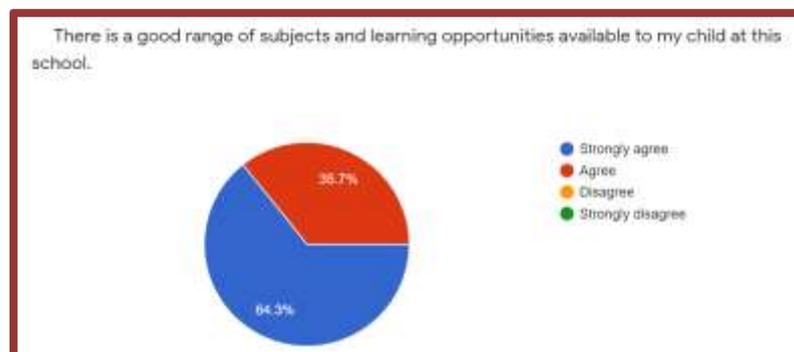


## The Owl - November 2021

Many thanks to those of you who found the time to complete the latest parent survey. I was so pleased to see that you also recognise the dedication our teachers show in planning exciting and varied opportunities for learning. In fact, before seeing the results of the survey, I had asked the Junior and Infant class to share some of their memorable experiences for this newsletter. What you read and see below highlights the reasons all parents agree or strongly agree that there is a good range of subjects and learning opportunities.



We will be looking at owl pellets.

What are owl pellets?

"What's that you don't know what owl pellets are? Well you will now. Owls eat their prey and the bones go in the gizzard and make owl pellets." – Henry.

"Owls eat their prey whole. We used a magnifying glass to see the bones and we used tweezers to dissect the pellets." – Isabelle

"Owl pellets are made out of fur and bones." - Isla

"An owl pellet is something that an owl spits out." - Imogen

"We found bird, vole, mouse and rat bones." – Jesse

"I found a skull and a rat's foot. Owls have good eyesight. We sorted what an owl had eaten." – Jessica

Of course, these experiences don't 'just happen'. I would like to say a HUGE thank you to the teaching team who are constantly asking and thinking, "What can we do next?", "Can we plan to do this?" My answer whenever possible is absolutely, "Yes!"

The children and their journey at the school is at the heart of everything we do. If you would like to see the results of the whole parent survey, it can be found by visiting our website at <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/parents/parent-voice/>



## Go out and Conquer!

On Monday 1st November, we had a fantastic Roman Day!

We all dressed up as Romans and we took part in lots of different Roman activities throughout the day. We made our own patterns using white and black tiles, then we glued them to a piece of card to make a mosaic. Next, we used a sponge, a stick and string to make a tool that Romans would have used to wipe their bottoms! After that, we made our own game of Nine Men's Morris using red and grey clay and a piece of fabric. We drew our board for the game on the fabric using pencils and rulers, and used the clay to make playing pieces. Next, we made our own Roman brooches using a piece of foil that we pressed a pattern into using a sharpened stick. Lastly, we used a sharpened stick to paint our names in Roman lettering on a piece of papyrus.

We were also very lucky to have a chance to talk to a Roman expert. He told us a story about King Midas and his golden touch, and he answered our questions.

Sophie says, "My favourite part was when the Roman expert told us the story about King Midas, because it was so interesting. I love stories!"

Harry's favourite was making the sponge on the stick because "it was funny!"

Morgunn says, "I liked the mosaic because it was interesting making the patterns." Jack found the mosaic interesting and challenging, but "I like facing challenges!"

Charlie liked the Nine Men's Morris game because "it is intriguing to learn new games."

We think it was the best Roman Day ever!



Do come and see the children's workshop artefacts on display in school!



# DIARY DATES

## December 2021

1st – FoRS Christmas tuck shop

2nd – Bags 2 School

3rd - Decorating Day – **home clothes** suitable for crafting

3rd - Celebration Assembly

6th – A visit from Alfie (details below)

**10th – Christmas jumper day for Save the Children**



13th – FoRS Christmas Shoppe

**14th – Bart Gee visiting to talk about when something CHALLENGING, it is still POSSIBLE!**

15th – Christmas lunch, movie afternoon and a special visitor!

