

Welcome to our latest edition of the Leycroft Academy Newsletter. We look forward to sharing with you some of the wonderful things that have been happening this half term. Enjoy!

## **THIS HALF TERM AT LEYCROFT ...**

This half term we enjoyed the Snow So AuSome Christmas Fayre at school.

It was evening filled with food, prizes and a special visitor from Santa himself!

The parent group put so much hard work into the event and even raised an impressive amount for the school!



## **BOOKS FOR ALL**

This term our school received a truly wonderful Christmas surprise. Teaching Personnel generously donated 200 books for our pupils –going above and beyond to make it happen. Their team even visited multiple branches of The Works to track down the specific titles our children love, and then personally delivered every book to our school.



## SEA

**Whales**

Whales have enjoyed looking at environmental sounds this half term. They have loved exploring sensory tuff trays especially our farm as they learnt farm animal sounds. The children also loved to dress up and role play as they learnt all about different jobs and people who help us.

**DOLPHINS**

Dolphins have enjoyed their stories this term including 'Happy Birthday Cupcake' and 'Once there was a snowman'. We enjoyed exploring environmental sounds in My Communication and Language including animal and transport sounds using objects to support our understanding. We also build on our knowledge of Shape in Maths focusing on inset puzzles as well as creating images using different blocks. We have also enhanced our manipulation skills in regular physical development sessions, focusing on throwing and catching.

**STARFISH**

In Mathematics Starfish students are learning to count 1,2,3; In Communication and Language we are identifying environmental sounds and trying to recreate those. In Art we are expressing our love for the winter season through various activities. In PSED we are exploring our feelings and how to manage them. In PE we are practicing our manipulative skills (throwing and catching).





## ICE

## PENGUINS

This half term in Penguins, the children have been exploring a variety of textures and materials. They experimented with leaves, sticks, and balloons, enjoying the process of printing with them and rolling them to create their artworks. The children also investigated different tactile qualities, such as bouncy, soft, hard, rough, and smooth textures.



## POLAR BEARS

Polar bears have enjoyed our last few sessions of open theatre, and started Sherborne room. We have been focusing lots of life skills and visited our fantastic new life skills room.

## WOLVES

Wolves Class have been doing some fantastic work around the theme "People Who Help Us." Each week, our cave area has been transformed to explore the roles of different emergency services, including firefighters, police officers, dentists and doctors. During their focus sessions, the children have used digital devices to investigate and learn more about these important helpers. They enjoyed using remote-controlled vehicles labelled as emergency vehicles, carefully following instructions to navigate each one to its destination.

Alongside this topic, the children have had a brilliant time visiting the farm and taking part in swimming sessions this half-term!



## SEALS

This half term Seals have enjoyed exploring the RE room and learning about the nativity story. We dressed up and read books together



## WOODLANDS

### OWLS

This term we've been learning about community helpers, and we looked at different people who help us on a daily basis such as teachers, doctors, postmen, nurses, etc.

We used technology to research about some of these jobs and looked at ways we could help others too. We learnt about kindness and sharing with our peers, and tried to identify what makes ourselves and our friends happy.



### BUTTERFLIES

This half term butterflies have loved their drama sessions. They have engaged and took turns in the drama sessions, helping to build friendships with staff and peers.

Each Monday the children have anticipated their drama session, even using communication such as objects to request the session.

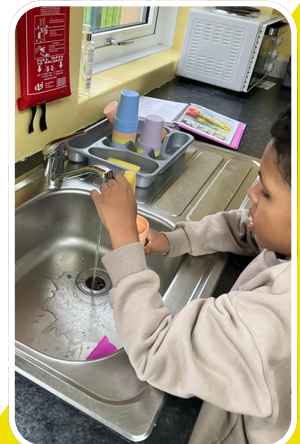


### SQUIRRELS

This half term in Squirrels we have been using the life skills room "Flat" to help us to learn real life skills in a real environment.

We have been cooking, making the bed and learning to clean up after ourselves.

It is a favourite time of the week when we get to go!







## FOXES

Foxes had a nice half term. We enjoyed the opening of the life skills room, where we explored the different machine, put a washing machine and set the table. We have also practice turn taking while playing with another peer. We have also explored interactive toys, controlling a mouse to go from one place to another in a maze.

