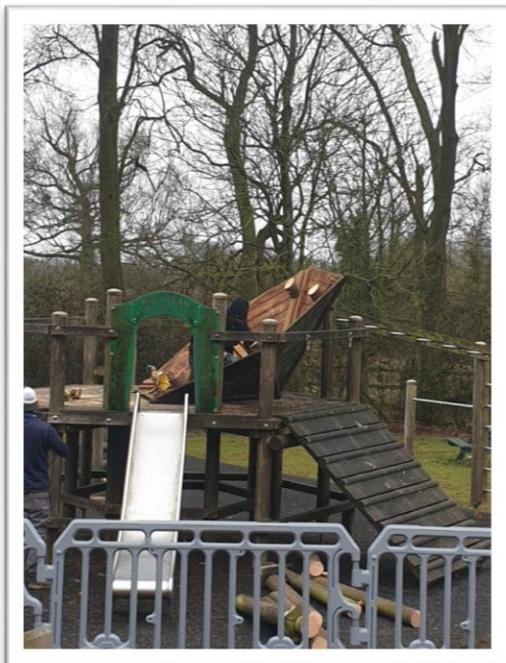


The Owl – February 2023

A short month but a busy one!

This morning, some children were concerned, while others were excited to arrive at school to see the teachers' cars missing! The mystery was soon solved however, as machinery could be heard during the morning coming from the playground, and **another** skip was delivered taking up the staff parking spaces.

The children were transfixed at morning play, watching our old play equipment being removed. It has been the plan to remove it for a long time, so we are very pleased to see the work to replace it begin. The first two pieces of our trim trail will be installed tomorrow and ready to use! We look forward to using the space to keep the children active as part of our Healthy Me Jigsaw theme for this half term and for years to come. Fundraising will continue to complete the whole trail as soon as possible.



The trail will include features to ensure the children make use of both their upper and lower body. The equipment will be used for play as well as more formal PE lessons. It will develop the children's gross motor skills which are the skills that they develop using their whole body. By using their whole bodies children become increasingly confident, agile and flexible.

Did you know: For a good handwriting style children need to develop their gross motor skills – so they can sit correctly for periods of time.



DIARY DATES

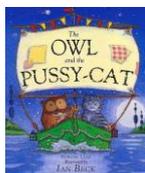
March 2023

2nd World book day – Dress as a word

9th Coding Day KS1 and KS2

10th Y2 tag rugby

10th Bysouth Class assembly



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

14th FoRS meeting (Google Meet – all welcome)

17th Mothers' Day morning

17th Red Nose Day

17th FoRS movie night

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

24th Jackson Class assembly and meet the teachers

31st Final celebration assembly of the term 1.30pm (In person or on Google Meet)

31st End of term at 2pm

April 2023

17th INSET (School closed to pupils)

18th Term starts for children

20th Bag to School

May 2023

4th NSPCC assembly – Speak out, stay safe



Regulation Stations

I wrote last month about the introduction of our Regulation Stations. These are areas in each classroom where the children can spend some time when needed to regulate their feelings and emotions. The children are already making use of their trusted 5 when they feel they need to talk to someone, but having this calm space will add to their toolkit for wellbeing.

It was lovely to hear this week, when our Herts Improvement partner visited; that every child asked, was able to explain what they would do if they had a worry.

Thank you as ever to the teachers who have spent time planning and creating these wonderful regulation spaces.



NSPCC Stay safe, speak out

We will be running our annual Stay Safe, Speak Out assemblies in class in March for Years 1 - 4. Children will learn about the different types of abuse in a child-friendly and age appropriate way, so they can get help if or when they need it. **The children will learn and remember that:**

- Every child has the right to speak out and stay safe.
- Making a child feel sad, scared or worried is never OK and is never their fault.
- If they're ever worried about anything they should tell an adult they trust.
- Whatever their worry, they can always call Childline on 0800 1111



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/working-with-schools/>

Pancake Races

We had a wonderfully memorable time during our House Pancake Race competition!

The children showed **independence** (even at the age of 3) to run a race cheered on by the school.

There was great **resilience** seen too when things went a bit wobbly but the children all saw the funny side, picked up their pancake and carried on to the finish line!



The results of the 2023 Pancake Race House Competition

	1 st (3 points)	2 nd (2 points)	3 rd (1 point)
Race 1	Tawny	Eagle	Barn
Race 2	Tawny	Eagle	Barn
Race 3	Barn	Eagle	Tawny

Stand out racers for super tossing and team work

Barn Owls	Molly	5 points
Eagle Owls	Lily B	5 points
Tawny Owls	Lily N	5 points

Extra home learning to find out about the history of pancake racing

Frankie	Eagle Owls	5 points
Lily B	Eagle Owls	5 points
Grace	Barn Owls	5 points
Harry	Tawny Owls	5 points

Final results

Eagle Owls	Tawny Owls	Barn Owls
21	16	15

School Priorities

Our focus to promote reading continues. The children have enjoyed making use of our new reading shed. Do come and have a look!

We were pleased to welcome Mr and Mrs Penn back to run our book fair in our new library.

The children are showing the importance of reading, knowledge of authors and a love of reading!



And finally...

We have invested heavily in purchasing reading books to support the children learning phonics in Reception and Year 1. Having listened to parent views, earlier in the year, we agreed to stop using e-books and send 'real' books home.

Unfortunately, a small number of these brand new books have been returned ripped or water damaged.

Please look after our property to promote our value of respect. Many thanks.