**16th – Winter play performance 2pm**

**17th – Winter play performance 2pm**

20th – FoRS social mulled wine and hot chocolate outside from 2.30pm

21st – Christmas carols at St Mary's church, Reed at 1.30pm – all welcome!

**We will be leaving school to walk to St Mary's church at 1.00pm. We will meet you there if you would like to join us. If you do not want your children to go to the church, please let Mrs Wittich know and pick up from school at 1pm. All other children to be collected from church at 2pm. Just water bottles and coats on the last day please to avoid having to carry too much.**

## January 2022

5th INSET day school closed to pupils

**6th Term begins for pupils**



6th Pantomime – **Aladdin**

6 - 13th Theme week – We will be using the story of Aladdin to plan our learning together across the school.

**12th Swimming for Infant class**

## We will remember them

The children demonstrated their **respect** for others by remembering those in conflicts around the world.



Thank you to members of our Junior class for selling poppies and to all of the children who made poppies in class to create our wonderful school wreath.

Year 3 pupils took the wreath to St Mary's church in the village. It was a special opportunity for those children who had found out in history lessons last year more about those from the village who fought in World War I and lost their lives. Chatting to the children on the way to the church showed how much they had remembered including family names. A truly heartening example of remembrance.



### School admissions

Parents wishing to take up a Reception place for their child here must apply by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022 **regardless of whether they are already accessing our Nursery**. Please make sure you complete the online application in good time. Similarly, parents of children in Year 4 need to apply for a place at their chosen Middle School by the same date. Apply online at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

### Decorating Day – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Children do not need to wear uniform on Decorating Day but should be suitably dressed for craft activities and warmly enough to go outside to play.

Thanks to FoRS who are providing the Christmas tree to go outside the school for all to enjoy. Some of the decorations made by the children will take pride of place on it.

Do come to enjoy the tree and the decorations we have made with your child. Any crafts made by your child will be brought home at the end of term. In the meantime, I look forward to sharing photographs of the tree decorated and lit in the December Owl.

### Play leaders

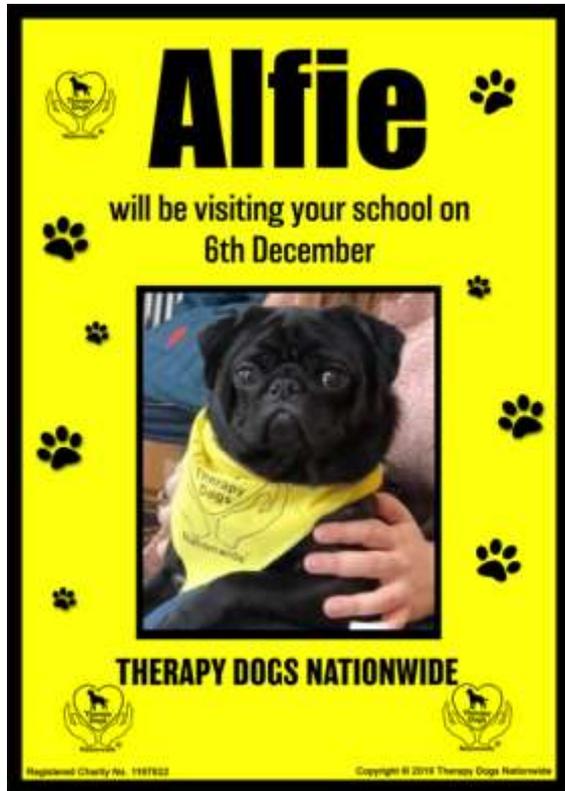
As you know from the October Owl, our last talking group, to gain the voice of our pupils, saw some great discussions about outdoor play. As a result, Year 4 pupils were asked to put themselves forward if they would like to lead play outside. I wasn't surprised to see all Year 4s volunteer immediately which is testament to the year group's passion for everything we do!



I have already seen the impact in calm games of football and much better use of toys. Well done play leaders – an excellent start to reaching our aspirations for even better playtimes!

## Coming soon!

This edition of the Owl, certainly reflects our constant aim to introduce new and exciting experiences. We have two events coming up which will really support the children's wider personal development.