## HEDGEHOGS

Hedgehogs have had amazing opportunities to identify jobs people do from their clothesline and people who help us in the community through different activities. They also looked at the use of digital devices within the jobs. The pupils have enjoyed our swimming , open theatre, and music sessions.



## LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have had a great Autumn 2.

We have enjoyed our topic of People Who Help Us and exploring different technology which they use.

We have explored remoted controlled toys, iPads and bee-bots.

In maths we have enjoyed looking at shape and making our own patterns.

## SAVANNAH

## ZEBRAS

On Monday mornings during this half term, Zebras have been attending swimming lessons at Castle Pool. While some of the children have been steadily building their confidence in the water, others have begun to swim with the aid of noodle floats. Furthermore, a group of four or five children have progressed to swimming widths in deeper water - without a float - and jumping into the pool.



## LIONS

This term in DT, Lions class have been looking at the different vehicles and buildings involved in different jobs. We are currently working on making our own cars, busses, castles and buildings using recyclable materials found around the house!

## ELEPHANTS

This term in Elephants we have been focusing on the topic 'People who help us.'

The children have focused on computing skills within their my world lessons and have been developing their fine motor skills linked to the topic in My Communication. One of the activities the children have loved to revisit this term is using play dough to create the items that People who help us use as part of their jobs every day. The children had been able to manipulate the playdough and create small items including bricks for the builder and a stethoscope for the doctor.





## FAMILY SUPPORT LINKS

A huge thank you to our amazing lunchtime supervisor/parent Emma for her amazing donation. She kindly donated 18 walking harnesses to Leycroft.

These harness mean our children can access the community safely and have new experiences/learning opportunities!



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

📍 Sleep training workshop part 2:  
Tuesday 6th January 9.30-11am

📍 Sleep training workshop part 3:  
Tuesday 13th January 9.30-11am



**Cygnets will be at Leycroft starting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 10.30-12.**

A support programme for parents and carers of children and young people, aged 5-18, who are autistic.

Parents of autistic children face the usual positive and difficult challenges of parenting and quite a few more. Attending a Cygnets autism support programme gives parents and carers an opportunity to develop their understanding of autism and consider ways to support their child.

It also provides the opportunity to meet other people in a similar position and hear about their experiences in an informal but supportive atmosphere.



