

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 ...

We have had many parent workshops in school which have had a great response to!

- Linsey the OT held a workshop for parents/careers giving support with independence skills- daily routines—dressing, bathing, eating, toileting, and grooming—that enable individuals to live independently and confidently.
- Keeley and Cerri have held workshops called Cygnet which supports a wide range of factors which parents find useful for their child.

## DRAMA

This half term some of the classes have enjoyed non verbal drama lessons from Open Theatre.

Open Theatre is a company whose focus is on nurturing and celebrating creativity, capability and agency, developed through connection.

It is widely loved throughout the school!





## ICE

## PENGUINS

This term, our topic was Mix It Up, and the children had lots of fun exploring food and cooking activities. They safely used a variety of tools for spreading, chopping, and mixing.

The children enjoyed mixing pancake batter, spreading jam and butter, and chopping fruit to make a delicious fruit salad, finished with custard or chocolate sauce toppings.

Through these hands-on experiences, the children developed their fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and early cooking skills. They also learned how to use tools safely and had opportunities to taste and explore a range of different foods.



## POLAR BEARS

This half term Polar bears have enjoyed having Sarah in for a weekly music lesson.

They have learnt how to play some instruments and how to join in as a class and wait for their turn.

Well done!

## WOLVES

Wolves have had a fantastic half term! As part of our topic, we explored colour through a range of exciting activities, including colour splash and creating our own colour wheels. The children loved observing how colours change and transform when mixed together. In our life skills lessons, we focused on using a variety of utensils, with the children enjoying hands-on cooking activities such as making smoothies and fruit salads. Well done Wolves!



## SEALS

This half term in seals have enjoyed their music sessions on Friday afternoons. The children in seals have explored lots of different instruments, playing them fast or slow to match the tempo of the music.



## WOODLANDS

### OWLS

In Owls class this half-term we have dived into the world of colour and creative expression, in connection with our topic Paint a picture.

We enjoyed mixing colours and letting our imagination and creative spark flow during My World lessons, whilst we embarked on an adventure through the story "Colours, Colours everywhere".

Our topic activities focused on people who help us, and we learnt the difference between strangers and safer strangers, as well as who our trusted adults are.



## BUTTERFLIES

In our life skills lessons this half term the class have been practicing their cutting skills. Children have developed this through play with play dough and then in the life skills flat, where they have made things such as fruit salads and bagels.

The children are now beginning to look at ways they can use their chopping skills to make a smoothie.



## SQUIRRELS

This half term we have had great fun swimming every Monday!

A lot of the children had not been swimming before and it was lovely to see their confidence grow week by week!

We were able to work on many skills as part of the trip such as road safety, personal care and of course water safety!



## FOXES



For Spring 1, foxes have enjoyed experimenting with different tools to paint, mixing colours to see what colour came out of it. We also used said paint to add the original colour to fruits, working on motor skills by controlling the paint brush.

We have also work on our life skills, making toasts and washing our dirty cloths and blankets with staff support.

We have been learning about safe adults, some of us have been working on recognising our class staff, and others working on recognising safe adults like doctors, police officers... and what they help us with.

Lastly, we have focused on our phonics/sound recognition skills, writing skills and our pattern matching or shape recognising skills. For the last week, we will focus on our counting and adding skills.

## HEDGEHOGS

This term has been a messy one in our class. The children have enjoyed exploring and creating new colours using paint. They used different materials to make marks and create artwork. We truly have Painted our own world!!!!



## LADYBIRDS

This half term Ladybirds have been looking at the topic "Paint My World".

We have enjoyed exploring different types of paint such as wet and powder paint.

We have been looking at what happens when we mix colours and experimenting with different tools.



## SAVANNAH

## ZEBRAS

Since the start of term, the children have been imitating and/or initiating actions during the weekly, non-verbal Open Theatre drama sessions. Furthermore, they have been challenged both to confidently negotiate the floor space while blindfolded as well as to use their observational skills in a large group.



## LIONS

In life skills Lions have been looking closely on how to keep their kitchens safe and clean, in order to make the healthiest and germ-free food possible. We have worked on our cutting and cleaning skills as well as exploring why certain foods are healthier than others. We've also enjoyed our science experiments testing what materials would best suit a Teddy Bear's raincoat! Children have been inspecting if a mater is water absorbent or water resistant? Transparent or opaque? Can the materials float or do they sink?

## ELEPHANTS

This term in Elephants we have been learning how to use kitchen utensils safely as part of our life skills curriculum. The children have been creating fruit salads by learning how to chop the fruit up. We have been very proud of how sensible and focused the children have been during the sessions. Maybe we have some future chefs in the making!



**FAMILY SUPPORT LINKS**

Many parents have expressed struggling with regulation and sensory needs.

For any parents that are struggling, this may help, you pay a £20 donation to the charity and receive £180 worth of items

You get..