### Meet Alfie!

He will be visiting us on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December to meet the children. We will then be welcoming Alfie regularly to support sessions with children in a 'Paws & Read Scheme' which is recognised by The Kennel Club.

Research suggests children can be nervous and uncomfortable when reading aloud in a classroom environment, especially those that are struggling. The 'Paws & Read' Programme allows these children to read to a therapy dog, as they are non-judgemental, attentive and perfect listeners.

There is documented evidence that one these dogs, with the volunteer, can raise not only the reading standard of the children but help with their self-confidence and behaviour, and with their social and emotional welfare too.

The scheme also helps with self-esteem, and behavioural problems the children might have, plus teaching them how to behave appropriately around dogs and basic dog safety, thus hopefully helping the next generation of dog owners, to be more responsible.

I am delighted to let you know, that Bart Gee will be leading our assembly on Tuesday 14th December.

Bart was born with a rare physical disability called Arthrogryposis which means that he has weak muscles and stiff joints. After Bart was born, doctors said he would never walk and may not ever have the strength to be able to sit up independently, and he would have a bleak outlook to life.

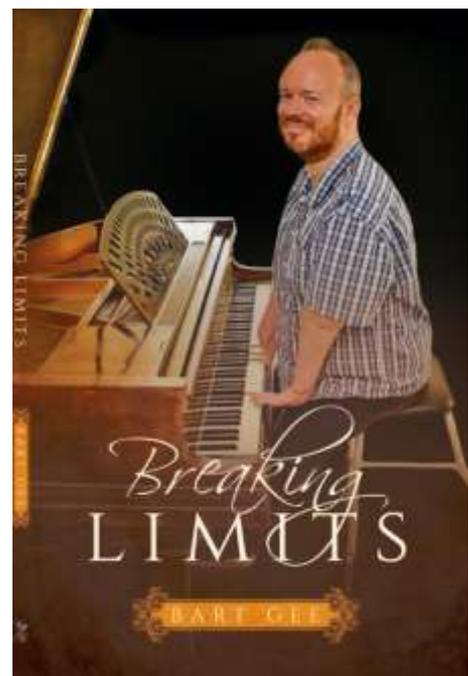
He is coming to talk to us about all of the things which he can do that he was told were impossible for him. He has so many amazing achievements thanks to his belief in himself and his Christian faith.

At a very young age, Bart had two aspirations:

To one day be able to physically walk down the aisle of the church.

To be able to play the organ like his father (his father played the organ regularly at church).

We will find out if he achieved his goals and what else he has done!



## Forest school

As you know, Miss Wilson is very much looking forward to embarking on her journey towards becoming our forest school leader. While she trains, Mrs Farrington will be back in February and March for weekly sessions for all children.

Parent voice continues to be a great way to know how we can continue to make things better. Some of you have shared how difficult it is to source old clothes which still fit to wear at forest school! As a result, we have worked with Kids Connection to make available a waterproof fleece lined coat with a hood and black waterproof trousers as part of our uniform.

The coat will keep our children warm and dry and will look like the ones modelled here. You may even decide to make this your school coat (especially for those who like to get messy outside even on non-forest school days! The only addition will be our school logo. We have samples in school for you to try for sizing and Kids Connection are ready for orders. The coats cost £20 each and the waterproof trousers are £13.50. Order forms are available on the Homepage of the website. Please ensure these are returned to school by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December** so that orders can be processed in time for Forest School sessions starting in February.



### Adverse Weather

Closure of the school is always a last resort due to weather conditions and any decision will be taken after an assessment of risk and any guidance given by the local authority. If it is possible to give advance warning, you will be contacted by ParentMail or letter. Out of school hours, parents will be notified via the school closure notification system, if parents have not yet signed up for this system please do so as soon as possible, at:

[member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489](http://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489)



Many thanks for supporting our fundraising for **Children in Need**. We raised **£129.00** through our online giving page. If you have not yet donated in return for dressing up, the donation link is still accessible on our website home page.



Thank you!

## And finally...

If your child would like to write cards to their friends or staff, our post box will be outside the front of the school for collections from 1<sup>st</sup> December.

