



THE OWL



December 2016

Autumn Term

Diary Dates

December

- 19th: Festive Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
- 20th Non uniform day – Party day
- 21st - Celebration Assembly (9.10am)
- Carol Service at Reed Church (1.15pm)
- End of Term (2pm)

January 2017

- 5th Term starts
- 11th Swimming starts
- 13th & 14th Library will re-open
- 15th Reception & Middle School application deadline
- 31st Kingswood: First Instalment due

February 2017

- 7th Safer Internet Day
- 10th Non-uniform Day in support of HomeStart
- 13th – 17th **HALF TERM**

End of term

Celebration Assembly on Wednesday 21st December will be at 9.10am followed by mulled wine and mince pies for parents and carers. Term ends at 2pm, where children are to be collected from St Mary's Church, Reed. They do not need to bring book bags to school on the last day. We hope to send everything home by Friday 16th December. It would be helpful if you could send in a plastic carrier bag with your child's name on for any additional cards or gifts to come home. Please continue to read to and with your child and encourage them to read from a wide range of material in the holiday.



Christmas lunch and parties

Christmas lunch for those who normally have a school lunch is on Monday 19th. Parties for all our children will take place on Tuesday 20th with Early Years having games in the morning and Years 1-4 in the afternoon. Nursery children who are staying for the party lunch should be collected at 1pm. All children may come to school in party clothes on Tuesday but please make sure that they are warm enough to go outside to play and have appropriate footwear.



Staffing

Mr O'Hare continues to make progress and is hoping to be well enough to go home soon. He has been signed off for the next 3 months and it is not known yet when he may be able to return to work. Mr Richardson has agreed to continue to teach the Junior class next term in order to provide continuity for the children. We have sent a card and gifts to Mr & Mrs O'Hare wishing them both a restful Christmas and have received a Christmas card from Mr O'Hare this week. You will continue to be updated if/when any further information regarding his health is known. Mrs Lawn has returned from maternity leave and will be in school on Monday mornings. She will be working with small groups of children and will occasionally teach in class.

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 (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

Swimming

Swimming will resume on **Wednesday 11th January** for children in Years 1-4.

Poppy Appeal

We collected a total of £32.45 which went against the district total of £4672.22. Thank you for your contributions.



Childcare Sufficiency Survey

Hertfordshire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient childcare places for children of all ages. They would like parents' feedback on the childcare options available for their family. Please could you complete the survey below:

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/Sufficiencyparentsurvey/>



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

Term Dates

Some of you are anxious for the term dates for the next academic year. The prescribed dates allow schools to allocate an additional 5 INSET days, as usual and unusually this time, 6 occasional days (holiday dates). We are still finalising these and trying to synchronise with other local schools but in the first instance, parents may assume that children will not return in September 2017 until the week beginning 04.09.2017. There will be a 3 day weekend at the beginning of December, with Friday 1st December being a non-school day.

Bag2School

We collected 230kg of textiles and we have received a cheque for £92.

Christmas Productions Collection

Thank you for all your donations from both the main school and Early Years productions, we have raised more than £264.34 for Save the Children and will again be collecting in aid of Save the Children and Friends of Reed Church at the Church on Wednesday.



Family Picture Book Concert – Max the Brave

Ed Vere's vivid children's book comes alive in this delightful concert, with music performed by Britten Sinfonia. Suitable for ages 3-7.

Friday 17th February, 2pm & 4pm, St Andrew's Hall, Norwich.

Saturday 18th February, 2pm & 4pm, Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden.

Sunday 19th February, 2pm & 4pm, Barbican, London.

And finally...

The staff and governors would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support of the school throughout this year. We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas holiday and look forward to welcoming the children back on **Thursday 5th January 2017**.





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New! Parents Walk and Talk

Working together for a calmer, happier home life

For all mums, dads, step-parents and carer grandparents

*An opportunity to meet and talk to an experienced
Family Adviser - Helen Meridew*

Royston Heath Café from 09:30 - 11:00

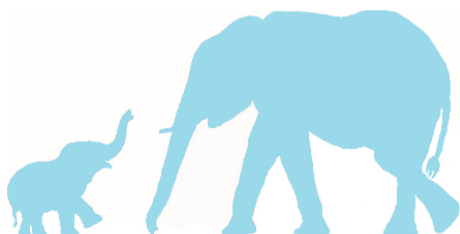
Tuesdays 24th Jan & 7th Feb

21st Feb & 7th Mar

- **FREE** tea or coffee (1 per person)
- Buggies and dogs welcome
- No pre booking needed
- Positive Parenting ideas
- Come and share your own ideas too
- Informal, friendly and fun



Small changes can make a **HUGE** difference



hmeridew@btinternet.com

www.meridewhub.co.uk

07787 734973

