



THE OWL

February 2016 Spring Term



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

February 2016

9th Safer Internet Day
10th Snowdrop visit
10th FORS Meeting (8pm)
12th Home Start dress down day
12th Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)
15th-19th HALF TERM
26th Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)

March 2016

3rd World Book Day
4th Mother's Day morning
4th Celebration Assembly & 100 Club Draw (2.45pm)
11th Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)
11th Youth Makes Music Concert (5.30pm)
18th Sport Relief Day
18th Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)
21st Last Music & Astronomy Clubs
22nd Last Zumba Club
23rd Last Recorder Club
23rd Parent Consultations
24th Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Festival (1.30-3pm)
24th Additional Early Years Parent Consultations
25th Good Friday – SCHOOL CLOSED
28th Easter Monday – SCHOOL CLOSED
30th Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Festival (9.30-11.45am)
31st Year 1-4 Scooter Training

April 2016

1st Celebration Assembly & 100 Club Draw (9.05am)
1st End of term (2pm)
18th INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
19th Children return to school

Home Start – Dress Down Day

Children may come to school in their own clothes on Friday 12th February for a suggested donation of £1. All donations will be sent to Home-Start to help this local charity provide support to local families within their own homes.

Celebration Assembly on Friday will follow a Snowflake Tea, where snowflake biscuits and cakes made by the children will be on sale in support of Home-Start. It will be lovely to see you.



Security

In order to increase site security, we are implementing a number of revised procedures after half term:

- The brown side gate will be locked at 9.15am.
- The Early Years children who go home at lunchtime will be brought to the front door for collection at 12 noon.
- There will be a separate bell by the front door for Early Birds, please ring this to gain entrance to the school, as the front door will be locked.
- With immediate effect, the classroom doors will be opened by the class teacher at 8.45am when the first bell has been rung. In case of heavy rain or extreme cold the doors may be opened slightly earlier.

Infant Open Class

Since Miss Fryer did not start teaching the Infant class until October, she has not had the usual opportunities to get to know the parents of children in her class. As a trial next half term, Miss Fryer will be available every Friday after school until 3.45pm for informal chats.

Early Birds

We are pleased that the Early Bird facility is proving useful for working parents but we are only able to accommodate 8 children. Please ensure you book your child in and only for the days that are needed as we are operating at full capacity on some days. This service is at no charge and was specifically set up for the benefit of working parents and to accommodate unforeseen events.

Happy News

We have been very pleased to hear the news that Simon & Daniella Lawn's new baby son was born safely in the early hours of 9th February. Frederick Jonty Lawn will be known as Freddie and weighs 7lbs.

World Book Day 3rd March

Can children please come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Please note, there will be no need for a donation, it's purely for fun!



Parent/teacher consultations

These will take place on Wednesday 23rd March for all parents with an additional session on Thursday 24th for parents of children in Mrs Tansley's class. This additional afternoon has been arranged to accommodate the larger numbers in our Early Years class. Appointments will be made nearer the time.

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers

There is a collection box in the school reception area for these vouchers.

Swimming

Swimming will continue after half term on **Wednesday 24th** February for children in Years 1-4, the last lesson will be on 23rd March.



School Swimathon

We are taking part in the national school swimathon, which is a swimming programme for school children, encouraging them to **improve technique and confidence**, culminating in a challenge to swim further than ever before. The Swimathon Foundation and the ASA are helping pupils across the country to 'Swim their Best' in School Swimathon 2016. We will use their national curriculum weekly swim lessons throughout the 2016 Spring Term to improve **pupils' swimming ability**. This will build up to a final session where pupils challenge themselves to swim further than ever before. Please see schoolswimathon.org for more information.

All children in year 1-4 will be bringing home a swimathon swim cap as motivation to swim more. Please be aware that these caps are made from latex.

FORS News

This damp and blustery February is doing little to dampen FORS enthusiasm this term, as we look forward to a number of exciting events to fill your diaries.