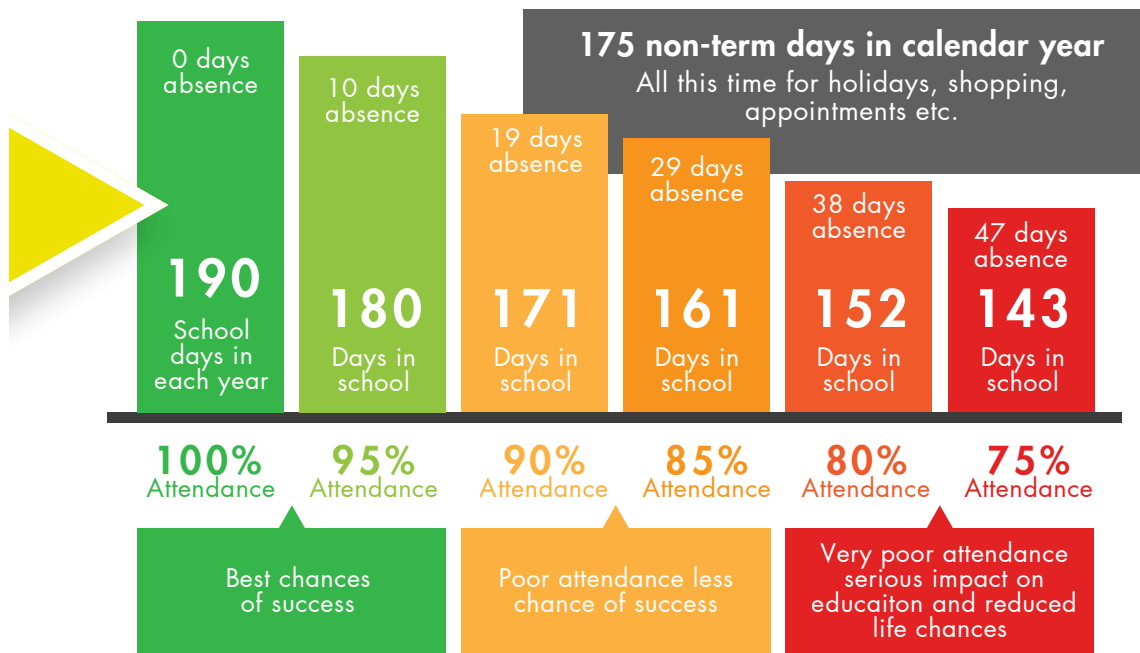
365 DAYS IN A CALENDAR YEAR



Every child with **100% attendance** will receive a certificate and reward.

**RAFFLE**

All children with **100% attendance** will be put into a raffle per term and have the chance to win a £50 voucher.



**Did you know?** A two week holiday in term means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%

Children are required by law to attend 190 school days per year.  
The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

## How do you measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

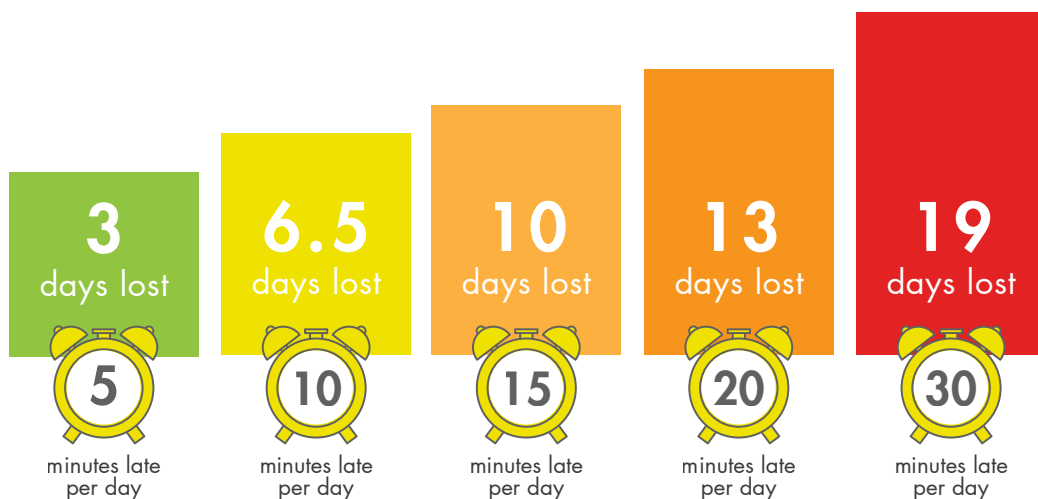
89% and below  
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95% - 90%  
Cause for concern

100% - 96%  
Excellent



**Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!**





## YOUR VOICE MATTERS: BECOME A PARENT GOVERNOR.

Exciting opportunity to join the Leycroft governing body! We're looking for a dedicated parent governor. Contact the Head Teacher at [enquiry@leycroft.fet.ac](mailto:enquiry@leycroft.fet.ac)



### NEXT HALF TERM AT LEYCROFT

Topics for next half term:

- Seekers: Mix It Up!
- Explorers/ Unity: Paint My World!
- Connectors: United Kingdom

### IMPORTANT DATES

5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Return to School

13<sup>th</sup> February 2026- Break for half term (INSET DAY)

### ATTENDANCE

Hedgehogs - 89%  
Foxes - 95%  
Squirrels - 91%  
Owls - 89%  
Elephants - 88%  
Butterflies - 95%  
Wolves - 93%  
Zebras - 95%  
Lions - 90%  
Polar bears 94%  
Ladybirds - 89%  
Seals - 80%  
Whales - 88%  
Starfish - 91%  
Penguins - 85%  
Dolphins - 89%



### FIND US ONLINE

If you are on facebook, please like, follow and share our page with family and friends. You'll find us under 'Leycroft Academy'.

If you are on X(Twitter), please follow @LeycroftAcademy

THIS SCHOOL IS  
**NUT FREE**



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 **LEYCROFT  
ACADEMY**