



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a great start to the year we have had! This half term we have got to know our new classes, loved wearing our new uniform, had the best day ever playing with our ScrapShed for the first time and have really enjoyed being in our new houses!

Our first House day was a great success and really well attended by parents, thank you to everyone who came, the children loved having you in class with them.

We have also had the first meeting of Friends of Laycock which was really well attended and our school council has been formed. The councillors have been wearing their badges with pride and had a really successful first meeting where they discussed plans for the year ahead.



Here's what we have been getting up to in each class this term:

#### **Willow Class (Reception, Year 1 and 2)**

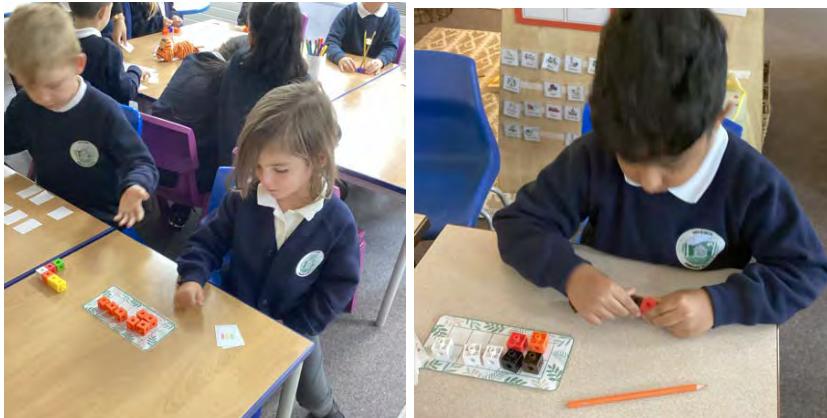
We have had a super first Summer term in Willow Class! Our reception children have made a super start settling in to Laycock Primary School and they have been welcomed by all children in school. We have done lots of exploring both inside and outside of the classroom. We loved inviting the parents in to watch our phonics lesson and hope you are enjoying practising sounds at home.





We are very excited that Ludic is back to share quality time with families at home. We can't wait to see what adventures he goes on.

We have done lots of lovely writing and reading different stories as part of our English lessons. These stories have included 'In Every Street, In Every House' and 'The Building Boy'. In Maths, we have been securing our understanding of numbers up to 20.



All the Reception children are making fantastic progress in Phonics, and we are really enjoying reading books both in the classroom and at home. Our Year 1/2 children have loved spending time outside reading too!



Our Year 1/2 children have been working incredibly hard in their science learning this half term. We have been learning all about our bodies and our 5 senses. We have been practising naming our different body parts and testing our different senses. We have had a lot of fun!



We had the best time playing with our scrap shed resources! As part of the OPAL (outdoor play and learning) programme we have been exploring different ways to make our outdoor learning fun! We did lots of den building activities and role play.



We are very excited for our school trip to REPLAY next half term!

### **Maple Class (Year 3 and 4)**

We have had a brilliant first half term in Maple class! This half term, Year 3 have enjoyed taking part in Forest Schools sessions. They have enjoyed learning to make fires, enjoyed craft activities, ate marshmallows and drank hot chocolate that was cooked on a fire that they created.





In Geography, Maple class have been learning about Antarctica. We found out about the climate and physical features of Antarctica. We learned about Ernest Shackleton's Antarctica expedition and designed our own expedition around our school grounds.

### **Cherry Class (Year 5 and 6)**

What a positive start to our time in Cherry class! The children have taken their responsibilities as leaders of the school very seriously and are excellent role models for the younger years. We have engaged with a number of adults in our community (police officers, the fire brigade, residential leaders) and the feedback has always been praise for such a 'lovely group of children, who are polite, respectful and enthusiastic in their learning and with others.'

We have been inspired by our class texts this half term: The Highwayman and The Boy at the Back of the Class. During our writing unit, we have learnt about literary devices such as metaphors and then created our own stanzas incorporating these. The class have been enthralled by the texts and have enjoyed acting out key scenes and creating dramatic artwork as well as tasting pomegranate seeds - our favourite time of the week is when we listen to a section of the class texts!





Being outdoors and challenging ourselves has been a definite highlight with our residential trip for Year 6s and our long walk to Ilkley Moor, whilst Year 5 are enjoying their forest school sessions and especially sawing wood! The children worked together as a team when using the Scrap Shed resources and it was lovely to watch them playing and problem solving together as a group.

A super start to the year Cherry class - well done!

### **My Happy Mind**

We have just come to the end of the first module - 'Meet Your Brain' in the myHappymind programme.