Dark den

Bubble tube lamp

Shake glitter lamp

Ocean wave projector

Liquid tiles

Textured sensory balls

UV torch

A fidget toy

Slime liquid toy

Light up musical toy

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCGSP3Plus>

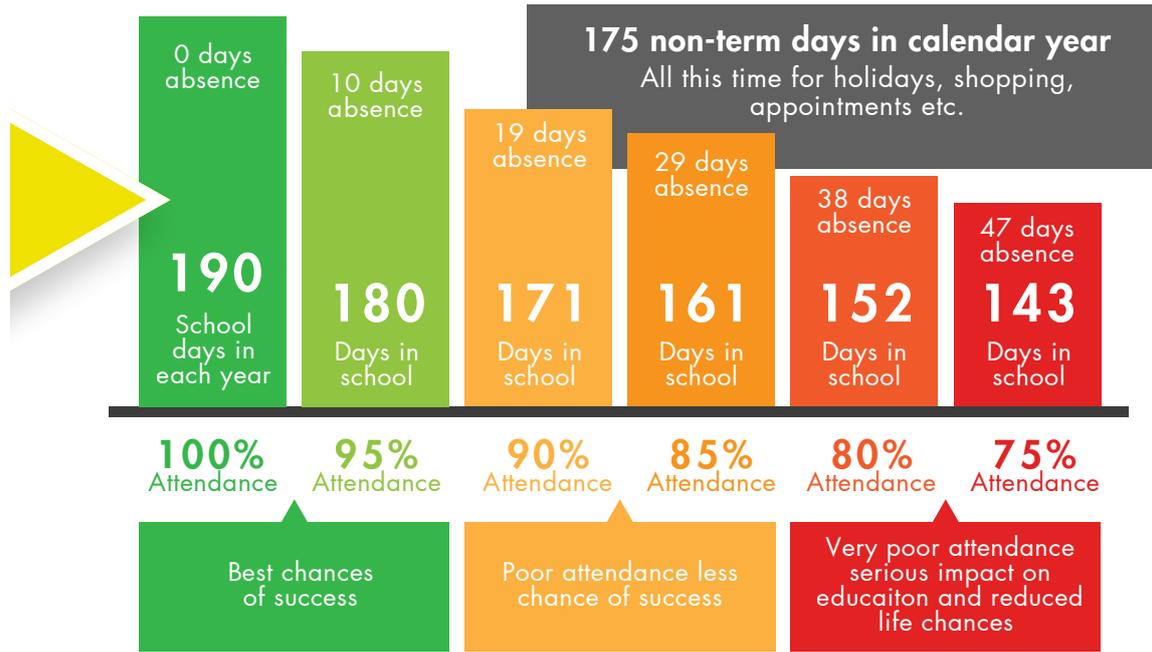
**365 DAYS IN A  
CALENDAR YEAR**



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.

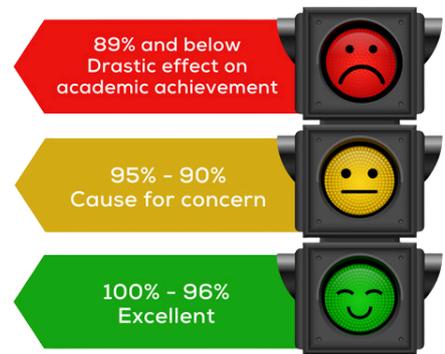


**Did you know?** A two week holiday in term means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%

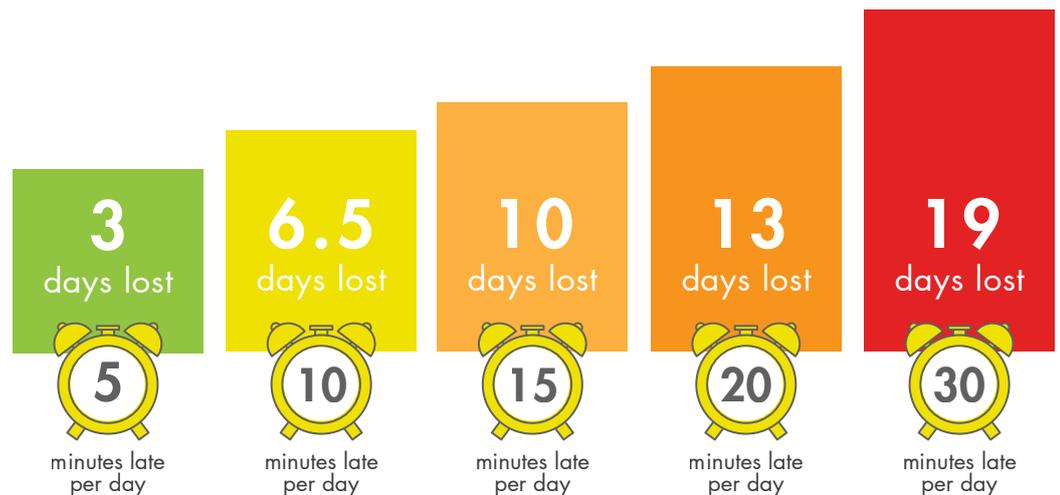
Children are required by law to attend 190 school days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

### 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    |



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



STRENGTHEN  
HARNESS  
INVEST  
NURTURE  
EMPOWER

### NEXT HALF TERM AT LEYCROFT

Topics for next half term:

- Seekers - On The Farm
- Explorers/ Unity - Chocolate
- Connectors - Space

### IMPORTANT DATES

23rd February 2026 - Return to School

25<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Evening

27th March- Term Ends For Easter Holidays

### 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**



[www.leycroft.fet.ac](http://www.leycroft.fet.ac)

T: 0121 566 6690 • E: [enquiry@leycroft.fet.ac](mailto:enquiry@leycroft.fet.ac)

