

The Owl – January 2023



Feeling Good?

With Feeling Good week approaching, it is an appropriate time to reflect on how we are feeling. January is always a difficult month with the mixture of aspiration for the new year while feeling constantly cold and desperate for some sunshine! No wonder a lot of us have goals to achieve but give up so easily this time of year! As part of our mental health and wellbeing support for all members of our school, we make use of advice and resources from Healthy Young Minds in Herts. Part of this includes our 5 Ways to Wellbeing themes. With the national focus on being kind and connecting this year; the teachers will be planning activities to focus on our theme **CONNECT**.



The children have enjoyed assemblies so far this half term to support their understanding of our Jigsaw theme of Dreams and Goals. We have used resources and stories to share our own and others' experiences of our value of **aspiration**. We have even used balloons to demonstrate that dreams and goals come in all different shapes and sizes. Some are small, some big, some seem out of reach and others become hidden and forgotten about. We have heard stories of dreams and goals and how often the person trying to reach that goal has had to show great



resilience along the way. Our time during Feeling Good Week will support everyone; in understanding how being there for each other can play a huge part in reaching dreams and goals successfully. Hopefully, the children will inspire you to find time to talk, listen and be there a little more in our busy lives. It is easy to go through a day and realise you haven't stopped to see how your friends and family really are. If this is the case, chances are, you haven't given yourself enough time either. Having achieved my January goal, perhaps my goal for February will be more family time (whether they like it or not!). 😊



DIARY DATES

February 2023

6th Feeling Good week – Be kind and connect

7th FoRS meeting on Google Meet (all welcome)

8th Parent consultations

9th Parent consultations

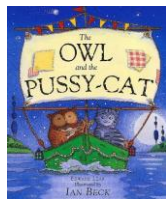
10th Home Start Dress down day



13th Half term

24th Layton class assembly

28th Book fair



March 2023

2nd World book day – Dress as a word

9th Coding Day KS1 and KS2

13th 'Take One Poem' week – a celebration of the poem The Owl and the Pussycat with West End in Schools.

17th Mothers' Day morning

19th Red Nose Day



**20th Open maths sessions in all classes
9.00am (30 minutes)**

24th Jackson Class assembly and meet the teachers

26th End of term at 2pm

Regulation Stations



During some staff meeting time, we have been busy planning a new addition to each classroom: Regulation Stations.

As you know from our positive approach to behaviour, we understand that experiences and emotions have a huge impact on our ability to engage positively and purposefully. From a wobbly tooth to a party after school, everyday events in our children's lives while normal, and less significant at times in the adult world, can be all consuming when you are small!

Our regulation stations will create a safe and calm space in the classroom to regulate emotions in order to be ready to talk or ready to engage in class through mindful activities. We look forward to showing you these new spaces when we launch them later in February.

School Priorities

At Reed First school we are on a journey towards Mastery in Maths and are taking part in the NCETM Primary teaching for Mastery Development Programme. The school began its first year of the Maths Mastery working group in September 2021.

Mastering maths means pupils of all ages acquiring a deep, long-term, secure and adaptable understanding of the subject. The phrase 'teaching for mastery' describes the elements of classroom practice and school organisation that combine to give pupils the best chances of mastering maths. Achieving mastery means acquiring a solid enough understanding of the maths that's been taught to enable pupils to move on to more advanced material.



After our successful open phonics lessons, we would like to invite parents to see a maths session in action on Monday 20th March at 9.00am.



Panto Time!

The children (and staff) had a great time when our hall was transformed into a theatre again for the performance of Sleeping Beauty last week. Layton Class have informed me that it was even better than Aladdin which was enjoyed in 2022 - and at the time that was the best thing they'd ever seen! All three classes are using their experience to learn across the curriculum. I have already seen some lovely writing which really captures the setting of the story and some investigating of materials for a bed for Sleeping Beauty. We will share all of the learning in a display for all to see soon!



Blake: My favourite part was when Eric was dancing on the floor when he was asleep.



Grace: I liked the background and the lights.

Lily: I enjoyed the part when Eric came to save Sleeping Beauty.



Henry: I liked how they could change their voices. To start with, Maleficent's voice was old but then she got younger and her voice changed.

And finally...

I really enjoy seeing examples of learning both at school and home posted on Google Classroom. I know the teachers and children really appreciate the comments made on the streams and the children love sharing their experiences with you. Being able to access regularly updated streams is a great way to keep up to date with what your child has been doing.

Please do take the time to log in with your child. Log in details should be in your communication book, if not please do let your class teacher know.



Google Classroom