

The Owl - May 2023



Significant events

The Owl this time last year focused on the celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. It seems hard to believe now, that since then, we have shared our condolences after her passing and then celebrated the coronation of our new monarch.

The children have enjoyed finding out about King Charles III and have demonstrated clear understanding that they have lived through another very significant event in our history. We have marked the event with traditions which will hopefully be memorable.

Leading up to the coronation and May bank holiday, the children all enjoyed taking part in Maypole dancing. Some evidence suggests that it began in Roman Britain about 2,000 years ago, when soldiers celebrated the arrival of spring by dancing around decorated trees to thank the goddess Flora, whatever the origins, it is a happy tradition and one which we plan to carry on with our own Maypole as part of our dance curriculum.

We loved having another reason for a tea party too. The children's baking skills are coming on leaps and bounds!



DIARY DATES

June 2023

5th INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

6th Coffee and catch up 2.30pm (Y2 parents)

6th FoRS meeting on Google Meet (all welcome)

9th Years 1, 2, 3, 4 Cross-country at Anstey First School

13th Coffee and catch up 2.30pm (Y1 parents)

15th Clean Air Thursday

20th Coffee and catch up 2.30pm (Y3 and 4 parents)

27th Coffee and catch up 2.30pm (Reception and Nursery parents)

29th Years 1, 2, 3, 4 Cross-country at Reed First School

July 2023

6th Summer performance (whole school) 2pm

7th Summer performance (whole school) 2pm

13th Transition Day

14th End of year written reports out

14th Open Afternoon 1.30pm

14th Layton Class campout 5.30pm – 8.00am

18th Sports Day

21st Final celebration and Leavers' assembly 12.45pm

21st Term ends 2pm

September 2023

1st INSET Day (staff training day)

4th New term for pupils

Please note all term dates for 23/24 are on our website.



Open Afternoon

We would like to invite you to come into your child's classroom to enable them to share their learning with you from over the whole year on **Friday 14th July**. You will also be able to have a look around the whole school and see what other classes have been up to.

You will be welcome to come **from 1.45pm** to be with your child(ren) and have a guided tour from them. You may bring other friends and family too if they would like to come.

If you are unable to make the 14th July, then do let me know. There will be governors coming too who would be very pleased to have a tour from your child. There will also be refreshments to enjoy while you are here.

As ever, all parents are welcome to visit class after school any day by appointment with the class teacher.



Be ready for anything!

Please remember with the great British weather to send your child to school ready for rain or

shine. Children must have a coat in school every day, a sun hat, water bottle and sun cream for further application if needed.



Spotlight on Jackson Class

The children in Nursey and Reception, had a wonderful visit to Wire Farm, Chrishall, this month. The class have been finding out about farming and the importance of produce, particularly local products. The children had lots they wanted to find out and meeting Farmer Caroline at her farm to see her family at work was a brilliant way to discover more.



Being so well prepared through adult led teaching and child initiated learning, the children were able to apply what they knew and then find out more.

Connections were made as the children understood how the wheat, barley and meat produced at Wire Farm are used to create products used in our everyday lives and sold locally.

The children were amazing as ever, showing complete respect for the farm and everything in it. Well done Jackson Class!



The children have been keen to share lots of memories already and have hopefully been looking out for the symbols on packaging that tell us the food is British. Perhaps even from Wire Farm!



Esme enjoyed having her biscuit snack and knowing that the wheat for biscuits is grown on the farm.

Bertie loved meeting the cows. Every time we went past them, they said, "Moo!"

Leo enjoyed seeing how huge the tractors were.

We all loved sitting in the wheels!



Rhubarb!



Jackson Class make this month's news again! We are lucky enough to have rhubarb growing at school. The children have been inspired by Farmer Caroline and have become enterprising business owners with their very own market stall.

Thank you if you have already bought some of their produce. It has been lovely to hear about the delicious treats being made at home using it, including pies and crumbles!

The market stall will be back on its pitch after half term. I think Jackson Class will be thinking of what else they could grow to sell soon!

All money will be used to contribute towards resources to help their enterprise and other items to enhance their learning environment.



Attendance

I have had noticeably more absence requests sent to me recently. As you know, holidays in term time are not authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Time away from school is not only detrimental to children being able to keep up with a fast paced curriculum but also unsettling. Family time is of course important and yes, learning can take place in all situations, however...

A polite reminder, that pupils are expected to attend school for 190 days each academic year. That leaves 175 days of time when holidays can be taken and learning at school is not missed. Low attendance directly impacts success – fact!

0 days of school	100%
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%

And finally...

Our congratulations to the Walker-Arnott family on the birth of their little girl, Ella.

We can't wait to meet her!

IT'S A
girl