

The Owl - February 2022

How do we foster a love of reading?

With World Book Day on Thursday, our teachers have naturally been giving books even more thought than usual. As you know, we endeavour to foster a love of reading in all of our children. As a school, we have a wonderful selection of books in the classrooms and in the library. Now of course, books are displayed in the hall too where our stories are shared in assembly to demonstrate our values and Jigsaw themes. These are available for all to borrow and enjoy. The children are often keen to ask to take one home or to bring back to class to read again.

Each class also looks forward to story time which is a dedicated part of the daily timetable. These texts are chosen to complement topics and immerse the children in a rich vocabulary beyond their reading age.

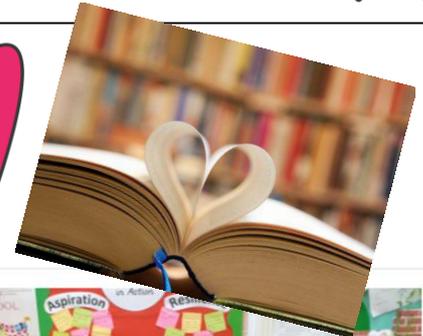
Many parents have also commented positively about the wonderful take home texts we invested in this year. The partner texts have been particularly useful in enabling parent and child to read in turn and talk about the book.

We are extremely keen to see our plans for a new library become a reality. Mrs Eeles one of our parent governors is busy applying for grants to get us to the target in order to start the big build. A new library space will undoubtedly support us in further engaging our children across the school in a rich reading experience. If you are able, we would be very grateful for your donation in our Buy a Brick appeal which can be contributed to through ParentMail.

The teachers have noticed that some children when asked, haven't got a favourite book or author yet. Imagine how we'll be able to support them in finding one in a dedicated room of reading heaven! In the meantime, we look forward to see the children share favourite characters and books through dressing up on Thursday for World Book Day itself. A copy of our book week plans is on our website homepage if you need any reminders of what is happening over the week.

Happy reading and best wishes,

Mrs Wittich



DIARY DATES

February 2022

28th '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

4th Book character dress up day

11th Space workshop to launch science week (all classes)

11th Early Years class assembly

14th Science week

18th Red Nose Day



21st Infant class tag rugby festival

25th Mother's Day craft morning

25th Infant class assembly

29th Mystery Olympic athlete launch

31st End of term at 2pm

April 2022

19th INSET day (school closed to pupils)

20th Term starts for pupils

26th Olympic athlete visiting us!

May 2022

6th Cross Country event at Anstey First School

23rd – 24th Queen's Jubilee celebrations

25th – 27th Junior Class to Kingswood

30th Half term

June 2022

6th INSET day (school closed to pupils)

7th Pupils return

7th – 10th European Week

10th Cross Country event at Reed First School

28th Sports Day



Healthy Me!

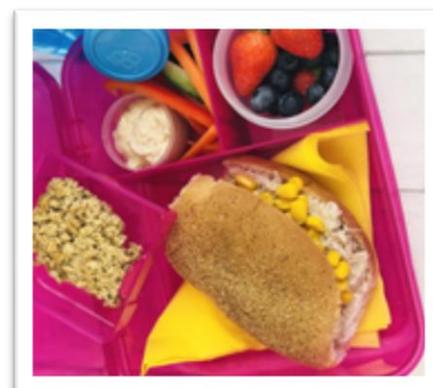


As you know, our Jigsaw theme this term aims to help all of us make healthier choices; not only in how active we are and what we eat, but also making sure we have healthy minds.

I have already noticed since the new half term started children really thinking about making healthy choices at break times; challenging themselves to skip more, run more or even shoot more hoops!



While we are thinking about our health, we talk a lot about how a little bit of everything is a great idea and that treats are ok. However, I would like to remind parents of children who have packed lunch that we encourage a healthy balanced diet. In line with all schools in Hertfordshire, packed lunches brought on site or for school trips should not contain chocolate (including spread), sweets, nuts or fizzy drinks.



50

things to do

before you're

five

You may have heard of the initiative '50 Things To Do' which aims to provide inspiration for parents and carers to connect with children through a range of activities, all designed to have a positive impact on learning and health.

50 Things provides a local offer to families, guiding them to places to visit, and fun things to do on their doorstep. They'll be shown how to make best use of their local libraries, museums, parks and wild spaces - helping to promote community cohesion at the same time.

Presented and packaged through a mobile app means it is easy to get started and conveniently available whenever the moment arises for a new activity.

I have recently received a copy of 50 things to do before you're 5 which our Early Years team has. As a parent, you can visit the website and download the app which can give you all the inspiration you need to have fun while gaining experiences which are very simple to do.

As a school, we are always thinking of experiences which we can offer our children which will support their development but also create life long memories. They don't need to be extravagant or complicated - our walks to Queensbury to see the snow drops are a great example of this. Just being able to go for a walk together was wonderful and the sight of snow drops really was an awe and wonder moment for many of our youngest members.



<https://hertfordshire.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!50thingstodobefore5/welcome>

Our thanks to the Sedgwick-Roughs for welcoming us to their beautiful garden.



Well done!



I wanted to simply say well done this month to all of our children. Every time I talk to them or walk through their classes, they make me immensely proud. As a school, we have worked incredibly hard to make our values a natural part of our every-day life here at Reed. We really do have a school full of children who are setting goals and working hard for **themselves** in order to show **aspiration**. Staff training which I led in January, meant that we could become a STEPS school. As a result, we have really thought about our policy for behaviour and how we can support all of our children in demonstrating **pro-social behaviours**. We want our children to recognise that their attitudes towards learning and choices around how to be their very best is for their benefit now and in the future.

We are seeing this through children taking much greater ownership and **independence** over their learning. For example, I see beautifully presented books which show the children are taking pride in their work, children responding positively to teacher feedback demonstrating **resilience** and **aspiration**. There is also a great sense of **respect** as the children value what they are being taught, the support they are given and the support they give each other. A four-year-old helping a three-year-old to follow a recipe for jam tarts is simply wonderful! A round of applause for a child getting all of their spellings right and new members of our school fitting straight in by being made so welcome so quickly – the list goes on...

I will be sharing our approach to behaviour with you soon so that you have a good understanding of how we are approaching, modelling and achieving pro-social behaviours.



FoRS

Huge thanks to all of you who took part in FoRS latest fundraiser event raising £22.22 for 22.2.22! The last count I was given was an amazing **£470.48** and I know more money has been coming in. Fantastic!

And finally... Please do take the time to look at your child's Google classroom page. The streams are constantly updated with news, pictures and reminders. The children like looking at the posts themselves and reading the comments made by friends and family.

