



THE OWL



Early May 2016 Summer Term

Diary Dates: Please check the website for updated diary dates.

May 2016

6th Celebration Assembly & 100 Club Draw (2.45pm)

7th Bookworm Ball (7.30pm)

12th Kwik Cricket Festival, Years 3 & 4 (1.30-3pm)

13th Bag2School Collection

13th Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)

20th Parent Governor Nomination Deadline (9am)

20th Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)

23rd Walk to School Week

27th Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)

**30th May – 3rd June HALF TERM
– SCHOOL CLOSED**

June 2016

6th Children return to school

10th Celebration Assembly & 100 Club Draw (2.45pm)

21st Whole School Photographs

Clubs

We are pleased to continue to offer extra-curricular activities at no additional cost to parents and thank everyone for their prompt responses. Please be aware that our expectations for children's behaviour at our clubs is high. In order that the experiences are pleasurable both for children and the staff and volunteers who give their time freely, children who persistently show a lack of respect and consideration for others will miss the following week and run the risk of being asked to leave the club entirely.

Could all pupils bring a change of old clothes and old shoes/wellies to nature/gardening club please.

Maypole dancing and singing

We have been asked to provide a Maypole dancing demonstration at the Strawberry Tea at St Mary's Church on Saturday 25th June and invited to send a choir of children to participate in a 'Songs of Praise' type evensong on Sunday 26th June. All children, from Reception to Year 4, will be learning to dance round the Maypole in school throughout May to give us the optimum chance to be able to produce some intricate ribbon patterns on the day. It would be lovely to see as many families there as can make the dates, please.



Also...

The church will be decorated for the weekend of the Strawberry tea and the school, along with other local groups, has been asked to produce a floral display for one of the windows. If anyone would be interested in helping some children with this, either with ideas, floral resources or on a practical basis, please get in touch.

School library project

Plans for building our proposed library have now been drafted, at no cost to the school or FORS, and I have spoken with a District Council officer who has assured me that the project is feasible. Raising sufficient funds remains the challenge but the forthcoming Bookworm Ball will certainly line the pot and we are currently exploring a number of other sources. A community aspect to the building would greatly enhance our chances of external funding but this will be organised to take place out of normal school hours. We have been donated a large number of books in order to set up a community 'book swap'. I will be trialling this on one afternoon per week from 4.30pm in the hall after half term. This will tell us whether there is a call for something like this either within the village or among parents. More specific information will be sent out later.



Parent View

It is now almost three years since our last inspection by Ofsted. Due to our 'good' grading, we could now expect a 'light touch' inspection by HMI at any time and the inspector will want to know the views of parents. Although this might not happen this term I would like you to be aware that you can access [Parent View](#) at any time, updating your views if you wish. There is also a link on our website under the Useful Links in the Parent Section. On the main Parent View page, click on the orange puzzle piece – 'Give your views now' then click 'register now' to create an account. Your views are anonymous and I would ask parents to do this now as, taking your views into account will help us, as a school, to deal with any issues as they arise.



Thank you for your time.

Hertfordshire Improvement Partner

Many of you will have seen Peter Browning, our Improvement Partner, outside with me at the beginning of school in the first week of term. Mr Browning visits the school regularly and helps me to monitor standards, progress and the effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation. Following his recent visit, when he spent time in all of the classrooms and had lunch with the children, Mr Browning praised the efforts of the children, staff and governors in raising and maintaining high standards and confirmed the school's judgment that we remain a 'good' school in all categories with some elements of 'outstanding' features.



Staffing

The process to arrange staffing throughout the school for September is now underway. Having appointed Miss Fryer to teach until the end of the summer term to ensure the stability and continuity for the children in Y1 and Y2, she will be moving on in July. Miss Fryer has done a superb job; she has established clear routines, ensured good progress and enthused the children with a range of topics. I expect to be able to give definitive information about who will be teaching in all classes shortly after the half term holiday.

Mrs Dinsdale has been gradually reducing her hours with us this term as she has been working with a child with significant special needs in another school every afternoon. The school has now offered her, at short notice, a full time post with immediate effect so Friday 29th April was her last day with us, although she remains as a parent until the end of term. We are arranging for Mrs Dinsdale to spend a day here on the Friday before half term so that we can arrange a proper 'goodbye'. I would like to thank her for her work in the Infant class and to wish her every success in her new post.

