internet. They are now beginning to recognise them by sight and by ear, and they have learnt which instrument family they belong in - strings, woodwind, brass or percussion. They have also listened to new music and considered the purpose, and context, of that music - Tudor dances, social songs and work songs. They now know more about sea shanties like "The Wellerman," which went viral recently!

As the UK Government eases restrictions, Music lessons are beginning to take their more usual form, albeit with a few changes still, because of the pandemic. Private piano lessons continue without so much stop/start interruption, and our Y5s are making the steel pans ring out from the Infant Hall once again! Coloured plastic tubes, called Boomwackers, are being played by Y3 and are regularly cleaned. These

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★ Accelerating progress

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have replaced the usual recorder lessons, with their potential danger of spreading infected droplets which are blown into the air.



How wonderful it has been to hear the children singing together in their classrooms and in the Infant Hall, during their music lessons, (with all the windows open, of course!) They have also been learning hand clapping playground singing games which they sing outside. There has also been much fun, smiling and dancing around with coloured scarves whilst singing along to "Don't worry about a thing, " by Bob Marley. We are working on our positivity, well-being and hope for the future, as the vaccination program continues at a pace in the UK.

Let us all hope that we can look forward to the school choir meeting to sing together again soon, and trips out to sing in the community for various events. Music will gradually return to The Leys, in all its forms, to take its recognised, important place in our school and wider community as soon as possible!

**Don't forget to book on**

**☀️ The Leys Fun and Games Club! Breakfast & After-School Club**

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

- Breakfast Club runs from 7.30am to 8:45 am and includes breakfast.
- Breakfast club costs £3.50 per child per day.
- Children must be signed into the club by whoever is bringing them to school.
- Children should not be dropped at the gate and sent into the club on their own. Breakfast on offer includes such choices as: cereal, toast, croissants, fruit, and fruit juices.

## **AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

- After School Club runs from 3.15 to 6.00 pm in two sessions:
- 3.15 - 5:00pm Session A £7.00 per day per child
- 3.15 - 6.00 pm Session B £8.50 per day per child
- A snack such as sandwiches, wraps, cheese, biscuits, and fruits are served to all children attending the after-school club.

Planned activities available may include:

- Creative art and crafts activities - painting, drawing, cutting, sticking and

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model making.

- Free play - activities chosen by your child.
- Imaginative play - dressing up and role play.
- Messy play - sand water clay and dough
- Outside play - depending on weather.
- Sports activities - organised by our PE staff.
- Various special events - disco, face painting, cooking, movie & popcorn

## Term dates

<p>Start of term: 3 September 2020  <b>Inset day: 2 September</b>            Term: 3 September -23 October  <u>Half term holiday: 26 October 2020 - 30 October 2020</u>  <b>Inset day: 2 November</b>            Term: 3 November -18 December  <b>Occasional Day: 7 December</b>  <u>Christmas holiday: 21 December 2020 - 3 January 2021</u></p>	<p><b>Inset day: 4 January</b>            Term: 5 January - 12 February  <u>Half term holiday: 15 February 2021 - 19 February 2021</u>            Term : 22 February-26 March 2021  <u>Easter holiday: 29 March 2021 - 9th April 2021</u></p>	<p>Term: 12 April - 28 May  <u>Half term holiday: 31 May 2021 - 4 June 2021</u>  <b>Inset Day: 7 June</b>            Term: 8 June-21 July  <b>Inset day 22 July</b>  <u>Summer holiday: 23 July 2021 - 31 August 2021</u></p>
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