

The Owl - November 2019

Autumn seems to have come and nearly gone with incredible speed. No sooner had our coats come out; the leaves fell almost overnight! This caused absolute delight for the children who spent hours playing with the them and making sculptures. Sadly, the rain came too and the leaves needed clearing away. Thank you to Mrs Rozier and some of our Junior Class who showed our community spirit at its best by volunteering to sweep soggy leaves away.

All of the children are trying hard to show our values in action - our house point collection pot is filling up well. I know that children and parents alike have enjoyed seeing our grand reveal each week to see how Eagle, Tawny and Barn Owls are doing.

In particular, I have seen our value of respect around the school recently. Respect for adults by saying, "Thank you" and respect for each other by congratulating achievements in class by bursting into spontaneous applause! What a lovely place to be!

Best wishes,

Mrs Wittich



Race for the bell

A huge thank you to all of those families who have made a noticed effort to be on the playground before the bell. It is great to see some children determined to beat the bell and get onto the playground ready to wait for the bell at 8.50am.

It really does make a huge difference having time to settle into class and feel relaxed to start learning.

I know that many of the children enjoy having time to play and chat before going into class.



DIARY DATES

November 2019

- 26th LAST PE Club
- 27th FoRS AGM – all welcome
- 27th LAST Swimming
- 29th Occasional Day – school closed
- 29th Wreath making workshop (village hall 7pm)

December 2019

- 2nd Decorating Day
- 3rd NSPCC assemblies
- 5th LAST Bowls club
- 6th FoRS present wrap
- 7th Community Library 10 – 12pm
- 10th Sleepy Shepherd Dress rehearsal 9.15am
- 11th Sleepy Shepherd 2pm
- 12th Sleepy Shepherd 6pm
- 13th Christmas jumper and dinner day
- 13th LAST Sting club
- 17th GenR8 assembly 1.30pm
- 19th Party day and a visit from Santa
- 20th Celebration assembly with mince pies and mulled wine at 9.15am
- 20th Christmas service at St Mary's 1pm
- Term ends after church at 2pm.

January 2020

- 6th INSET day school closed to pupils
- 7th Term begins for pupils
- 7th West End in Schools Pantomime
- 8th Parent forum 6pm – 7pm
- 14th PE club begins
- 15th Swimming begins



Thank you to everyone who collected empty bottles to turn into poppies. We have had many positive comments about the poppies outside the school in order to show that we remember those who gave their lives during combat.

Thank you also to the Eeles family who represented the school at the Remembrance service at church where our poppy wreath was laid at the village memorial.

Parent Forum

Thank you to those of you who were able to come to our first parent forum. It was a really good opportunity to chat about how we can continue to improve the school from the point of view of the parents.

We discussed the communication between classes and home and also how to encourage more parents to get involved in school life.

We will discuss the same areas at the next forum on **Wednesday 8th January at 6pm** for those of you who were unable to join us last week.

Once we have met in January, I will let you all know the actions which we have or plan to put in place as a result of your suggestions.

As usual, we welcome any feedback whenever you have something to say!

School admissions

Parents wishing to take up a Reception place for their child here must apply by 15th January 2020 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



Speed Stacking Super Stars

The photograph says it all!

What a fantastic time our Infants had speed stacking! I have been watching their skills develop over the last few weeks in PE lessons. I have never seen cups move so fast or stack so high! Well done for representing our school wonderfully.

Thank you to Mr S for teaching the children, Miss Panter for organising our attendance at the event and to Mrs Kershaw for going with them to share their skills!

Decorating Day – Monday 2nd December

We will be making decorations for the hall, the tree and public areas of the school. The children will do this in their House groups. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered to help. If you would like to come in to help, for the morning, the afternoon, or all day, please could you please let the office know. Please be aware this day is not suitable for younger children.

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. The afternoon will finish with a celebration in the hall to enjoy the tree and share the crafts from the day.



Christmas parties

Parties for our children will take place on Thursday 19th December with Early Years having games in the morning and Years 1-4 in the afternoon. Nursery children who do not normally stay for lunch, are able to do so on this day until 1.15pm. There is a charge of £3.10 for this, which should be paid to the school office. All children may come to school in party clothes but please make sure that they are warm enough to go outside to play and have appropriate footwear.



Ask your child about Jeni, Jack and Jino. They will be helping us to be mindful while developing our personal, social, health and emotional development. We will be using mindfulness with plenty of time to talk and reflect in class and assemblies. This will improve our children's capacity to learn, their resilience and emotional well-being and mental health and thereby enhance their life-chances.





Governor News

Over the next few issues of The Owl, we will be introducing you to our governors to help you to get to know them and understand their roles and responsibilities.



I'm Philip Blenkinsop and I've been a co-opted governor now for some two years. My specific role is as Premises Governor which encompasses a wide range of responsibilities from changing the occasional light bulb through to advising the Governing Body on priorities, including Health and Safety and for the maintenance and development of the school's premises.

I'm now retired but spent the whole of my career in technical consultancy helping develop products for companies worldwide including the motor industry, pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers of domestic products. I was lucky in that this enabled me to visit most parts of the world and to gain a broad perspective of business life.

I live in Reed and in what little spare time I have I enjoy travel, gardening, reading, DIY and writing software for my own amusement.



Swimming

We still need another helper in the water at swimming each week. If you would like to join us, please let Mrs Scally know.

Adverse Weather

Closure of the school is always a last resort 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 new system, please do so as soon as possible, at:

member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489



And finally...

Please come to our **FoRS AGM** on **Wednesday 27th November at 2.30pm** to show your support as part of the school community. We want FoRS to continue to work with the school and the school wants to work with you!

Remember, if you would like to be part of the FoRS committee, you need to be nominated by an existing member of the committee. Forms are available from the office. If you want to have a chat about how you could get involved do come in to see me. Any contribution to FoRS as a group will make a huge difference.