



The Owl - April 2021

Dare I say it, but I feel a sense of normality returning to our lives! I was speaking to our School Effectiveness Advisor the other day and I shared our relief in being able to return to focusing on continued school improvement rather than focusing on daily Covid updates and reorganisation. Our Vice Chair of Governors, Alan Blower, was also able to actually come and see me face to face and it was a pleasure to show him around the school again after what seems like such a long time! He could certainly see that despite being rather restricted by the various lock downs, as a school we have still moved on.

We have endeavoured to ensure all of the children have been given a wide range of experiences to reengage their love for learning back in school.

This was clear as Mr Blower and I visited each class and chatted to the children. The Early Years were keen to share their expertise on everything you can imagine about chicks from how they hatch and what they eat to the great debate around what to name them! The best school days are the memorable school days and the awe and wonder on the faces of our children (and staff) as they watched the hatching of the chicks is one of those moments.



It was lovely to see our new technologies in use in every class. These resources are certainly making a difference to the quality of teaching and learning and the interactivity. The Chrome books are particularly supporting the children in developing their skills for **independent** learning.

The Infants are often disappearing into their new role play area to research and find out, while our Juniors are making excellent use of gathering their ideas and thinking to then share electronically on the interactive board from their individual Chrome books.

Hopefully all of our families can come and see the school in action for themselves before the end of the school year. While the connections on screen been home and school have been fantastic, there is also the need for sharing to take place in person. Fingers crossed!

DIARY DATES

May 2021

3rd May Bank Holiday – School Closed

6th Bag2school collection

11th Whole school photo

17th 8pm FoRS meeting (all welcome)

25th Parent workshop – ‘Growth Mindset’ on Google Meet 7.30pm

31st May Half term

June 2021

7th INSET day – school closed to pupils

29th Sports Day – details to follow soon

July 2021

13th and 14th Summer Show

16th Whole school trip to Whipsnade Zoo

22nd Leavers’ Assembly 12.45pm

22nd term ends at 2pm

Friends of Reed First School

Huge thanks as ever to our amazing team FoRS who have tirelessly been brainstorming ways to raise funds for the school, while giving the children fabulous treats and opportunities. Our tuck stalls are as popular as ever. Money has started to come back into school from the sale of plants grown from the seeds donated by Scotsdales and organised by FoRS. Don't forget to get selling if you haven't already!

Our children have shown their usual **respect** by writing to Scotsdales to thank them for their generous donation to aid our fund raising.

The children were very excited at the end of Science week to see the new microscopes donated by FoRS.

Uniform

With our whole school photograph coming up, now is a good time to ensure all of our children are respecting our uniform policy and wearing our uniform with pride. This needs to include the correct colour hair accessories and socks. Please also check that your child has the correct uniform for PE. Our website gives all of the details you need. <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/parents/uniform/>

This term is always of course so unpredictable in terms of the weather. Every child must have a coat every day and sun hat just in case. Please also apply sunscreen before school and put extra in the book bag for the children to reapply as needed.

Talking of uniform, it was easy to select the children for the photograph below to represent our school. Thank you to so many of you for coming to school looking so smart every day! By wearing your uniform with care, it shows great pride for being part of the school and **respect** for our expectations.



Science Week

Thank you again to Miss Panter for organising our Science Week.

Our focus weeks in school give the subject a chance to shine and share its importance.

The focus of the week was *Science Skills in Action* and we certainly achieved our aim. Over the course of the week, the children studied animals, materials, nature, plants and forces by observing, questioning, identifying, classifying, recording, sorting and most importantly having fun! More of those memorable experiences - not least, watching Miss Panter make various materials react and explode!

How do Arctic animals keep warm?



Which house will survive all of that huffing and puffing?



What makes a difference to the size of our shadows?



Why are plants growing in unexpected places?



Look on your Google Classroom stream for more photos!



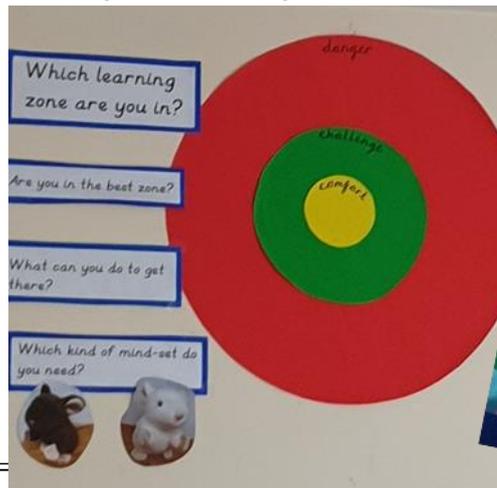
Developing independent, powerful and resilient learners

Thank you to those parents who joined me on Tuesday evening to find out more about our work on developing resilient and aspirational learners through understanding our mind-sets. It was a very enjoyable and thought provoking session with great discussions. Some of the parents who attended said:

I found this workshop so useful. Not only will it help me think about how I word things at home but also at work. I must admit I do tell my children that I don't like the words: I can't. I always say we can do anything if we just believe and keep trying but I love the 'we can't yet' saying. Thank you so much for this workshop.

It was really beneficial to explore how developing a growth mind-set can help instil the drive to permanently evolve our skills, and stimulate that passion for consistent learning. I loved the idea of the brown and white mice, and found it really useful to relate that back to key areas of their learning. The "green for growth" now makes complete sense, and I think teaching the children to self-evaluate their own work is a fantastic skill, that they can take with them through life. It was a really useful evening, thanks again for putting it on.

I am offering a second opportunity to join this workshop on **Tuesday 25th May at 7.30pm** on Google Meet. Please do join me and other parents if you can. It aims to give you a deeper understanding of how we teach and give feedback to the children and develop their learning power.



And finally...

Thank you to our Junior Class for showing respect to Queen Elizabeth II by writing messages of condolence to her and the Royal family on the sad passing of the Duke of Edinburgh.

The children thought it was important to show that we were thinking of them. You made us very proud to be so thoughtful. Our Early Years and Infant children also shared some messages which I have put together on the online book of condolence.