Sports day

The date for this has been set as Thursday 30th June. As in previous years, the Early Years children, Nursery and Reception, will have their sports day in the morning. The children from Reception to Year 4 will have sports activities and races in the afternoon. This means that the children in Reception will be involved in both. Parents and other family members are invited to watch either or both events. More details will be available nearer the time. Please make sure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times as we will be taking opportunities to practise when the weather permits. Also, as the weather improves, the children will be able to use the climbing frame, for which they need trainers or plimsolls, more frequently.



FORS News

As the weather warms up and the sun finally makes an appearance, the FORS calendar ramps up with loads of activities to fill your calendars with.

We'd like to thank everyone who came and supported us at the Royston May Fayre. It was lovely to see so many of you.

This weekend sees one of the most glamorous events in our calendar. For the first time, the FORS team are hosting a black tie ball this Saturday, complete with dinner, dancing and a silent auction. It is one of the most ambitious events we have undertaken, and we can't wait to see you all glammed up in your finery on what is looking like being a beautiful May evening. All proceeds from this event will be added to our library fund, to really kick start our fundraising drive with a bang. Can't make it? FORS have a wonderful array of items in their silent auction, from Champagne tea at the Ritz that you can bid on by proxy before the evening itself. More details of these items will follow.

Bags2school will be collected on Friday 13th May. For every kilo of unwanted clothes and shoes you donate, FORS receives a charitable donation. Anything you can give is most gratefully received. Donation sacks have already been sent out in the children's book bags, but should you require any more, you can pick these up in the school entrance hall.



And lastly a date for your diaries. On Saturday 25th June, FORS are joining forces with the ladies at St Mary's Church to co-host their annual Strawberry Tea. This year will be bigger than ever, with a BBQ, raffle, drinks tent and cake stall all held in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Reed, whilst the church itself will be decked out in gorgeous blooms for its flower festival. An event not to be missed - add it to your diaries today! Enjoy the sunshine!

FORS Wine Appeal

FORS needs your help! This Saturday at the Bookworm Ball, FORS would like to hold a wine tombola. If you have a bottle of wine lurking in your wine rack, that you are happy to donate to a worthy cause, FORS would love to be the recipient! Please leave any bottles in the office, to ensure that nothing falls into the wrong small hands.

Many thanks

The FORS Team



Buntings

Those of you who have used our after-school club run by Buntings will be aware that we now have a new play leader, Michelle Bamford, here. The children will call her Mrs Bamford, in line with the usual address for adults working in the school. Cooking, which has proved popular, will continue to be available on Tuesdays and other specific activities are planned for other days. I will continue to cover Fridays at least until the end of term.

KS1 National Tests

You will be aware, following extensive media coverage, that the government has introduced new tests for children in Year 2 this year. Our school was selected to participate in the pilot of these tests for reading at the end of April and this was observed by an external representative. These tests may be administered at any time throughout May and have been planned to take place here in the week beginning 9th May. In order to reassure our children in Y2 and to prepare them adequately, we have run a series of practices at times over the past few weeks. As a school, we have always run assessment tests at this time of year in order to moderate and inform our teacher assessment. We do all we can to minimise any potential stress to the children and just refer to the tests as independent work sheets. Please make an appointment to see either me or Miss Fryer if you require any further information.

Y2/Y3 Sleepover

In order to prepare our Junior children for a residential trip in Year 3 or Year 4, we have run a sleepover for Year 2 and Year 3 children in the school during the previous year. This gives the children the experience of sleeping away from home in familiar surroundings with familiar adults before they go away next year. More details will be sent out to those concerned but I thought it would be useful for parents to have the date which is Friday 8th July, 6pm, until 2pm on Saturday 9th July. An information meeting for parents when you can ask questions will take place in the week after half term.



Summer Uniform

It is lovely to see some summer dresses in school now that the summer term has started. Hopefully the weather will catch up and the sun will shine more often soon. Please be aware that, although the shade varies between suppliers, the dresses should be pink small gingham check. Maroon school cardigans or jumpers are still the school uniform and should be worn and brought to school even in the warmest weather.



We expect all children to have a named hat or cap to protect them from the sun. If possible please apply sun cream before school when needed. If you wish your child to apply cream at lunchtime under adult supervision, please send it in a clearly named bottle, for their exclusive use, which should be given to your child's teacher. In case of the odd rain shower please make sure your child has a waterproof jacket in school.

