



# THE OWL



September 2017 Autumn Term

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

## September 2017

8<sup>th</sup> Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)  
8<sup>th</sup> School Library (3.30pm)  
9<sup>th</sup> Community Library (10am-noon)  
12<sup>th</sup> PE After School Club start (3.15-4.15pm)  
13<sup>th</sup> Swimming lessons start  
15<sup>th</sup> FORS Meeting (9am)  
15<sup>th</sup> Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)  
20<sup>th</sup> FORS Welcome Breakfast (8-9am)  
22<sup>nd</sup> Genes For Genes Day  
22<sup>nd</sup> Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)  
22<sup>nd</sup> School Library (3.30pm)  
23<sup>rd</sup> Community Library (10am-noon)  
29<sup>th</sup> Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)

## October 2017

6<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival Service (7pm)  
6<sup>th</sup> NO CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY  
7<sup>th</sup> Community Library (10am-noon)  
13<sup>th</sup> Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)  
16<sup>th</sup> Parent consultations (1.30-6.30pm)  
18<sup>th</sup> FORS Meeting (8pm)  
20<sup>th</sup> Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)  
20<sup>th</sup> School Library (3.30pm)  
21<sup>st</sup> Community Library (10am-noon)

## Welcome back

Welcome back to you all, especially to our new families. We hope your children will settle in quickly. There will be a Welcome Breakfast for all our families on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September organised by FORS. Breakfast will be available in the hall 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 before dashing off, you are welcome to do so.



## Staffing

You will be aware that Mrs Rand has resigned from her teaching commitment with immediate effect. Although we hope that she will remain associated with the school and may do occasional supply teaching, there are no plans for her to return as a class teacher at this point in time. Miss Panter has agreed to teach full time for the first two weeks but she is not able to continue to do this indefinitely. Mr O'Hare remains unable to return to teaching and it is unlikely that he will return to full time teaching this academic year. To ensure the ongoing continuity for the children in both these classes, we will be advertising immediately for teachers to cover on a fixed term basis. For the Infant class, this will need to be a supply teacher until someone is appointed. Mrs Harvey and Mrs Kershaw will continue to teach the Junior class until Christmas.

We have welcomed our new bursar this week. Mrs Lasselin will work on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays within school hours and replaces Mrs Kinghorn who has begun her new role in a school closer to her home.

Mrs Lawn has given birth to her third baby, Rafferty, a brother for Poppy and Freddie. We hope that she will bring him in to meet staff and children soon.

## Thank you

Thank you to everyone for their very generous gifts at the end of term and to members of the FORS team who worked so hard last year to raise funds to enhance the children's experience in the classrooms as well as continuing to add to the fund for our proposed new library. Please look out for details of FORS events as they approach and become available.



## WisePay

If you have not previously registered for WisePay, your child will bring home an envelope with your WisePay account details enclosed. Please follow the instructions so that you can make school payments via WisePay in the future.

## **Communication**

We remind you that, if you need to speak to your child's class teacher, it is best to make an appointment or to see them after school rather than in the mornings when they are trying to settle the class. For any urgent communication, you may pass this on briefly at the door or write a memo, found outside the school office, which will be given to the class teacher. If the office is unmanned, please put any messages or payments into the secure box provided. As Mrs Harvey has a significant teaching commitment this term, time has been set aside for her to meet with parents by appointment on Wednesday afternoons. It will still be possible to make appointments at other times by arrangement, or for more urgent matters to be dealt with at the earliest opportunity. In most cases, the class teacher should be the first port of call for anything regarding your child's learning or well-being in the classroom.

If your child is absent from school, please telephone the school office on the first day and keep the school updated. On return to school, a short note of explanation for our records should be sent in. There are slips outside the office for this purpose if it is easier to fill one of those in.

## **Early Birds**

We have decided to keep our Early Birds morning drop off facility free of charge for this year. This was set up to help those parents who need to get to work earlier than the 8.45am entry allows. We are now over-subscribed on several mornings. Please ensure that your child/ren are booked in and that you notify us if you don't need your reserved place as we don't want to turn anyone in genuine need away. Early Birds is currently staffed for a maximum of 8 children.

## **Clubs**

A PE multiskills club has been organised for children from Reception to Y4 on Tuesdays after school. The club will be run by an external professional, who will also be teaching PE to the Infants and Juniors during the afternoon, and will be paid for from the Sports Premium Grant so there will be no cost to parents. The first session will be next Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 3.15pm until 4.15pm. All children from Reception to Year 4 may stay for the first session which we will treat as a taster. Following this, we will create a register for those who want to access the club for the remaining ten sessions. Further information about other clubs will come out next week and they will start as soon as possible. If you would like to support or run an after school club, please let us know.

## **Swimming**

There will be ten swimming sessions for children in Years 1-4 starting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. The children are taught in groups overseen by a qualified swimming instructor and a lifeguard. We urgently need one or two more volunteers to help by supporting the children in the water. Please let someone in the office know as soon as possible if you are able to help. All volunteers in school must agree to undergo safeguarding checks. Letters about the cost of swimming were sent out in July and many of you have paid for this already. Copies of all letters home are available on our website if you have mislaid yours. If you need a hard copy of this or any other letter, please ask in the school office.



## **Jewellery and earrings**

It is the policy in Royston schools that jewellery should not be worn in school. At Reed school we have previously allowed small stud earrings. For health and safety reasons these must be removed for PE sessions and swimming. If your child has pierced ears and cannot remove them and put them back in, please take them out at home on PE and swimming days.

## **Uniform**

The children all look smart in their new school uniform. Please make sure that everything is clearly named, including PE kits, as it is much easier to identify the owner when identical pieces of clothing inevitably get mixed up.

## **Jeans for Genes**

Once again, we will be supporting this national fundraising campaign on Friday 22<sup>nd</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 participate in the Harvest Festival service at St Mary's Church, Reed. This will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. It would be lovely to see as many of our children and their families there as possible. The children are asked to decorate a shoe box sized container and fill with donations of produce, please. There will be a competition for children in each year group in school earlier in the day before the boxes are taken to the church for the service and raffled off afterwards at the village Harvest Supper in the village hall.



### **Juniors' snack**

As the Government's Fruit and Vegetable scheme covers children up to the end of Year 2 only, children in the Junior 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.

### **Parent/Teacher Consultations**

These will take place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October. As before, appointments will be available between 1.30pm and 6.30pm on that day. More details will be sent out nearer the time.

### **Open Day**

This has been planned for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November between 2pm and 4pm and, although primarily for parents of children due to start in Early Years next September, this 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, please let the school office know. A list will be compiled nearer the time.

### **FORS**

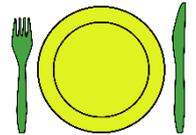
There will be a FORS meeting in the school hall at 9am on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September and the date for FORS' AGM has now been set for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 2pm. All parents and carers are automatically members of FORS and are entitled to vote for the committee or indeed to stand for one of the committee positions. It would be lovely to see some new faces so do please come along if you can.

### **Library**

Both adult and children's books are available to borrow and are available for school families to browse after Celebration Assembly on alternate Fridays starting on 9<sup>th</sup> September. The Reed Community Library is also open on alternate Saturday mornings, beginning on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Although open to members of the local community as well, it would be great to see some of the school community browsing through the books while enjoying a cup of coffee.

### **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)