

The Owl - February 2024

Parental Partnership

As you know from our shared plans for development, we are constantly reflecting on how to further improve our curriculum and support all children in achieving the end points they are expected to reach in each unit of work, term, year or key stage. We are fortunate to have such supportive parents and carers who are keen to discover more about how we teach; and how they can support this at home.

Parents who attend our workshops and open events say how useful they find them in understanding not only what their child is doing in school, but how they are doing it.

The teachers and I would like to invite you to an open session event on Wednesday 1st May straight after school. This is an event for parents and children to attend together. There will be an introduction and welcome in the hall from pick up time until 3.45pm. At this point, you will be invited to move to a class of your choice to take part in a session led by the class teacher. All sessions for all age groups will have a focus on securing recall of multiplication facts. Hopefully it will be useful to see that this starts in Jackson Class with knowledge of number and pattern and then through to the end of Year 4 when recall of all multiplication facts should be secure. Clear steps and understanding of what needs to be achieved by the end of each school year in order to move on will be demonstrated to understand that every year is important as skills are built on year on year.

After the first 20 minute session, you will be invited by the teacher you are with, to move on to another classroom. This could be for another child in your family or to see a future class and what is coming next for them.

At the end of your second session at about 4.30pm you will be able to come back to the hall to ask any more questions and share what you found useful.

We do hope that these sessions will be well attended and most importantly useful to you in feeling you are able to support your child(ren) in such an important part of the maths curriculum and certainly a skill for life.



**Open Maths Sessions
for parents, carers and children too!**

**Wednesday 1st May 2024
3.30pm – 4.30pm
at Reed First School**

DIARY DATES

March 2024

1st Bysouth Class assembly

6th Book fair (during school day and after school)

7th World Book Day – dress as a book or book character

8th Mothers' Day morning

8th Jackson Class assembly

12th Y2s Tag rugby tournament

13th West End in Schools dance workshops

14th FoRS meeting 8pm Google Meet

14th and 15th Bikeability

15th Red Nose Day – any Comic Relief merchandise can be worn, or something red. Please remember some will be cycling too!

20th Non uniform day – bring an Easter Egg for FoRS Easter raffle

21st Layton Class tag rugby with Royston Schools partnership

22nd Layton Class Assembly

25th FoRS bake sale all week – baked goods to be donated by Layton class families on Monday, Bysouth Tuesday and Jackson Wednesday. House captains will be selling at morning break and after school each day.

25th Kingswood Meeting for parents and children 2.45pm

27th Assembly for attendance certificates and birthdays at 2.50pm – parents and carers welcome.

28th Easter Hat competition

28th FoRS end of term get together and tombola from 1.15pm in the hall.

28th End of term at 2pm

Please remember all dates are available on our website: <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates/>

Easter Hat competition

The children absolutely loved creating Easter hats to wear to school last year. So much so, it has now become an annual event!

If your child would like to, they can wear their creation to school on Thursday 28th March. We will have a parade in the morning and supply you with plenty of photographs on Google Classroom.

There will of course be house points for wearing their hat and extra points for the most creative hats made by the children. Have fun!



Fantastic Forest School

Huge thanks to Miss Wilson and the Sedgwick-Roughs for such a special Forest School session among a blanket of snowdrops!



Pancake Pandemonium

We had another wonderful time during our House Pancake Race competition!

Thanks to Layton Class who did a great job cooking our pancakes this year.

The children showed **independence** at every age to run a race cheered on by the school. Our older children needed no encouragement to give a helping hand when needed.

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 2024 Pancake Race House Competition

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

Stand out racers for super flipping

Barn Owls	Isaac	5 points
Eagle Owls	Logan	5 points
Tawny Owls	Lily	5 points

Stand out racers for super team work

Isabelle	Barn Owls	5 points
Blake	Tawny Owls	5 points
Su	Eagle Owls	5 points

Final results

Tawny Owls	Eagle Owls	Barn Owls
19	15	14



School Development through Pupil Partnership

Our journey as a school to achieve constant improvement, is of course driven by the needs of the children. With the new library, the children's love of reading is excelling! A few years ago, the children were not particularly enthused by books and very few were able to share a favourite book or author when asked.

Texts are now carefully selected and displayed to encourage a love of reading. This can be seen across the school in classrooms, assemblies, themed weeks and of course the library itself.

We had a very useful talking group session this month which further evidenced the progress we have made in encouraging the children to develop a life-long love of reading.

Our school councillors asked their groups if they have a favourite author or book and what they enjoy doing in the library. Every child was able to name a favourite book or author, the children also made it clear that our after school book clubs and class texts have also inspired reading. Our visiting author Steve Clifford was also mentioned!

The children reported that they enjoyed visiting our library and described their sessions beautifully. As ever, we also asked how to make them even better. The brilliant responses (below) will be put into action by the teachers as soon as possible!



Playing Pass the Squeeze as a warm up game at the start of one of our Talking Groups.

We would like to:

- ***Have time to act books out.***
- ***Spend more time in the library.***
- ***Have some activities to do in the library about the books our teachers read to us.***
- ***Have a spoon area where you can act out stories.***
- ***Have a book making area.***

And finally...

Thank you to the children who demonstrate every time I speak to them how much they are learning and crucially remembering. I find time as often as my week allows, to meet with some of the children to ask them about their learning.

My latest conversations have been about science. Children in Year 1 and 2 were able to talk confidently about seasons, materials and plants and described how much they loved science because they got to explore real things. Their knowledge is so secure because they enjoy the learning experience so much.

Do feel free to come into your child's classroom after school (by arranging a day with their teacher) and listen to what they can tell you about their learning across the curriculum. They will blow you away!

