

The Owl – January 2026

Dreams and Goals



When I unlock the school in the morning, it is always nice to take a few minutes to notice how much we have achieved. The projects completed are testament to our drive for improvement, not only in the learning opportunities but the environment in which we strive to create inspire and nurture.

These projects are driven by the dreams and goals of the whole community. If we expect the children to learn for life, we need to set them the example of how we have aspirations too.

Our Jigsaw piece ‘Dreams and Goals’ has helped the children to know that to set and reach goals, we need to be aspirational and dig deep to be resilient when we come

across obstacles on the journey to succeed. I have loved hearing what the children are aspiring to achieve both in the short term and long term. Our Jigsaw song inspires the children with the lyrics:

Take that first step, make it happen,

Seize this moment,

That's what dreams and goals are made of...

We have been literally stepping along a ladder to know what we will need to do to reach an end goal. The children have been so supportive of each other. We have future doctors, astronauts, Olympians and palaeontologists amongst us – fantastic!

We really have created an environment where the children know that they can achieve anything they put their mind to. By being part of an inclusive and nurturing setting, the children really can and do dream big, just like our staff team too. With this mindset, it is no wonder the children want to learn and see big ideas as real possibilities.



DIARY DATES

February 2026

- 9th Bysouth Class History workshop
- 9th Bysouth and Layton Class Internet Safety workshops
- 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

- 2nd – 6th Book week librarian book swap event
- 4th Primary Books book fair
- 5th World Book Day – Dress as a word
- 6th Layton Class assembly
- 13th Mother's Day morning
- 18th, 19th and 20th 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
- 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
- Please remember all dates are available on our [website](http://www.reed.herts.sch.uk).

Attendance Spotlight

January 2026

Jackson	98.9%
Layton	98.5%
Bysouth	97.5%

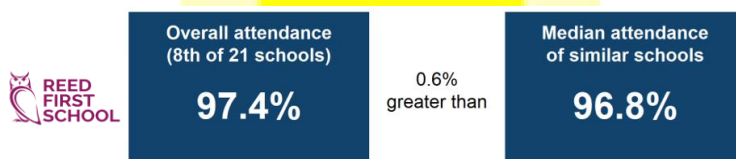
Why Attendance Matters

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

14 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?

Schools now have access to their attendance data in comparison to similar schools' data from the DfE.



Our data for the autumn term 2025 puts us 8th out of 21 similar schools. Let's aim for 1st!

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: Let the adult know when something has gone wrong.

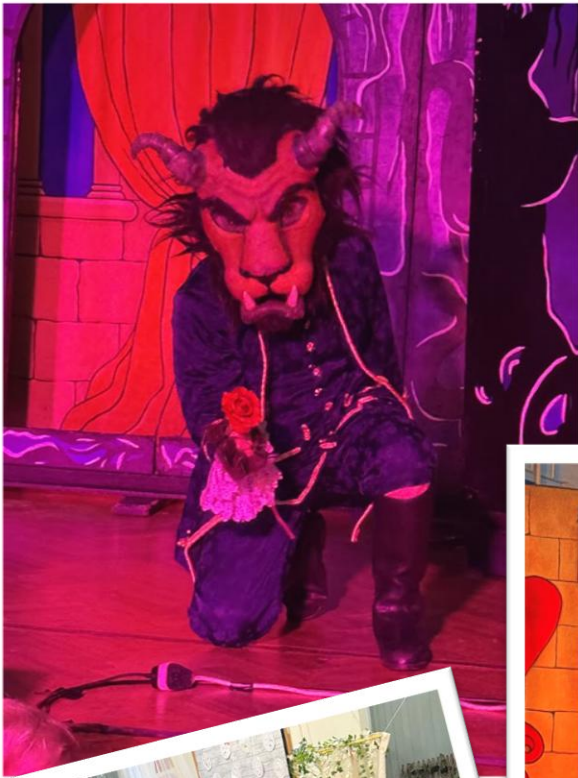
Bysouth Class: Admit if something hasn't gone to plan.

Layton Class: Be quick to admit own mistakes and identify ways to rectify the situation.

The whole document is available from our website at the end of our [Values, Vision and Mission page](http://www.reed.herts.sch.uk).

Beauty and the Beast

What a wonderful start to 2026 by transforming our school hall yet again into a theatre. My favourite part every year of welcoming the actors is watching the excitement and anticipation on the children's faces after having their tickets punched and seats found!



Some of the children have already shared enthusiastically some of the learning that has taken place as a result of the show in Celebration Assembly. Bysouth Class even had their own tea party, with of course, dancing! I have seen some wonderful writing too in all classes. I am looking forward to showcasing how the teachers and children have been inspired by the story on our Pantomime display. Thanks again to FoRS for helping fund this event.

Mother's Day Morning

You are invited to join your child(ren) at school on Friday 13th March for the morning from 9.30am – 11.30am to create crafts and memories for Mother's Day.

Family groups will work together during the morning and refreshments will be available.

It doesn't need to be a mum to come, any family member can come to help the children make things to give to a parent or carer to say thank you for all that they do.

If there is no family member available to join us, your child(ren) will work with staff and governors.

Please let the office staff know who will be attending by emailing

The children have enjoyed, hot chocolate, marshmallows on the fire pit, non-uniform days and first choice of assembly books. This month!



All three house groups have held meetings in the teepee to vote democratically and decide whether to spend or save some of their house points. Well done to the House Captains for leading this.



The House Captains are learning to apply their calculating skills to keep track of their budget in their banking books.

As well as teaching all of the children about the importance of everyone being able to vote and have their voice heard, the purpose is also to start the children thinking about knowing how much they have and making sensible choices about money.

Barn Owls have things to look forward to in February! Well done for earning the house points to shop with!





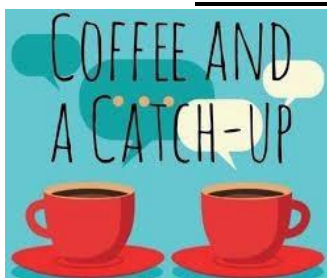
Oral Health

Bysouth and Layton Class had a great opportunity this month, to find out more about the importance of oral health through a visit from a dental nurse. The children explored: General Oral Health advice, tips to help with brushing, correct brushing techniques, diet advice and enjoyed a hands-on brushing activity.



It was great to hear and see how much the children already know and do when looking after their own oral health. They also asked many thoughtful questions they had for the nurse to make sure they were doing everything right.

Coffee and catch up



Dates for your diary for a coffee and catch up with me:

Friday 27th February at 2.00pm or Monday 2nd March at 2.30pm.

Let me know what you would like to talk about, or we can see where the conversations take us.

School Closures



As we continue through the winter months, we have happily seen some early signs of spring but please remember, 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...

Please do remember to keep up to date with news from your child's class by logging into Google Classroom.

The children are often involved in adding to the stream and we love seeing positive comments for them. The details to log on should be in your child's home school communication book, if they are missing, please speak to your class teacher.



Google Classroom