Friday focuses our attention on the importance of helping others, and as Home-Start is the chosen charity for our Total-O-Meter challenges this year, we're combining dress down day with a Snowflake Tea. Thursday morning is the deadline for our "Do you wanna build a snowflake?"

Total-O-Meter challenge and we will be decorating the hall with the children's amazing handicrafts to help celebrate the day. Continuing the theme, on Thursday the children will be baking snowflake cookies and cakes to sell to raise funds at a Snowflake Tea. Refreshments will be served from 2pm before Celebration Assembly on Friday and the remaining bounty will be available for purchase at



collection time outside the school at 3:15pm. Donations for this very worthy, local charity in return for a day without uniform will be very welcome.



Do you know your Edison from your Einstein? FORS would like to invite you to challenge your little grey cells and join them for their annual quiz night on Saturday 19th March in Reed Village Hall. Tickets are £8 per head, with tables of between 4 and 8 people, and will include a ploughman's supper. The fun kicks off at 7:30 pm, and there will also be a bar and raffle. For more information, or to book a table, please call Charlotte on 01763 849454.

Thursday 3rd March is an important day in the FORS calendar this year - World Book Day brings with it the launch of our fundraising drive for the new library project. We would love your children to come dressed as their favourite book character and have planned book-related activities for that day. The core value of this project is to help instil a love of books in our children that sets their imagination alight and shows them the power of reading, in a world where anything is possible. Our World Book Day fundraising launch is just the beginning to help make that library dream a reality. More details to follow soon!

And finally, the big event in our fundraising calendar will be FORS' first ever "Bookworm Ball". Our black-tie ball will be a glamorous event and will include a three course meal, disco, and a silent auction, all held at the beautiful Sheene Mill on Saturday 7th May from 7:30pm. Tickets are £55, and tables can seat between 8 and 10 people. All proceeds from this event will go towards the library fundraising project. To reserve your spot or for more information, please contact us either via email at fors@reed.herts.sch.uk or call Charlotte on 07812 491737.



It's a busy term but fun term ahead. We can't wait!

The FORS team

Clubs

The week beginning Monday 21st March will be the last week of all clubs.

Lost property

There is a box at the bottom of the wooden corner book shelf in reception for lost property. If a lost item is not named, it will be placed in this box, which will be emptied every half term. Please check this box if your child has lost an item of clothing.

Tag rugby

Coaching sessions will continue for the Junior class next half term leading up to the Tag Rugby Festival for village schools at Meridian School on 30th March. We have also been invited to take part in a tag rugby festival on the afternoon of Thursday 24th March at Greneway School. We have been offered transport to get the children to Greneway but parents will need to collect them afterwards. More details for both events will be sent out after the holiday.

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 should check the HCC website (www.hertsdirect.org) or there is a link on our website under Parents – Useful Links, the school's Facebook page 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.



Messages and procedures

In the case of your child being absent from school, either for illness or for any other reason, please make sure that the school is informed by 9.30am (or before if it is a planned absence). This should be a telephone call and a message can be left, if necessary, on the answering machine. I am currently required to monitor absence more closely and it would be helpful to have a reason for the absence in writing or by email on your child's return to school. As last term, Mrs Scally does not work on Wednesdays and Mrs Kinghorn works from 10am until 2pm. Please, therefore, continue to make use of the memo system and secure deposit box where possible and if the office is unmanned.



Rucksacks

A new rucksack style bag is now available from the school office for £5.60. Our intention, since we already have school book bags, was that this would be useful for PE and/or swimming kit and occasional school trips. We are aware that some parents have already purchased the rucksack as an alternative book bag but these will not fit in the children's drawers. If cloakroom space becomes an issue with children using the rucksacks for multiple purposes, we may need to restrict their use to PE and swimming only in the future.



Used Stamps

Just a reminder for all those extra Christmas stamps; there is a box in the entrance for used stamps in aid of the MS Society. Please cut or tear them from the envelope leaving about a 1cm border.

