

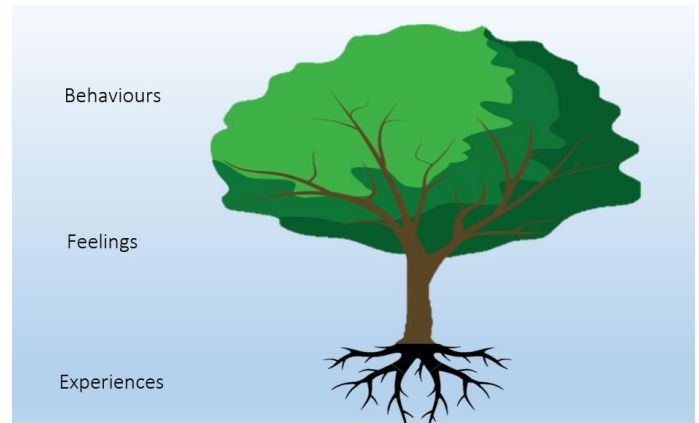
# The Owl - January 2025

## How are you?

While January brings new beginnings and goals, it is also often a tricky month to get through! We all still seem to manage a cheery good morning at the gate which certainly gets my day off to a better start as we battle wind, rain and cold temperatures!

As part of our staff training day at the beginning of January, we were focusing on mental health and wellbeing. I have recently qualified as our Senior Mental Health Lead and part of this has enabled me to reflect upon what we offer to support every part of our community.

Working together and supporting each other is certainly a huge factor in ensuring we have a positive culture around us. Being a small setting really helps us to get to know everyone quickly and we hope you recognise this in our school.



The model above is very useful in understanding how our experiences, feelings and behaviours are inseparably linked. The difference in our journey from positive experiences is very different to that of a negative starting point. We work hard as a school to help the children to see this too.

The positive therapeutic behaviour parent and carer workshop which took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month also had a focus on wellbeing. While discussing how we support and teach positive behaviours, it was also crucial to recognise that it is much harder to help and support others if we don't take the time to look after ourselves. A strong message from the workshop was that all behaviours are exhibited for a reason. A change in behaviour is a sign that something has changed for that person and that they may need help and support to regulate and recognise the root of the change. The parents and carers who attended the workshop certainly understood this saying:

We will now disempower behaviours shown by using positive phrasing and reinforcement.

We will notice positive behaviours and positive choices.

We want to work as a team.

We have been given good examples of strategies which we can use at home.

We will spend more time talking about how to make things better and what our next steps are.

## DIARY DATES

### **February 2025**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Bysouth Class: Fire of London workshop
- 7<sup>th</sup> Eco council recycling competition entry day
- 11<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultations 3.30 – 5.30
- 13<sup>th</sup> Parents Consultations 4.00 – 6.00
- 14<sup>th</sup> Homestart Dress Down Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> Half term
- 26<sup>th</sup> Fire crew visiting Bysouth Class
- 28<sup>th</sup> West End in Schools working with all classes ready for World Book Day celebrations.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Layton Class assembly

### **March 2025**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Girls into football with Laura Mills, Royston Town FC (Years 1 – 4)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday House pancake races
- 5<sup>th</sup> *Primary Books* Fair
- 6<sup>th</sup> World Book Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> Bysouth Class assembly
- 12<sup>th</sup> Netball skills challenge Y3 and 4 at KJAR
- 14<sup>th</sup> Y2s Tag rugby event at St Ed's
- 21<sup>st</sup> Jackson Class assembly
- 21<sup>st</sup> Red Nose Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> Mothers' Day morning 9.30am – 11.30am

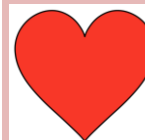
### **April 2025**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Hat competition
  - 4<sup>th</sup> End of term for children at 2pm
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> INSET days
  - 24<sup>th</sup> Summer term starts for children
- Please remember all dates are available on our website: <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates/>



**HOME  
START**

**Royston, Buntingford &  
South Cambridgeshire**



Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire (Home-Start) is a voluntary charitable organisation that offers practical and emotional support to families with at least one child aged 9 or under. We help families from all backgrounds through their most challenging times because childhood can't wait.

To support this important charity, we are holding a dress down day on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February**, where children can all wear their home clothes for the day for a donation to the charity via a link which will be posted on our website.

