



# THE OWL



Late May 2016

Summer Term

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

## May 2016

23<sup>rd</sup> Walk to School Week

27<sup>th</sup> Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)

**30<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June HALF TERM  
– SCHOOL CLOSED**

## June 2016

6<sup>th</sup> Children return to school and clubs start

10<sup>th</sup> Sleepover Meeting for Parents (9am)

10<sup>th</sup> Celebration Assembly & 100 Club Draw (2.45pm)

10<sup>th</sup> Library Book Swap (3.30-4.30pm)

11<sup>th</sup> Library Book Swap (10am-12)

17<sup>th</sup> FORS Father's Day Sweetie Stall (9am)

17<sup>th</sup> Library Book Swap (3.30-4.30pm)

18<sup>th</sup> Library Book Swap (10am-12)

18<sup>th</sup> Buntingford Carnival

21<sup>st</sup> Whole School Photographs

24<sup>th</sup> Library Book Swap (3.30-4.30pm)

25<sup>th</sup> Library Book Swap (10am-12)

25<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Flower Festival & Strawberry Tea

26<sup>th</sup> Evensong at St Mary's Church

27<sup>th</sup> Last Ocarina Club

28<sup>th</sup> Last Zumba Club

29<sup>th</sup> Last Recorder & Art Club

30<sup>th</sup> Sports Day (EY in morning, Rec-Year 4 in afternoon)

30<sup>th</sup> Last Nature/Gardening Club

## July 2016

1<sup>st</sup> Celebration Assembly & 100 Club Draw (2.45pm)

1<sup>st</sup> Library Book Swap (3.30-4.30pm)

2<sup>nd</sup> Library Book Swap (10am-12)

6<sup>th</sup> Year 3 & 4 Cricket Tournament (1pm)

8<sup>th</sup> Year 2 & 3 Sleepover

11<sup>th</sup> Year 3 Performing Arts Day at Meridian School

14<sup>th</sup> Transition Day

14<sup>th</sup> Meet The Teacher (5.30-7.30pm)

15<sup>th</sup> Whole School Trip

19<sup>th</sup> Dress Rehearsal Leavers' Play (9.10am)

20<sup>th</sup> Leavers' Play (2pm)

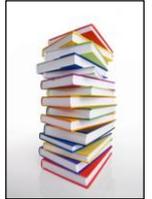
21<sup>st</sup> Leavers' Play (6pm)

22<sup>nd</sup> Leavers' Do (1.15pm)

22<sup>nd</sup> End of Term (2pm)

## School library project

In order to maximise the chance for both parents and the wider community to participate in our 'book swap' library trial, I have decided to run two sessions for four weeks next half term. The library books will be available in the school hall following Friday assemblies, exclusively for parents and their families, staff and those who attend the assembly. This will be for an hour from 3.30pm starting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June. In addition, the school hall will be opened from 10am until 12 noon on Saturday mornings starting on 11<sup>th</sup> June for anyone in the local community, including parents and children of the school. I will be on the school site every Saturday during the trial which is aimed at assessing the local demand as well as raising the profile of our fundraising project. Leaflets will be distributed in Reed but if you know of anyone else who might be interested, please pass on the details. The last sessions will be 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July.



## Whole school trip

A seaside trip to Walton-on-the-Naze has been organised for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July for the whole school. The coach will leave school at about 9.15am and we will not be returning until 5pm in order to make the most of the day. Permission slips and more details will follow after the half term holiday.



## School meal

In line with the rest of the Royston schools, we will be increasing the cost of our Junior meal in September to £2.35 per day.

## Free School Meals

If you believe you may be entitled to benefit related free school meals, please apply at [www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals).

## Nursery lunches

Our Nursery children who will be entering Reception in September will be staying for lunch next half term. We are very proud of our dining system and I know that the older children will help them to feel comfortable and to enjoy this new experience.

