



THE OWL

November 2018 Autumn Term



Decorating Day – 30th November

We will be making decorations for the hall, the tree and public areas of the school, with a theme of winter animals. The children do this in mixed age groups and it is always useful to have some additional parent volunteers, both for the morning when the children are engaged in craft activities, and in the afternoon for assembling everything. If you would like to come in to help, for the morning, the afternoon, or all day, please could you fill in a



memo and put it into the secure box outside the office. If you are staying all day and would like a school lunch, which is fish fillet and chips, the cost per adult will be £3.35 payable in advance to the school office. We will need to know lunch numbers by Friday 23rd November. Please be aware this day is not suitable for younger children, so please make alternative arrangements.

Children do not need to wear uniform on decorating day but should be suitably dressed for craft activities and warmly enough to go outside to play. The afternoon will finish with a celebration assembly at 2.45pm and any children who have had a birthday are welcome to share it on that day or wait until the following Friday.

Occasional Day – Monday 3rd December

School will be closed on this day and we hope you enjoy a three day weekend before the Christmas rush begins.

Christmas cards

Some of you will have already begun to help children write cards. As in previous years, if any families would like to send a collective card to all staff, this will be displayed on the tree in the main entrance. The post box will be available from Tuesday 4th December.



Christmas parties

Parties for all our children will take place on Wednesday 19th with Early Years having games in the morning and Years 1-4 in the afternoon. Nursery children who do not normally stay for lunch, are able to do so on this day until 1.15pm. There is a charge of £2.25 for this, which should be paid to the school office. All children may come to school in party clothes on Wednesday but please make sure that they are warm enough to go outside to play and have appropriate footwear.



News from Reed First School Governors

The winter term is already well under way and as governors, we would like to welcome our new and current families back to Reed School. The Chair of Governors has been in school several times this term and on each occasion has been impressed with the pupils' kindness and enthusiasm to learn.

We also welcome three new Governors to our own team: Philip Blenkinsop and Louise Aries, both co-opted governors and Teresa Davidson as a parent governor, who bring with them valuable skills and experiences and they will have much to contribute to the Governing Body. We also say farewell to one of our longest serving governors, Peter McMeekin, who has retired from our governing body after 27 years of dedication to the school and we are grateful for his support.

The Governors met earlier this month and we spent time sorting out our own governance arrangements, like committee structures, terms of references and the membership of the two committees, where much of the more detailed planning, monitoring and evaluation goes on. As well as the occasional visits into school, we will now meet regularly throughout the school year. Although I appreciate it might seem a little early in the school year, we always value parents' feedback on how you feel the school is performing. Please, if it's been a while since you last went online to complete the short survey, or you might be doing it for the first time, it would be great if you

could find the time to 'refresh' the survey and share your views with us <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Following on from Mrs Harvey's announcement to retire at the end of the academic year, we have been working closely with Herts for Learning to plan and advertise for a new Headteacher. We will keep you updated on this in the next Owl newsletter.

September's Open Afternoon was a warm, welcoming occasion where we were able to showcase the very best of Reed School and celebrate how much this school has to offer. We would like to thank Mrs Harvey, as well as all the staff, pupils and FoRS members who contributed to such an enjoyable occasion, which we are sure will have impressed all those prospective parents who attended. We have much to be proud of!

Adverse Weather

Closure of the school is always a last resort and any decision will be taken after an assessment of risk and any guidance given by the local authority. If it is possible to give advance warning, you will be contacted by ParentMail or letter. Out of school hours, parents will be notified via the new notification system, please see below. Alternatively, parents can check the HCC website (<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk>) and listen for updates on local radio. Please do not telephone the radio stations directly as they cannot manage a large volume of calls from parents.



School Closure Notification System

Hertfordshire County Council have introduced a new school closure notification system, if parents have not yet signed up for this new system, please do so as soon as possible, at member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489

FoRS

Fireworks Fun: Thank you to everyone who joined us for Firework Fun on the village green. It was a great evening, with a bonfire worthy of Guy Fawkes himself. We made an amazing £392, which goes into the pot to ensure that the event can run again next year - great stuff!!

