



# THE OWL



November 2015

Autumn Term

## Charities

This year we have raised over £90 for Children in Need with our Childhood Hero Day and donated an as yet unknown amount to the Poppy Appeal. Thank you to all who gave generously to these two worthy causes.

## Open Afternoon

Our Open Afternoon on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November was a great success. The day was especially enjoyable due to the hard work of FORS members who provided refreshments and the pride shown by the children who attended. Thank you to all of you but especially to the children who seemed happy to wear their school uniforms and show off their school on a Saturday.

## Bag2School collection

Your unwanted clothing will be collected by Bag2School on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November in the morning. There are still a number of bags to be filled if you still have clothes to sort out. As storage is limited in school, we could take bags on Wednesday evening but would prefer them to be dropped off at the front of the school first thing on Thursday.



## Decorations Day

This will take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. In the morning, the children will be put into mixed age groups to make tree decorations and a range of other things for the hall and entrance areas. Children should come to school in suitable clothes; uniform is not needed. This year we are following a buttons and bows theme. If you would like to help on Friday, we would welcome your support either for making in the morning or display during the afternoon. This is usually a fun day and will finish with Celebration Assembly. If anyone has any foliage with which to decorate the hall and make a Christmas wreath, please let the school office know.



## Christmas countdown

Inevitably, following Decorations Day on Friday, we will be into the Christmas Countdown. As in previous years, a separate sheet will give more detail about specific events in December.

## 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](http://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.



## Uniform

We have found, especially during PE sessions that a significant number of uniform items are not named. Please ensure that your child's name is clearly marked on all items of uniform as it is difficult and time-consuming to differentiate between such similar pieces of clothing. Please also ensure that your child has jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt for outdoor PE now that the weather is colder.



## ... and

It is our uniform policy that long hair should be tied up neatly for school. This is for health and safety reasons as well as to try to prevent the spread of head lice which, inevitably, is often present in schools. Thank you to those of you who already do this.

## Early Years Nativity Play

Mrs Tansley's children will be performing a simple nativity play for their parents, on the 16<sup>th</sup> December. Letters will be sent home to those invited to attend. Their older siblings will watch their dress rehearsal. Reception children are also taking part in the whole school production.

## Clubs and swimming

The last sessions for swimming and clubs run by school staff take place this week. Swimming will resume on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

## **FORS News - The Poppy, the reindeer and the elves**

Since the last Owl, the FORS team have been busy beavering away, starting with a poignant and beautiful act of remembrance. We asked each of your children to write a message to the Fallen on a small square of red paper. These squares were then rolled into cones, which were built together to create the petals of one large poppy. Each member of staff then wrote their own message on a square of black card, to create the centre of the flower. This memorial was then taken to St Mary's Church and placed at the Reed war memorial on Remembrance Sunday, by some of the school children. It was a touching reminder that "in the going down of the sun, we will remember them. "

The Christmas term is always a favourite in FORS land, and last week we kicked off the Christmas festivities in spectacular fashion with our Shopping Boutique night. With stalls filled to the brim with hand-made crafts and home-made foods, we even had room for a table of wooden reindeer, in search of their "forever homes". The



evening was a great success, and we'd like to thank you all for coming out and supporting us, on what had been a week of particularly bad weather!

Over the next few weeks, we're in full blown advent mode with not one but two events happening this Thursday. At 9am, the Bag2School truck will arrive to take away any clothing and textile donations you may have for us. If you've been busy chucking out your chintzy chinos and are in need of some more bags, a pile can be found outside the office. Later that day, FORS would like to invite you to join them for a Pampered Chef evening from 7:45pm at the home of Kate MacKenzie, at the Pink Geranium in Melbourn. This could be one of the last chances you will have to buy this fantastic merchandise before they leave the UK market in January. We would love for you to join us for a glass of bubbles and see some of these amazing kitchen essentials in action. Perfect for Christmas, or just as a treat for yourselves, these amazing multi-purpose tools are a must have for any budding Nigella or Gordon. And Pampered Chef are very kindly donating up to 25% of sales directly to FORS! Are you sold yet? Then RSVP to the office to secure your spot at our kitchen table. Like the idea but can't make it? Catalogues are available outside the office for you to peruse these truly not-to-be missed Christmas must haves. Payments can be made by card or cheque to Emma Hedderson. Look forward to seeing you there!



Back by popular demand, the FORS elves will open their workshop for one day only, for the

FORS Christmas Wrap. On **Wednesday 9th December**, and for just £1.25 per item, your child can peruse our shelves and choose a gift for that special adult in their lives. More information coming to a book bag near you soon!



And now one for the grown-ups. FORS are launching their 100 club - a monthly lottery where you can win a cash prize for just £1 a month. The first prize draw is our Christmas special, where the prize is a whopping £50! If you are interested in joining, a sign up slip will be available in book bags next week, with the draw taking place in the last celebration assembly of the term.

Will you shop online this festive season? Why not give the Giving Machine a try? For just a few extra clicks, our school can benefit as part of this cashback scheme, with no extra cost to you. Head over to [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk), add Reed First School as your beneficiary and get shopping!



It truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

Merry Christmas!

*Charlotte and the FORS Christmas elves.*

## **Reception and Middle School place application**

If your child was born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 then you need to apply for a reception place and if your child is in year 4 then you must apply for a place at a middle school. All of the information you need is available on the Hertfordshire County Council website, [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions). The deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

## **Allergies and Asthma**

Please inform the school office as soon as possible, if your child suffers from asthma or has an allergy, as we need to keep our records up to date.

## **Scholastics Book Club**

The closing date for ordering from the recent catalogue has been changed to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December to allow for a delivery before Christmas. Please order online at [schools.scholastic.co.uk/reed](http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/reed)

## **Lost and found**

A Samsung stylus has been found outside school, please pop into the school office if you think it may be yours.

## **Christmas cards**

The post box will be in the front entrance hall from Tuesday 1st December for the children to use. The full name and class of the person to whom the card is being sent should be written on the envelope please, in order that the junior class can deliver them. As in previous years, if your child would like to send a joint card to the staff, this will be pegged onto the Christmas tree in the front entrance.



### **Diary Dates**

#### **November 2015**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Last board games club
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Last coding club
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Last swimming lesson
- 26<sup>th</sup> – FORS Bag2School collection
- 26<sup>th</sup> – FORS pampered chef evening
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Decorations Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> – School closed INSET Day**

#### **December**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scholastics Book Club deadline
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – FORS meeting (8pm)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Wreath making in Village Hall (4pm & 7pm)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Christmas play – Costume check
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Christmas play – Dress rehearsal
- 9<sup>th</sup> – FORS ‘Christmas Wrap’
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Christmas play performance (2pm)
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas play performance (6pm)
- 12<sup>th</sup> – FORS Royston Christmas Market
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Visiting Theatre Production, Scrooge
- 14<sup>th</sup> – GenR8 Christmas assembly
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Early Years Nativity to whole school
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Early Years Nativity to parents (10am)
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Lunch
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party day
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Celebration assembly (9.15am)
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Carol Service (1.20pm)
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Term finishes (2pm)

### **Diary Dates**

#### **January 2016**

- 4<sup>th</sup> – School closed INSET day**
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Term starts
- 13<sup>th</sup> – First swimming lesson
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Reception & Middle School application deadline
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> – HALF TERM