## **Governor election**

The closing date for the election of a new Parent Governor is Monday 6<sup>th</sup>



June. Ballot papers may be returned up to 3.15pm when the votes will be opened and counted. The ballot papers may be left in the school office or in the secure box on the Monday. Alternatively, if you are passing over the next week while the school is closed, papers may be posted in the box on the wall by the front door. Thank you to those of you who have already voted.

## **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.

## **Work experience pupils**

Next half term, we look forward to welcoming two secondary school students on work experience. Besides helping them to understand the world of work, the school will gain from their youth and enthusiasm. The students will be briefed about our expectations and monitored while they are on the school site.

## **Parentmail**

We have the option, at a cost to the school of £25 per month, to have our own personalised Parentmail app for your smart phone. Could you please let the school office know if you believe this would help the school to home communication, or you feel the communication is sufficient with our current arrangements.

## **Y2/Y3 Sleepover**

An information meeting for parents of children in Y2 and Y3 has been arranged for 9am on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June.



If you are unable to be there, please ask someone else to collect any paperwork or to ask questions on your behalf. Alternatively, make an appointment to see me at another time.

## **FORS News**

A fabulous month for FORS

May has definitely proved to be a great month for the FORS team. Not only did the sun finally make an appearance, but it picked the Bookworm Ball to provide us with the most beautiful weather of the year so far. It set the scene for a spectacular night, starting with drinks by the lake, followed by an amazing three course meal and dancing into the night. The evening was such a success that it managed to raise £5,338.50 for the library fund, which has made a huge dent in our fundraising target. We'd like to thank everyone who came and supported us, and we hope you had as much fun as we did!

But it hasn't stopped there. Thank you to everyone who donated their unwanted clothes to our Bags2school drive. We collected 200kg of textiles and raised £80.00 in the process.

June is shaping up to be just as eventful, with Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June being another date for your diaries. At midday, FORS will start their annual treasure hunt from the school, leading you around the village following a series of themed clues, before ending up at the Strawberry Tea at St Mary's church. Treasure hunt entry is £2 per adult and 50p for every child aged 3 and over.



The Strawberry Tea itself will begin at 12 midday at St Mary's church, and continue through the afternoon until 4pm. Not only will there be the traditional fare of mouth-watering cakes and delicious strawberries, but this year we'll also be running a BBQ and drinks tent, for what will hopefully be a refreshing drink in the summer sun. All of this alongside games, colouring and much more will make it an afternoon not to be missed.

FORS and our friends at St Mary's church will also be holding a raffle, with some great prizes that include a luxury food hamper, a Sodastream and a picnic hamper with champagne and smoked salmon, to mention but a few. Tickets are £1 each, and packs of tickets will be being sent home in the children's book bags for them to sell beforehand.

We hope to see you all on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and please be sure to bring the sunshine with you!

*The FORS Team*

## **PE and sports**

There is a wealth of sporting activities on offer this term with something for each age group. Besides regular PE lessons taught by the class teachers, the Early Years children have enjoyed the first two of planned monthly sessions led by Ross, a coach employed by external provider Sport FA. The Infant children continue to enjoy a weekly PE lesson with Lewis Fitzgerald from the Sports Partnership. Lewis will be helping them to practise for sports day after half term.

Our Junior children have weekly tennis and cricket coaching. Four children from Y3 and Y4 were chosen to represent the school at the recent Royston schools' tennis tournament at The Heath. They played extremely well, despite the rain, and were a credit to the school. Against some much larger schools and some strong opposition, our team managed to come 9th with everyone contributing to their points score. Thank you to Mrs Kershaw for looking after them.



The annual Chance to Shine cricket tournament for the Juniors will take place at Cockenach on Wednesday 6th July. More details will be sent out to those involved when they are available.

We will be taking as many opportunities as we can to practise sport and PE outside. Please make sure your child's PE kit, including plimsolls or trainers is in school every day.

## **Summer Uniform**

Further to the piece about summer dresses in the previous Owl, I can confirm that girls, like the boys, may wear tailored grey shorts with a white polo shirt and a school sweatshirt or cardigan if they prefer.



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.

**Please be aware there is a new Privacy Notice (Data Protection) policy published on our website.**