



The Owl - December 2025



We wish you a Merry Christmas!

This has been a **long** term! We have finished in style as ever though, with a wonderful variety of festive events. My favourite part of Christmas at school is the opportunity I have to enjoy the magic of Christmas with your wonderful children! Now my big children are 18 and 21, the traditions I had when they were little are fond memories but what an honour it is to have traditions with the little people at Reed now!

We actually had some Year 4s sobbing into their turkey this week because it was their last chance to sing and dance their way through Christmas dinner at Reed.

Hopefully all of the children whether they are 3 or 9 or have moved on, create wonderful memories for ever!

It does make me smile every year to see staff who haven't experienced it before watch in surprise as the children dance and belt out Christmas tunes all through dinner!



It was so lovely to see our newest members of the school in Jackson Class join in with such confidence and gusto once they realised Christmas dinner is no ordinary meal at Reed First School!

Thank you to Layton Class for singing and signing *We Wish you a Merry Christmas* as part of the fun! As Rev. Mark from St. Mary's said, their performance of this at church was the icing on the cake. I was delighted that they were able to perform it again at lunch and to welcome the wonderful Toy Run convoy to the village.

Thanks also to FoRS for supplying the crackers to get our meal off to a fabulous start!

What a spectacular performance!



Huge thanks and congratulations to Layton Class and Miss Walsh who got us in the Christmas spirit at the start of the month!

All three classes had a surprise visitor to their classrooms.

After it was established that they had all been brilliant all year, gifts were duly given out.

Bysouth class spent the remainder of the day wearing their new festive glasses!

HO! HO! HO!



Christmas Counts

Bysouth and Jackson Class received well deserved rapturous applause at their Nativity performances. They worked so hard on their Christmas show and it certainly paid off. Thank you to the wonderful audience who encouraged them all so well and for the generous donations to show their appreciation. As I said at the end of the performances, it is never easy getting such a great show together, from learning the songs to balancing on ladders to put up the backdrop; huge thanks to all of the staff involved.



DIARY DATES

January 2026

- 5th INSET day - school closed to pupils
- 8th Pantomime at school – *Beauty and the Beast*
- 13th FoRS on Google Meet 8.00pm
- 15th Non-uniform day – Bring a bottle for FoRS tombola
- 15th Oral health workshops Bysouth and Layton Class

February 2026

- 10th and 12th Parent consultations
- 13th House pancake races
- 16th Half term
- 27th World Book Day celebrations begin with West End in Schools Dance workshop: *Pinocchio*
- 27th Bysouth Class assembly

March 2026

- 4th Primary Books book fair
- 5th World Book Day – Dress as a word
- 6th Layton Class assembly
- 13th Mother's Day morning
- 18th and 19th Bikeability
- 20th Red Nose Day
- 20th Jackson Class assembly
- 27th Easter hat House competition - Wear a home-made Easter hat to school.
- 27th Final Assembly at 1.30pm
- 27th End of term for children at 2pm

April 2026

- 13th Term starts for pupils

May 2026

- 4th Bank holiday school closed
- 13th – 15th Layton Class to Caythorpe
- 22nd Celebration of Europe Day
- 25th Half term break

Please remember all dates are available on our [website](#).

Attendance Spotlight

December 2025

Jackson	96%
Layton	92%
Bysouth	90%

Why Attendance Matters

Attending school regularly helps children to:

- ✓ Achieve stronger academic outcomes
- ✓ Build friendships and develop social skills
- ✓ Strengthen emotional wellbeing and resilience
- ✓ Establish positive habits for future education
- ✓ Engage fully in school life and activities

13 children still have 100% attendance so far this year. Is your child one of them? Who is aspiring to keep that 100% until July 2026?

The last part of this term has as ever brought more coughs and colds and other bugs. However, it is important to remember that any attendance below 95% is classed as cause for concern and 90% or below is classed as persistent absenteeism. I will be contacting families in January who fall into one of these categories to see how we can work together to increase attendance.

Behaviour Curriculum

Our curriculum for behaviour maps out our expectations for behaviours in areas of **social skills**, **learning skills** and **organisational skills**. The statements are broken down into Key Stage groups to set clear expectations to enable our children to be ready for the next stage in their journey as a respectful, independent, aspirational and resilient member of society.