As the event coincides with Valentine's Day it would be great if the outfits of choice have a **red** theme!

### **Mother's Day Morning**

You are invited to join your child(ren) at school on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March for the morning from 9.30am 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.

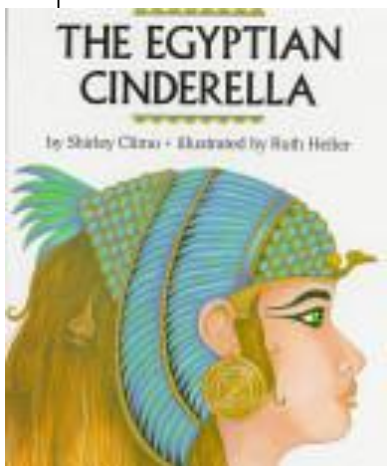
Please let the office staff know who will be attending by emailing [admin@reed.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@reed.herts.sch.uk)



# You shall go to the ball!



The children, as is now our tradition, enjoyed a great start to the new year by experiencing the live theatre of pantomime at school. Our children were again complimented by the cast on their enthusiasm!



The teachers planned wonderful opportunities to continue the magic of the story of Cinderella across the curriculum. There were slippers designed for Cinders, wands for the fairy godmother and instruments and masks for a Bysouth ball! Every class has enjoyed exploring different written versions of the story. The pantomime also provided fabulous links for Layton Class and their history of Ancient Egypt by enjoying the story of the Egyptian Cinderella. There have been comparisons between the stories and headdresses created fit for any princess! As ever, the standard of writing produced is excellent. There are some examples for you to enjoy on the next page. Hopefully, lovely to see how our children progress in their written work from Early Years to Year 4...



Dear diary,

I'm writing to you because I want to tell you all about my miserable life. First things first, I'm going to tell you about my evil, freezing, haunted stepmother and stepsisters. They're really rude and disrespectful that they make me do all of the housework! If they get angry you might see their pupils in their eye will turn red! Once they even locked me in the cellar! I tried to get out, and I did! But they started shouting at me. About the stepsisters and stepmother they make me sleep on the floor next to the fireplace while they get to sleep in a king sized bed with a silk duvet! It's so unfair! They ripped up all of my nice clothes, and instead they gave me a patched up dress with an apron to wear every day! Is that how you want to spend your life? Probably not. It makes me extremely mad! I can't take it any more! I just want to go outside and play with my friends than be with them. My dream is to stay away from my stepmother and stepsisters!

You can really see the pride our children take in their writing! Huge thanks to our wonderful teachers who work so hard to plan meaningful opportunities for the children to write to help them to engage with the task.

The children do not often appear daunted by the writing they see in higher years but see a goal and show their aspiration to get there too. For our older writers, they continue to inspire without forgetting to work on their own next steps!

## Cinderella

This Wednesday, we were treated to the pantomime Cinderella in our school. It was surprisingly good considering how small the hall is! This is my review:

Cinderella is a fairy tale. The storyline they presented to us is that Cinderella is treated really badly, and then her stepmother and stepsisters got an invitation for the prince's ball and she didn't. This pantomime group stuck to the traditional storyline but used interesting props like: The fairy godmother made the clothes fly from the floor but, before that the washing line they used looked completely invisible! When the carriage appeared from the pumpkin they used a projector on the white door. So I would recommend their special effects!

The part I really enjoyed or recommend is when they included lots of modern day songs that lots of my friends knew. I think they acted their expressions really well.

I think they should improve by sticking to the script because by the end they started to add in some extra jokes just for them selves.

I would really recommend this pantomime and I would give it ★★★★★ stars.

Reception



FEMI DOD

MUF. ALFIE



We enjoyed meeting Sian from Blue Cross who came to speak to all of the children about keeping safe around dogs.

We saw how many children have dogs or know dogs in our school, which shows how popular they are and so how important it is to respect them while we look after them.



I learnt the three Cs when you approach a dog. They are important because if you go straight up to a dog you don't know, that could make them anxious.

Henry

Dogs are very important and we need to look after them. They are special because they show us how they feel.

Zoe

I learnt that if you are going to pat a dog, you need to ask the owner first, then if they say yes you can call the dog and let them come to you. They will give you a sniff and if they are happy, you can pat them three times, then stop to check they are ok.

Mia H

### School Closures

As we continue through the winter months, 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