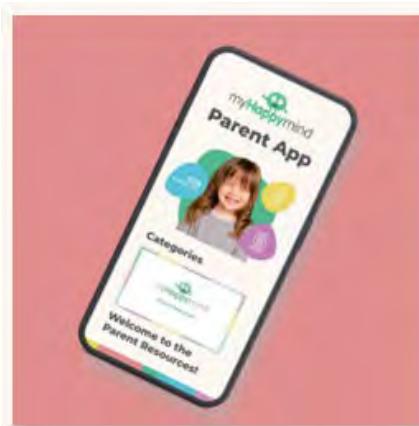
We have learnt:

- The different parts of our brain and how they help us.
- How to use Happy Breathing to help us when we feel sad, stressed or worried.
- What happens in our brain when we learn something new and how we can look after our brain.

Why not ask your children to tell you what they have learnt?

Here are some questions to help you:

- Who is Team H-A-P?
- Can you tell me about the Team in your brain?
- Why does Happy Breathing help you and when could you use it?



Log onto the parent app for more information about the Meet Your Brain module and how you can support your child at home.

There are lots of activities you can do together including Happy Breathing and making a Glitter Jar, listening to the

story and song, plus much more.

To access the materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email and authentication code **144861**

### Our Learning Next Half Term

	Reception	Year 1/2	Year 3/4	Year 5/6
<b>Book focus</b>	Mixed Gingerbread Man Batfink Room on the Broom Red Riding Hood Top Cat Miffy	Meerkat Mail at Christmas	Jack and the Baked Beanstalk Journey Reading - Matilda	Skellig  Hansel and Gretel  The Sleeper and the Spindle
<b>Maths</b>	It's me 1,2,3 Circles and Triangles 1,2,3,4,5 Shapes with 4 sides	Place Value (within 100) Shape	Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Measurement and Area	Fractions Multiplication and Division
<b>Art/ DT</b>	Sculpture and 3D - Clay Houses		Mechanical Systems: Mechanical Car	Mechanical systems - automotors
<b>Science</b>	Past and Present (School in the past)	Uses of Everyday Materials	Electricity and Circuits	Circuits, batteries and switches
<b>Geography/ History</b>		How was school different in the past? What is history?	How have children's lives changed?	What does the census tell us about the local area?
<b>The Story Project</b>	Luna Loves Library Day	The Friendship Bench	Penguin Pig	On the tip of a wave.

**Key Dates for next half term:**

Event	Date	Time	Year Group (s)	Parents Involved
Parents Evening	Tuesday 4th November	3.20 - 6pm	All	Yes
Scholastic Book Fair	Tuesday 4th November	3.20 - 6pm	All	Yes
Scholastic Book Fair	Wednesday 5th - Friday 7th November	3.20 - 3.45pm	All	Yes
CLIKS Lunch Club	Every Tuesday	12 - 12.50pm	Y3/4/5	
Year 6 Mock SATS week	Tuesday 11th - Friday 14th November	Mornings	Year 6	
Author Visit - Elizabeth Green	Friday 14th November	All day	R - Y4	
Assessment weeks Y1 - Y5	Year 5: Tuesday 11th - Friday 14th November  Year 1-4: Week commencing 17th and 24th November	Mornings	Y1-5	
PE Stay and Play (in houses)	Thursday 20th November	9.30 - 11.30 1 hour per house - details to follow	All children	Yes
KS1 Trip REPLAY Play Session	Tuesday 25th November	All day	Y1 and 2	Yes
Friends of Laycock Meeting	Friday 28th November	8.50am		Yes
Christmas House Day	Wednesday 10th December	All day	All children	
Rocksteady Concert	Friday 12th December	9.45 - 10.30	Band member	Yes - band members parents
Nativity	Tuesday 16th December	2.15pm	Willow Class (R, 1 and 2)	Yes

Christmas Carol Service	Thursday 18th December	2pm @ <b>Braithwaite New Church</b>	KS2 children leading but all parents invited	Yes
Christmas parties - Party clothes!	Friday 19th December	Friday afternoon	All classes	

### **Friends of Laycock**

Thank-you to the group of parents that attended our first Friends of Laycock meeting this half-term! We really value your feedback. Our next meeting will be on **Friday 28th November** and it would be lovely to see some new faces!

**You asked:** If we could monitor the traffic situation as some people are not driving or parking safely.

**We listened:** and ordered a new sign prohibiting parking on the yellow zigzags. We have also contacted the authorities to arrange some traffic enforcement and monitoring.

**You asked:** for more after school clubs.

**We listened:** and organised for art, construction and running clubs to run in addition to Kanga Sports club next half-term. Where possible, we will open these to all children so that siblings can attend but this is not always possible due to restricted numbers.

**You asked:** for us to make links with the local church again so that we can hold our Christmas carol concert there.

**We listened:** and booked this for Thursday 18th December (see above events).

### **Uniform**

It has been so lovely seeing all the children in their new uniform this half term. They are all wearing it with such pride and we would like to thank all parents for your commitment to ensuring that children are wearing the correct uniform each day. Orders have now closed on Parent Pay for our bulk order of new uniform, there still is the option to order individual items but this will include an additional payment for postage.

Kinds Regards



Mrs Stephanie Canning  
Head of School