Reed Remembers: On Sunday 11th November, FoRS represented the school at the Armistice service in St Mary's Church. The children each made a poppy that was added to our very own "Flanders field" and was placed in front of the

memorial at the church. It was a very poignant and moving tribute to those who lost their lives one hundred years ago. All images of the display can be viewed on our Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/FriendsOfReedSchool/

Present Wrap: The FoRS fairies are busy stocking up their stall for this years Present Wrap on Friday 7th December. For those of you who aren't sure what this is, we hold a stall every year for the children to come and buy a gift for those important to them. Each child can buy up to 2 presents at £1.50 each, which they will then be helped to wrap. A letter has already been sent out in book bags. Please return the reply slip even if you do not want your child to participate - we'd hate to leave anyone out.

Christmas Hamper: Every year, we like to create a hamper that we raffle off for Christmas - full of lovely treats to fill your home with a little added festive sparkle. There will be a list on the FoRS board next week. If you would like donate an item, please add your name to the list, and bring it into school from the 4th December. The box for donations will be in the entrance hall.

FoRS meeting: The next FoRS meeting is on Friday 14th December, after drop off in the school hall. As a parent or carer, you are automatically a member of FoRS. If you'd like to know a little more about what we do and what's coming up, please come along. All are most welcome, and we do make a lovely cup of tea!

All that is left is to thank you all for your continued support. We really couldn't do it without you!

Merry Xmas

The FoRS team

Swimming

Swimming will resume on **Wednesday 16th** January for children in Years 1-4.

Baq2School

We collected an amazing 370kgs and we have received a cheque for £148.00

Jeans for Genes Day in September raised £55.50 and **Children in Need** last week raised £107.35

School admissions

Parents wishing to take up a Reception place for their child here must apply by 15th January regardless of whether they are already accessing our Nursery. Please make sure you complete the online application in good time. Similarly, parents of children in Year 4 need to apply for a place at their chosen Middle School by the same date. Apply online at

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Snacks in School

A few children have started to bring in snacks from home recently either at the beginning or end of the day. While we encourage the Junior children to bring in a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables to have at break time, we cannot allow any other food to be brought in to school for consumption at any other time.

Considerate driving and parking

A number of drivers are using our disabled space to turn their cars round. While most parents warn their children to stop, there is no kerb there so children sometimes run through. In order to keep everyone safe, please could you turn round at the junction further down the road. Thank you.

May we also ask parents not to park in the area in front of the railings. This area is for staff parking only as many of us leave after dark at this time of year. Many thanks.

Diary Dates

November 2018

22nd Individual School Photographs
23rd Kingswood deposit due
26th Nasal Flu Vaccination
27th LAST PE Club
28th LAST Swimming
29th LAST Bowls Club
30th Decorations Day
30th Library (3.30pm)
30th Wreath Making Workshop (Village Hall 7pm)

December 2018

1st Community Library (10am-noon)
3rd OCCASIONAL DAY SCHOOL CLOSED
4th Early Years Victorian Christmas Workshop
7th FoRS Present Wrap
11th Production Dress Rehearsal
12th Production Performance (2pm)
13th Production Performance (6pm)
14th Christmas Jumper Day
14th FoRS Meeting (9-10am)
14th Christmas Lunch
14th Library (3.30pm)
15th Community Library (10am-noon)
19th Party Day – non uniform day
20th Toy Morning & Movie Afternoon
21st - Celebration Assembly (9.15am)
- Carol Service at Reed Church (1.20pm)
- End of Term (2pm)

January 2019

7th INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

8th Term starts
11th FoRS Meeting (9am)
15th Reception & Middle School application deadline
16th Swimming starts

February 2019

18th – 22nd HALF TERM