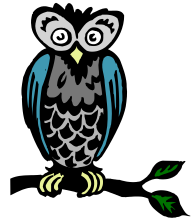




THE OWL

January 2016 Spring Term



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

January 2016

4th School Closed – INSET Day
5th Term starts
8th Tenor Horn lessons start
8th Celebration Assembly & 100 Club Draw (2.45pm)
13th FORS welcome breakfast (8am)
13th Swimming lessons start
15th Reception & Middle School application Deadline
15th Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)
18th Music Club starts (3.15pm)
18th Astronomy Club starts (6pm)
19th Zumba Club starts (3.15pm)
20th Recorder Club starts (12.45pm)
21st Mighty Roast Dinner
22nd Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)
29th Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)

February 2016

5th Celebration Assembly & 100 Club Draw (2.45pm)
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)
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 Additional Early Years Parent Consultations
25th Good Friday – SCHOOL CLOSED
28th Easter Monday – SCHOOL CLOSED
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

Happy New Year

Welcome back to both staff and families. It has been lovely to hear about how the children have spent their Christmas holidays and to see them return keen to learn. This year, classes are covering the curriculum through different topics. An information leaflet to inform parents what the children will be learning will be sent out early next week.

2016

Thank you...

Although the end of last term now seems such a long way away, I would like to thank you once again for supporting our end of term events and for your generosity when we collected for the Salvation Army and at the carol service. Having given half of the collection to the Friends of Reed Church, we were able to send an amazing £107.84 to Save the Children. Thank you to Paul Harrison for doing this on our behalf.

The staff would also like to join with me in thanking you for your generous Christmas gifts. We all appreciate your thoughtfulness.



Staffing

As reported in a Parentmail message earlier this week, Mrs Gray has now resigned from our school and Miss Fryer will be the Infant class teacher until the summer holiday, or possibly longer. Miss Fryer will be teaching the class on four days each week and Mrs Rand will be teaching the children all day on Wednesdays. Now that Mrs Lawn has started her second maternity leave, Mrs Harvey will teach the Junior class on Thursday mornings to allow Mr O'Hare to be released for planning, preparation and assessment.

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.

Swimming

Swimming will resume on **Wednesday 13th January** for children in Years 1-4.



FORS News

2016 - The Year of the Library

Welcome back! We hope your days have been merry and bright this Christmas. FORS would like to wish you all a very prosperous New Year and invite you to join them for breakfast on Wednesday 13th January. From 8am, we will be in the school hall with a vast array of breakfast delicacies and a very large pot of coffee to help start your day - and indeed your year - off in the right way. Why not bring your children and meet some of our other



parents over a croissant and a coffee before drop off, or pop in for a child-free chat when the school day starts? No such thing as a free lunch? Well maybe not - but this breakfast is most definitely on us. Our invite is open to absolutely everyone - parents, carers, siblings - even the milkman! So why not join us and welcome in the New Year in style.



January brings with it not one but two requests from the FORS team. The Elves Christmas Wrap box is still out in the entrance hall and should you have received one too many pairs of socks, another box of smellies that you can't abide, or a cookbook when you're no Delia, FORS would love to be the proud recipients of your Christmas faux pas.

The second request is a collection for the homeless of Cambridge. Jimmy's night shelter receives a large amount of donations over the festive period, but sadly these decline in January when the weather typically turns. Should you have any of the following things left over from Christmas, please donate them to our post-Chrimbo hamper, and the FORS team will ensure that it goes directly to the guests of Jimmy's night shelter. The list includes:

Coffee; drinking chocolate; squash/juice; sugar; milk; butter/margarine; cooking oil; gravy granules; bread; fresh fruit and veg; canned soups, meat, fruit and veg; biscuits and cakes, jellies; quick dessert whips.

2016 is a big year for us. Over the last few years, FORS have paid for many things behind the scenes - coaches for the whole school trip, the Christmas panto, additional classroom resources to name but a few. We'd like to focus our efforts on a bigger project and so this year we are launching a huge fundraising drive to build an all-purpose library for the school. In a digital age, it is easy for the beauty of books to become lost and we want to ensure our children continue to appreciate what joy can be found to get lost in the world of reading. Launching on World Book Day on March 3rd, FORS intend to throw a variety of events to help raise funds to make this dream a



reality.

With this in mind, FORS are holding one of their biggest and most glamorous events ever - a black tie ball, aptly named 'The Bookworm Ball' that will be held in Sheene Mill in Melbourn. This will include a 3 course dinner, dancing and a silent auction and will take place on Saturday 7th May. More information to follow but be sure to save the date!

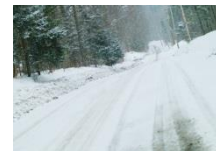
And lastly a quick note to everyone who shopped online via the Giving Machine this Christmas. One small click from you made a huge difference to us. Thank You!

Here's to a very happy and productive 2016.

The FORS Team.

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.



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.

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.



Reminder

For those of you who pay for a school lunch, invoices have already been sent out. Prompt payment for these and swimming, if applicable, would be appreciated. We have tried to ease the pressure on finances at this time of year by making no charge for our after-school activities. As always, if you have any difficulty meeting any payment, please make an appointment to see me.

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.



Clubs

Thank you for your speedy clubs responses. As stated in the letter, I would be very keen to hear from anyone who would like to support or even run an after-school activity.

Tag rugby and multiskills

Years 3 and 4 will be starting tag rugby sessions with Kevin Green on Thursdays next week and they will be taking part in a tag rugby festival later in the term. Years 1 and 2 will be having a multiskills session with Lewis Fitzgerald on Fridays until half term. They will be going outdoors whenever possible, so please make sure that your child has their PE kit, including a sweatshirt or fleece and joggers, in school. At this time of year, trainers provide better grip and more protection for outdoor PE than plimsolls so it would be useful to have a pair in school for these sessions if possible.

Dr Rabbit tooth defenders

The children will be bringing home a dental health kit which contains a toothbrush, a toothpaste sample together with an oral health leaflet. This is to promote the importance of oral health in children.



Parenting Course - Royston & Villages Children's Centre, Burns Road, Royston SG8 5EQ. Monday evenings 18th January-21st March, 7-9pm. This programme offers parents ideas and strategies to help their family and children build confidence and self-esteem, deal with new situations, cope with fears, anxiety and worries and lots more. Please see the poster on the noticeboard. To book a place call 01763 273008.

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.

