

## The Owl – Autumn 2019

A very warm welcome to the first Owl of the new school year! I have been delighted to receive such a wonderful welcome myself. The children have been keen to get to know me more and I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting each class every day. I have particularly noticed how well our new children across the school have settled in. I have been told by many of the new families how they already feel part of the school – testament to our existing families, children and staff – thank you! As we all settle into the new routines, there is a real excitement in the school in the anticipation of what the year ahead will bring us.

The Owl will continue to be sent out every month but by parent mail only to help us to be a bit more environmentally friendly. It will keep you up to date with any whole school news and upcoming events. There will also be weekly reminders and updates via parent mail. You will receive an electronic copy of your child's class newsletter early next week.

I look forward to a busy term and thank you for the support you have already shown as part of our school community.

Best wishes,

Mrs Wittich

### The school day

A reminder that the bell for the start of the school day is rung at **8:45am**. We expect the children to be ready to go to class and begin their important early work at this time.

The gate to the playground will now be locked at **9:00am** as this is the time registers close. If you arrive late after this time you will need to take your child/ren to the office.

### Welcome Breakfast



A huge thank you to the FoRS team who put on a wonderful spread at breakfast time on Wednesday – what a treat! I hope that you enjoyed meeting more families.

## DIARY DATES

### September 2019

- 10th PE Club Starts (3.15pm)
- 18th Swimming Lessons Start Y1 – Y4
- 19th Gardening Club Starts (3.15pm)  
Letter to follow.
- 20th Jeans for Genes Day
- 20th Affinity Water Workshops (Infant and Junior Owls)
- 26th Schoolympics Y3+4
- 27th FoRS Committee Meeting (9am-10:30am)

### October 2019

- 4th Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's (7pm)
- 5th Community Library (10am-noon)
- 5th Open Morning at Reed First School (10am-2pm)
- 19th Bookworm Ball – Sheene Mill
- 22nd Parent Consultations (Times to be confirmed)

### HALF TERM

28th October – 1st November

## Celebration Assemblies

There will be a celebration assembly every Friday unless there are other events taking place which you will be told about in advance including new class assemblies (see below). At these assemblies, we will celebrate birthdays and any achievements made by children outside of school. Please make sure any certificates / medals and so on are given to the class teacher or Mrs Wittich on Friday mornings so that we are prepared.

At these assemblies, we will also be celebrating learning and children who are representing our school well. Each week, two children from each class will be chosen in advance to choose a piece of learning which they are proud of to share with the school. Parents will be told on the Wednesday of the same week.

We will also see each week who is getting a postcard home from our new post box. All of the adults in the school are looking out for children who stand out by showing our school values.



### Class assemblies

The teachers are looking forward to helping the children share their learning with friends and family in class assemblies. They will take part on the following dates at the usual Celebration Assembly times. We will also celebrate birthdays at these events. Everyone is welcome.

Infant Owls – 25th October

Junior Owls – 8th November

Early Years Owls – 22nd November



## Uniform

Please make sure that all uniform and bags are named. A reminder also that any hair shoulder length or longer should be tied back with plain black, brown or school colour bands and clips. All children should wear black school shoes keeping trainers for PE only. Please also ensure nails have no polish on them. We are also expecting all children to tuck their shirts in – they look so much smarter!



Mrs Wittich says: "What smart children you are - well done!"

## Open Day

This has been planned for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October between 10am and 2pm, where the whole community and future families can see what makes our school so special. As in previous years, FoRS will provide refreshments and the classrooms will be set up with activities and resources appropriate to each age group. If any of our older children would like to act as guides on the day, supervised by a school adult, I would be pleased to hear from them. I will also be inviting children who I feel will represent our school particularly well to join us. Any pupils participating in the Open Day will of course need to wear school uniform.



Do tell friends and family who could be interested!



## Swimming

Swimming starts on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September** for all children in Years 1-4. These sessions will run for 10 weeks. Please make sure your child has a coat every week. Children with longer than shoulder length hair must wear a swimming hat and even shorter hair must be held by a clip or hairband if it covers your child's eyes when wet. All earrings must be removed, as in other PE sessions. We suggest that girls wear trousers or short socks on swimming days as tights are a real challenge when trying to put them on after the swim.

## Jeans for Genes



Once again, we will be supporting this national fundraising campaign on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September**. This is a non-uniform day when children may come to school wearing jeans or other denim clothes for a donation to the charity.

## **Affinity Water Workshops**

We will be taking part in free sessions offered by Affinity Water in the Infant and Junior classes on **Friday 20th September**.

Infants will understand how the water cycle works through role play, gain knowledge of the amount of water that common activities use. They will also learn practical ways they can reduce their personal water usage at home and at school and use 'scientific skills' to find out how water is cleaned and made safe to drink, and establish which items commonly cause blockages in waste water drains. Juniors will survey our school and collect data to identify how and where water is being used and how it is potentially being wasted. They will consider ways that the school can be more water efficient to save water, energy and money. They will also design, build and test a water supply network, simulating a real life engineering project.

Any exciting experience which we look forward to telling you about.

## **Harvest Festival**

As in previous years, the school has once again been invited to take part in the service at St Mary's Church, Reed at **7pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October**. Children should arrive at the Church at **6.50pm**, dress warmly for the service **in school uniform**. Please let the school know if you are unable to come.

The children are asked to decorate a shoe box sized container filled with fruit, vegetables or tinned produce and bring it into school in the morning. There will be a prize for the best decorated box in each class, which will be judged in school earlier in the day. All donations of produce are then raffled off at the Harvest supper in the Village Hall afterwards and the proceeds given to charity. There will be a Celebration Assembly at the usual time on this day and the boxes will be displayed before being taken to the church.



## **And finally...**

Look out for our youngest Owls in a special souvenir 'First Day of School' edition of The Hertfordshire Mercury in October.

