

The Owl - November 2020

It does not seem possible that we are looking at the start of December and a fast approaching end of term packed with the usual fun. Songs for our winter play can be heard coming from our classroom bubbles while I frantically work out how Google Meet will best share the children's hard work with you at our planned virtual performances next week. Roll on next year when we are packed into the hall together!

Trying to keep life as 'normal' as possible at Reed has been our aim and the children and staff alike have shown tremendous **resilience**. I hope that you have enjoyed our class assemblies as much as I have. Don't forget these are recorded and saved in the Google Classrooms. Our class pages on our website also demonstrate the wonderful range of learning taking place across the school. Do have a look www.reed.herts.sch.uk. Alongside this, we are thinking very much about mindfulness and equipping our school community with the ability to regulate their feelings and emotions. Calm me times and weekly personal, social and health education sessions are offering welcome opportunities to stop and reflect, share and support.

We are also looking forward to more outdoor learning opportunities in the new year by introducing Forest Schools through <https://www.downthewoods.org/>. We are lucky to have wonderful outdoor space here; but our thanks also go to the Sedgwick Roughs for enabling us to widen our experience off site to immerse ourselves in the outdoor experience at Queenbury in the village when our sessions begin. One of the many things I love about our children is their adoration of the outdoors and all things muddy! I can't wait to get my wellies on and join in!



Our School Council have been busy buying outdoor games and toys with their given budget to keep our playtimes engaging. Some toys have arrived and there are more on the way. School Council will be keeping a close eye on the use and care of them. Pupils attending our very popular running club are also enjoying getting outside whatever the weather (and getting muddy). You may see us running around the village before too long as fitness levels increase! Give us a wave if you do. I will be looking for extra adult sized runners when the time comes to help!

Huge thanks as always for your support, Mrs Wittich



DIARY DATES

December 2020

- 1st Future of FoRS meeting 6.30pm on Google Meet
- 4th Decorating Day – **home clothes** suitable for crafting
- 4th Celebration Assembly on Google Meet
- 8th Snowman at Sunset 10am on Google Meet
- 9th Snowman at Sunset 2pm on Google Meet
- 11th **Christmas jumper day** for Save the Children 
- 11th Celebration Assembly on Google Meet
- 14th Early Years January starters taster morning 9.00 – 11.00am.
- 14th Junior Class Viking Workshop
- 16th Christmas lunch and movie afternoon and a special visitor
- 17th Term ends at 2pm

January 2021

- 4th INSET day school closed to pupils
- 5th Term begins for pupils**
- 5th Virtual Pantomime
– **Robin Hood**



- 5th Theme week – We will be using the story of Robin Hood to plan our learning for the whole week.
- 11th **Forest Schools** for all classes begins. This will take place every Monday until Monday 22nd February inclusively. The children will wear their winter PE kit and wellington boots which should all be in school every day.



We will remember them



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

The infant Class took a wreath created with crafts from each class to the memorial in the village. This was part of their research into whether lives were changed for the people of Reed village during the Great War of 1914 – 1918. The children have shown real empathy in imagining how difficult it was for families whose loved ones were involved. They have been particularly touched when seeing more than one member of the same family being remembered.

Parent Forum

Thank you to those of you who were able to come to our latest parent forum. It was as ever, 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 ways we can support the children further with their wider personal development.

Discussions showed that parents feel that as a school we are offering a good support to develop the needs of our children to equip them for future years. As a result of discussions; we are planning on sharing more detail about what is being taught in our Jigsaw lessons to ensure the support can be continued at home.

The results of the latest parent questionnaire can be seen at the following link:

<https://reed.herts.sch.uk/download/parent-questionnaire-results/>

School admissions

Parents wishing to take up a Reception place for their child here must apply by 15th January 2021 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

Odd Socks Day

The children really impressed me this month, not only in the array



of socks worn to mark the end of our anti bullying week and a celebration of differences - but in their ability to explain what bullying is and how to deal with it.

Well done in particular to Bethan, Molly A, Callum and Jesse who were nominated to become our Ambassadors of Equality for their excellent understanding of how to treat each other fairly and to celebrate and encourage differences.

Decorating Day – Friday 4th December

We will be making decorations for our classrooms, and the wonderful tree outside the school. Many thanks to Mrs Liebenberg who provided our beautiful tree. We have positioned it outside this year for all to enjoy.



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 day will finish with the chance for each class to come outside to enjoy the tree and share the crafts from the day which will decorate it.

Do come to enjoy the tree and the decorations we have made with your child but of course please keep your distance from other families when doing so.

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.

Governor News

Many thanks for your positive engagement in the recent Parent Governor vacancy. We were thrilled to have multiple nominations and high levels of engagement in the voting process. Congratulations go to Charlotte Eeles who will be joining our Governing Body.

There have been a few changes to our governor positions recently. Kelly Liebenberg has been a huge champion over many years to our school as a parent, member of FoRS and finally as Chair of Governors. Her role as Chair has come to an end but I know that she will continue to keenly support the school in every way she can. Huge thanks Kelly for all that you have done.

Liz Jakeman and Emma Hedderson have also decided to pass their roles as governors on. They have shown great support to the school and myself as I arrived at Reed in 2019.

Our new Chair of Governors and Vice Chair were voted in at our last Full Governor Body meeting as follows:

Chair: Shelley Ward



Vice Chair: Alan Blower



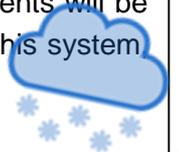
You can find out more about our Governing Body at:

<https://reed.herts.sch.uk/about-us/governors/>

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



And finally...

If your child would like to write a card to their friends or staff, our post box will be outside the front of the school for collections. In line with recommendations from County, the cards will be collected every three days to ensure we limit the possibility of the spread of Covid-19. As a result, you can be confident that cards received will be safe to be taken from school to home.

We hope that by sending and receiving cards, we can continue to try to offer some of our usual experiences for the children. I know that the one thing the children are still missing despite being in school, is being able to interact with others outside their 'bubble'. Hopefully sending a card or even a letter will help regain this connection the children are used to having between year groups.