This month's whole school focus is on **Learning Skills**:

Jackson Class: Set short term goals.

Bysouth Class: Set my own goals both short term and long term.

Layton Class: Set my own goals and monitor progress towards them.

These also link to our next Jigsaw piece 'Dreams and Goals'.

The whole document is available from our website at the end of our [Values, Vision and Mission page](#).

Thank you for the huge support shown to donate toys for this amazing charity.

We have received thanks from both the charity and the NHS trust.

The children were so excited to see such a wonderful convoy of vehicles driving down Jackson's Lane. Particular favourites were both Santa and Rudolf on motor bikes and Miss Haydon who managed to join the convoy on her way to work!

We will be supporting the Nutwood Toy Run as an annual event for as long as it is organised.

Toy Run



NUTWOOD TOY RUN

OUR STORY

The Nutwood Toy Run began in 2023 with just 50 teddy bears and a simple idea – to bring a little extra joy to children spending time in hospital over Christmas. That first year, a small group of around 20 bikers came together to hand-deliver the toys, and the event has grown ever since. By 2024, support expanded even further. More biker groups and Land Rover enthusiasts joined the run, and thanks to Tesco Extra in Royston and the wider community, an incredible 25 crates of toys and books were collected. Local businesses also contributed generously, helping to provide a wide range of gifts for children of all ages. With the support of Hert's Rural Police, the convoy travelled safely to Lister Hospital.

We chose Lister Hospital because we have a venue in Hertfordshire and our volunteers have personal links to the hospital. If we receive a substantial amount of donations, we plan to split contributions and support other charitable causes as well.

The toys and books delivered are not just for Christmas morning – they help Lister Hospital maintain a supply of comforting gifts for children recovering from operations, receiving treatment throughout the year, or spending time away from home during the festive season. These items offer comfort, distraction, and moments of happiness during difficult times.

In 2025, the Toy Run continues to grow. We now have dedicated volunteers, local schools lining the route to wave the convoy on, and an Amazon Wish List to make donating easier than ever. With even more community partners involved and excitement building, this year's Toy Run promises to be bigger, brighter, and better – bringing joy to even more young patients when they need it most.

DONATION POINTS

- Royston Tesco Extra (Toy Run donation trolley)
- The Woodman Inn, Nuthampstead
- The Pheasant, Great Chishill
- The Duncombe Arms, Wareley



School admissions

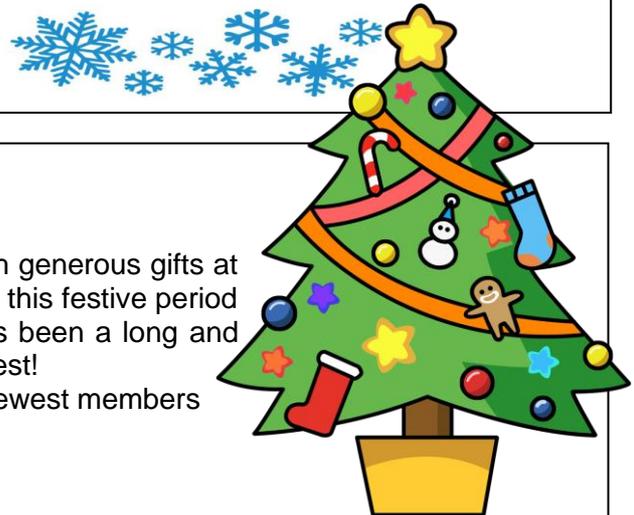
Parents wishing to take up a Reception place for their child here must apply by 15th January 2026 **regardless of whether they are already attending our Nursery**. Please make sure you complete the online application in good time. Similarly, parents of children in Year 4 need to apply for a place at their chosen Middle School by the same date. Apply online at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

School Closures

As we move into January on our return, any closures due to adverse weather conditions will be communicated via Parent Mail and on the school website.

Please only use the official communications sent directly from school in order to keep correctly informed.



And finally...

Many thanks for all of your kind words of appreciation and such generous gifts at the end of term. I hope that you all have a wonderful time over this festive period with friends and family and create fabulous memories. It has been a long and busy term and I know we are all looking forward to a fun filled rest!

I look forward to welcoming you back in 2026 and seeing our newest members Norah, Jude and Alice finally get to join in with Jackson Class!

Very best wishes, Mrs Wittich