



# THE OWL



**September 2016 Autumn Term**

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

## **September 2016**

22<sup>nd</sup> World Car Free day  
23<sup>rd</sup> FORS Welcome Breakfast  
Jeans for Genes day  
29<sup>th</sup> Schoolympics

## **October 2016**

7<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival Service  
11<sup>th</sup> Parent consultations  
22<sup>nd</sup> FORS Race night  
24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Half Term

## **Welcome back**

Welcome back to you all. Your children all seem to have grown and matured over the summer and already look as though they have been in their new year groups all along. Welcome to our new families and to our new teacher Miss Panter. There will be a Welcome Breakfast on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September organised by FORS. Breakfast will be available in school between 8am and 9am and brothers and sisters are also welcome to come. If any working parents leaving children in Early Birds would like to just have a quick coffee and before dashing off, you are welcome to do so.



## **Staffing**

Miss Panter and Mrs Rand have already settled into their job share and the classroom is looking lovely with the children contributing to the hospital role play area. As you know, Mrs Scally was unable to start the new term with us but she is now recovering at home and hopes to be back with us before too long. Thank you all for bearing with us while Mrs Kinghorn and I have been setting up the usual systems. Wisepay should now be up and running for Junior school dinner payments but isn't yet for swimming due to a banking change.

Unfortunately, I need to have minor surgery which is scheduled for Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. I will be out of school until Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, although I hope to be able to attend the Harvest Festival service in the church. Mrs Tansley will take the reins and lead the school in my absence.

We will be saying farewell to Mrs Sell in Celebration Assembly this week. Mrs Sell has already started her new job in Cambridge and is enjoying it. We will be presenting messages from the children and a gift on Friday afternoon.



## **Thank you**

Thank you to everyone for their very generous gifts at the end of term and to members of the FORS team who made the Leavers' events such a memorable time. FORS have already planned some exciting activities for the coming months. Please look out for details of each as they approach.



## **Jeans for Genes**

Once again, we will be supporting this national fundraising campaign on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. This is a non-uniform day when children may come to school wearing jeans or other denim clothes for a donation to the charity.

## **Harvest Festival**

As in previous years, the school has once again been invited to take part in the service at St Mary's Church, Reed at 7pm. The children are asked to decorate a shoe box sized container and this will be judged in school earlier in the day. All donations of produce are then raffled off at the Harvest supper in the Village Hall afterwards and the proceeds given to charity. Please look out for further details.



### **Schoolympics**

This is scheduled to take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September and all Junior children will be taking part. Details will be issued to those concerned in a separate letter.

### **Juniors' Snack**

As the Government's Fruit and Vegetable scheme covers children up to the end of Year 2 only, parents of children in Mr O'Hare's class are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack from home. This should be a whole piece or pieces of fruit or vegetable in fresh or dried form. Smaller pieces of fruit may be brought in a bag or box.

### **Head Lice**

We have been informed that several of our children have been treated recently for head lice which, unfortunately, occurs frequently in schools. Please check your children's heads regularly for these unwelcome visitors and treat accordingly if you find any. Pharmacies will give advice regarding effective treatments which change over time as the lice become resistant. If headlice are found, it is important that everyone in the family is treated at the same time to avoid re-infestation. Longer hair should always be tied up in school as this helps to prevent the spread of headlice.

### **Open Day**

This has been planned for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November between 2pm and 4pm and, although primarily for parents of children due to start in Early Years next September, also gives an opportunity for parents in other age groups to see what we offer. As in previous years, FORS will provide refreshments and the classrooms will be set up with activities and resources appropriate to each age group. If any of our older children would like to act as guides on the day, supervised by a school adult, I would be pleased to hear from them. A list will be compiled nearer the time.

### **FORS**

The date for FORS' AGM has now been set for Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. All parents and carers are automatically members of FORS and are entitled to vote for the committee or indeed to stand for one of the committee positions. More details later but please save the date.

### **Library update**

It has not been possible to re-open the Friday afternoon/Saturday morning library yet this term due to staffing challenges. I do intend for this to run again towards half term. Please let me know if you are able to help man the shelves on a regular or ad hoc basis.

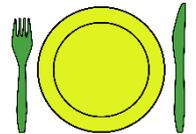
I have been overwhelmed to have received in excess of £800 for the library fund from collections made at the funeral of Reed resident, Eric Addicott. We have also received a donation of £1000 from the Reed Parish Council and £100 from St Mary's Church. We are now in a position to begin the process of applying for grants or other funding which is very exciting.

### **Parent/Teacher Consultations**

These will take place slightly earlier in the term than last year, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October. As before, appointments will be available between 1.30pm and 6.30pm on that day.

### **Universal Infant Free School Meal Registration**

Please can parents of children starting in reception, year 1 and year 2 register their entitlement for Universal Infant Free School Meals online at



[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

### **Flu registration forms**

Please return by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September if you haven't already.

### **And finally.....**

Thank you for your ongoing support and we have attached a diary date list for your information.

