

The Owl - February 2026

Experiences to bring learning to life

As we heard in Bysouth Class' assembly today, they have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Gunpowder Plot as a significant event from the past.

They impressed us with their recall of facts and it was lovely to see how many children shared that they really enjoy learning about the past.

It is always a challenge at a young age to develop an understanding of what happened when and why and also what we have learnt from the past. This is why we connect with additional resources to bring the learning to life.

We invited experts from Royston Museum to use their expertise to lead a workshop where the children were able to retell the events around the Gunpowder Plot with the class. The children I know all loved dressing up and were particularly impressed to find out more about how our local area has its own connection to this historical event.



The workshop has really helped the children also understand how we know about the past by seeing and hearing about sources of information.

Children often think that we know about the past simply because 'our teacher has told us', or the 'book has shown us'. To be able to explore where this information was gathered from originally is crucial in part of their journey to be historians. The experience achieved this objective so well.

Safer Internet Day 2026 | Tuesday 10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

While we celebrate technology and all it can offer, we do need to work together to make sure the ever-increasing use of the digital world is safe.

Do have a look at the support available for also teaching your children about internet safety at home too through these links.



Our use of workshops continued through February with both Layton and Bysouth Classes taking part in an interactive drama workshop which invited the children on a fun, fast-moving adventure through the online world - where technology can sound clever and convincing, but still needs us to stop, think, and decide.

The sessions enabled the children to:

- Practise pausing and thinking before trusting things they see or hear online
- Act out real-life online situations involving chatbots, searches, pop-ups, and recommendations
- Use simple "check the source" actions to help decide what to trust
- Practise safe choices, including when and how to ask a trusted adult for help

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 **Social Skills**:

Jackson Class: Wash my hands with soap when I am asked to.

Bysouth Class: Remember to wash my hands with soap before I eat and after the toilet.

Layton Class: Wash my hands with soap when I know they are or could be dirty.

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

Attendance Spotlight

February 2026

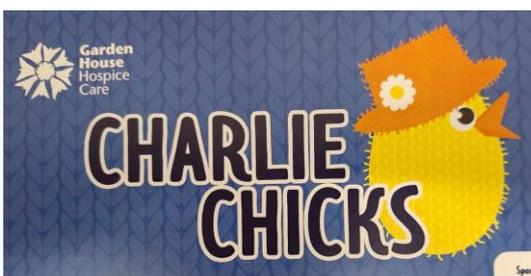
Bysouth	98.4%
Layton	97.8%
Jackson	97.5%

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

11 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?



Charlie Chicks will be on sale again from Monday 23rd March. These are hand crocheted chicks with a chocolate treat inside.

The chicks cost £1.50 each. These chicks are a popular fundraiser for Garden House Hospice Care and sell brilliantly every year. With this in mind, we have ordered 100!

If your child has an allergy, we will be providing alternative delicious free from treats inside the chicks so all children can buy a one if they would like

DIARY DATES

March 2026

- 2nd Coffee and Catch up 2.00pm
- 2nd – 6th Book week librarian book swap event
- 5th World Book Day – Dress as a word
- 6th Layton Class assembly
- 13th Mother's Day morning
- 16th Marion Zielentino author visit
- 17th Jackson Class parents and carers tea with Mrs George, Mrs Arnott, Miss Arnold and Mrs Jackson
- 18th 19th and 20th Bikeability
- 20th Red Nose Day – wear something red or the official merchandise. Donations can be made via a link on our website.
- 20th Jackson Class assembly
- 23rd Charlie Chicks on Sale all week
- 26th Layton Class children and parents PGL trip meeting 3.15pm
- 27th Easter hat House competition
- 27th Final Assembly at 1.30pm, End of term for children at 2pm

April 2026

- 13th Term starts for pupils
- 16th Non-uniform day for all – bring a teddy for FoRS
- 30th Non-uniform day for all – bring a book for FoRS

May 2026

- 4th Bank holiday school closed
- 13th – 15th Layton Class to Caythorpe
- 18th Dance for diabetes event week
- 22nd Celebration of Europe Day
- 25th Half term break

June 2026

- 1st Pupils back to school
- 4th Megson concert
- 5th Layton and Bysouth First Aid training
- 17th Athlete visit (whole school event)
- 19th KS2 community safety event hosted by Reed
- 26th Rounders at Reed (small school rounders event for local KS2 children, hosted by Reed)

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

Easter Hat competition

The children absolutely love creating Easter hats to wear to school each year; it has now become an annual event!

If your child would like to, they can wear their creation to school on Friday 27th 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!



Thank you for supporting FoRS!

I do hope you are enjoying the welcoming window of owls as you come to school! Thank you for supporting our PTA who are doing fantastic work to raise additional funds for us.

Fantastic news - we have ordered our last piece of trim trail!

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with Sarah our FoRS chair at:

fors@reed.herts.sch.uk

Pinocchio!

The week of world book day is not even here yet, but we have already got events off to a flying start by welcoming West End in Schools back to work with us.

The company works with professional west end actors and dancers who share their expertise to inspire children in schools. Our children were certainly inspired today!

We chose to use *Pinocchio* by C. Collodi as inspiration for dance workshops with every class. It is always so nice to enjoy stories which have been enjoyed for generations. This one dates back to 1881!

All of the children followed the sequence of moves brilliantly to then put the whole school dance together at the end. I was delighted to be able to come in and watch the final polished performance. The children were grinning from ear to ear and bursting with pride as they showed me their hard work. Well done children!

Our visitor was thoroughly impressed by all of our performers and enjoyed the morning as much as our dancers did!

It always lovely to invite visitors to our school, not only to give our children wider experiences but also hear such wonderful feedback from our visitors about our children!

All three classes are getting busy with their writing next week inspired by the story of *Pinocchio*.



We will welcome West End in Schools back in 2027 to meet Toad, Rat and Mole. Can you guess the wonderful story?



The sun shone for us at our postponed annual House pancake races. All of the children had great fun in our crazy races.

Huge well done to our youngest racers who were not phased at all by the noise and chaos, they were so keen to join in! Also, thanks to our older children including the House Captains who helped their teams along the way!

And finally...



The results of the 2026 Pancake Race House Competition

	1 st (5 points)	2 nd (3 points)	3 rd (2 points)
Race 1	Tawny	Eagle	Barn
Race 2	Barn	Tawny	Eagle
Race 3	Barn	Eagle	Tawny

Stand out racers for super flipping

Eagle Owls	Poppy J	5 points
Tawny Owls	George N	5 points
Eagle Owls	Sammie	5 points
Barn Owls	Scarlett	5 points

Stand out racers for super team work

George N	Tawny Owls	5 points
Max	Barn Owls	5 points
Frankie Mc	Eagle Owls	5 points
Woody	Tawny Owls	5 points

Final results

Tawny Owls	Eagle Owls	Barn Owls
25	23	22

