

## The Owl - December 2021

It has been a very strange end of term for me! Not being able to be in school in person has been frustrating and sad; to miss seeing in person all of the wonderful traditions of school at this time of year. Thank goodness for technology which meant my work could as much as possible continue remotely. I can't wait to get back to the parts I enjoy the most though - being face to face with children, staff and parents.

I thoroughly enjoyed watching the performances of Little Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk. Rehearsing with the children was such a pleasure. The children here really do put 100% into everything they do. If I had turned the video off and just listened to the performances and singing; you never would guess that we are such a small school! What a talented bunch we have!

I know that the children had mixed emotions about performing to a live audience. Whether they were nervous or not, I know it was disappointing to have to resort to a remote audience again. Our value of resilience has been needed more than ever with a 'Show must go on' attitude from all involved (staff included). The adaptability we show a school is key to ensuring all of our children have the best experiences possible.

None of us can predict what the new year will bring, but whatever happens, we will ensure the children can continue to learn together, learn for life whether in person or through a screen. You will as ever, be kept up to date with all of the latest information. If you have any questions, do ask. I very much hope that you all get to spend time with family and get to do the things which are important to you over the break.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful time.

Best wishes, Mrs Wittich



## DIARY DATES

### January 2022

**5th INSET day school closed to pupils**

**6th Term begins for pupils**



6th Pantomime – Aladdin

11<sup>th</sup> FoRS meeting 8.00pm on Google Meet

11<sup>th</sup> PE club starts

12<sup>th</sup> Swimming for Infant class starts

13<sup>th</sup> Geography club starts

14<sup>th</sup> Choir and messy play clubs start

### February 2022

7<sup>th</sup> Feeling Good week – Body positivity

**9<sup>th</sup> Parent consultations**

**10<sup>th</sup> Parent consultations**

11<sup>th</sup> Home Start Dress Down Day



**14<sup>th</sup> Half term**

21<sup>st</sup> Forest School resumes

**25<sup>th</sup> Junior class assembly**

28<sup>th</sup> 'Take One Book' week – a celebration of World Book Day (whole school) - West End in Schools 'Alice in Wonderland' dance workshops (all classes)

### March 2022

Take One Book continues

**4<sup>th</sup> Book character dress up day**

**11<sup>th</sup> Space workshop to launch science week (all classes)**

**11<sup>th</sup> Early Years class assembly**

14<sup>th</sup> Science week

**18<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day**



**25<sup>th</sup> Infant class assembly**

**29<sup>th</sup> Mystery Olympic athlete visiting**

**31<sup>st</sup> End of term at 2pm**

## Plant a tree for Jubilee

We have taken part in *The Queen's Green Canopy* which is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Children and governors enjoyed '*Planting a tree for the Jubilee*' and look forward to nurturing them and watching them grow in our beautiful grounds.



## Breaking Limits – turning disability into possibility

The children had the unique opportunity to meet Bart Gee this month. It was a chance to really see all of our values in action. In particular, it was important for the children to see how someone else's resilience and aspiration has led to such a remarkable life.

The children asked some very thoughtful questions and were certainly inspired by Bart's story.

We shall be thinking about Bart when we explore our own **dreams and goals** in our next Jigsaw theme in January.

For more detail about the Personal, Social and Health curriculum being taught next, do look at the curriculum overview documents available on our website.

<https://reed.herts.sch.uk/download/jigsaw-overview-first-half-spring-term-2022/>



## PAWS and Read

The children had a lovely time meeting Alfie, from The 'Paws & Read' Programme which allows children to read to a therapy dog, as they are non-judgemental, attentive and perfect listeners. We will be welcoming a therapy dog regularly into school in the new year to work with children who would benefit from this wonderful scheme.



Christmas Fun!



## School admissions

Parents wishing to take up a Reception place for their child here must apply by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 regardless of whether they are already accessing our Nursery. Please make sure you complete the online application in good time. **Do direct friends who are interested to our website to find out more about us [www.reed.herts.sch.uk](http://www.reed.herts.sch.uk)** Similarly, parents of children in Year 4 need to apply for a place at their chosen Middle School by the same date. Apply online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

## School closures

As usual any school closure due to adverse weather conditions will be communicated via Parent Mail or the out of hours system 'Everbridge'.

The situation regarding Covid-19 will of course continue to be closely monitored over the holiday and you will be given as much notice as possible when any announcements by Government or local County Council are made.

Please do read all official communications from school to ensure you have the correct information.

## Sticky Knowledge

As you know, our teachers always supply detailed information about what your child will be learning and how you can support them through meetings and half termly newsletters. There is also a wealth of information on our website to discover what exciting projects the children will be experiencing too. Do have a look in our curriculum area of our website where you will find the intent for each subject, curriculum maps and knowledge organisers.

The curriculum maps give you a clear insight into the journey your child will go on through their time at Reed from Early Years through to the end of Year 4, where our planned end points will be reached ready for the transition to Year 5 in middle school.

The knowledge organisers are used in school to help the children know what they will be learning and show the key knowledge we want the children to have by the end of that particular unit of work. They can give you a good idea of what you could ask your child about their learning too. We are aiming to remove that go to phrase for children when asked what did you do today? "Nothing!" Why not surprise them and ask them something about what is on their knowledge organiser and help get the knowledge 'sticky'!



<https://reed.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/art-design/>



## **And finally...**

Last but certainly not least, we are as you know saying fond farewell and good luck to Mrs Lasselin as she moves on to her exciting and well deserved new role. She will be very much missed, but happily not far away and we are all looking forward to catching up with her soon. In January, Mrs Lucy Healey and Mrs Hayley Harvey will be working in the office and I look forward to introducing them to you.

Have a wonderful Christmas and look after each other.

