

The Owl - November 2022

**Proud to be
GOOD**

Bursting with pride!

**Ofsted**

Good
Provider

It goes without saying - the pride we feel after our recent Ofsted inspection.

Everywhere I look in school at the moment, I see such wonderful aspiration in what the staff and children want to achieve. This example of mark making and writing in Jackson class shows not only the great opportunities the

children are given but also the children's desire to learn. High quality teaching equips to children to access the curriculum; however, the children need to have that aspiration to want to use their new skills. From our youngest children aged three to our oldest aged nine, they show such wonderful behaviours for learning. These behaviours don't just happen, they come from the high expectations our staff have and the enthusiasm for learning which they share.

Visitors in school have commented on the engagement the children show in their learning. Pupils passing us with house point tokens are able to explain which value they have shown and why. Just today, a pupil in Bysouth class told me and my visitor that they had been doing extra reading to improve and so had shown aspiration. Our visitor was taken aback that a 5 year old understood this important value.

I also had the pleasure of watching a maths lesson in Layton class where the children were showing their mastery of multiplication facts to reason about maths. There was a real sense of working together in the room; in the discussions going on and the support given to each other when needed.

There is also some healthy competition among my spelling group to have the best handwriting in the school! Starting my day with such a hard working group is truly a pleasure!

A shared vision for our children to learn together, learn for life is clear to see – well done *Team Reed!*

Vicious Vikings!

News from Layton Class Time travellers

On Monday 21st November, we had a Viking Day!

We all dressed up as Vikings and had a day full of fun activities. Vikings used runes to write. We wrote our names in Viking runes using black paint, a sharpened stick and a piece of thin bark. Vikings liked to play a game called Hnefetafl. We used some fabric to draw our own Hnefetafl game board, and then made our own playing pieces using grey and red clay. We also made a copper pendant in the shape of Thor's hammer or a cross. Finally, we made our own Viking bracelets by twisting and tying pieces of wool together.

We were very lucky to have a live chat with a Viking expert. She answered lots of questions that we had about the Vikings and showed us some Viking artefacts like a shield, axe and chainmail armour, a helmet, pots and bones that Viking doctors would use. She also told us a story about how Thor lost his hammer, and how Loki helped him get it back. Lastly, she used rune stones to tell Harry's future. He is going to be a big and strong warrior, and die in battle – which apparently is great for a Viking!

Callum's favourite part was twisting the wool to make the bracelet "because I found it really calming."

Reggie and Jesse say "My favourite thing was making Hnefetafl because I liked playing the game afterwards."

Harry's favourite part was making the copper pendants "because I did it all on my own – I demonstrated independence!"

Isabelle says "I loved everything! It was a great day!"



Thank you Miss Riches for organising such an exciting day to make our learning even more memorable.



DIARY DATES



December 2022

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

3rd – FoRS Christmas movie night

8th – Christmas jumper day for **Save the Children**



12th – Christmas play costumes in today please.

12th – FoRS Christmas Shoppe

15th – Winter play performance 2pm



16th – Winter play performance 2pm

16th – FoRS Christmas disco 4.30 – 6.30pm

21st - Christmas lunch and a special visitor!

21st – Last day of term 2pm finish

January 2023

5th and 6th INSET days - school closed to pupils

9th Term begins for pupils

18th Swimming for Bysouth class starts

26th Pantomime at school (Sleeping Beauty)

30th Sleeping Beauty theme week



We will remember them



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



Some of our school council members took our handmade wreath to St Mary's church in the village ready for Remembrance Sunday.

Bysouth class also saw the wreath at church the following week when they went on a history discovery tour of the village. Our class names have really special links to the village and its history!

Many thanks to our local historians Char Eeles and Liz Jakeman.



School admissions

Parents wishing to take up a Reception place for their child here must apply by 15th January 2023 **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

Decorating Day – Friday 2nd 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 trees for the school for all to enjoy. Some of the decorations made by the children will take pride of place on them.

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.

A spotacular effort!



Many thanks for supporting our fundraising for **Children in Need**. The children really enjoyed getting spotty while raising money.

We totalled an amazing **£168.00** through our online giving page.

Thank you!



And finally...

If your child would like to write Christmas cards to their friends or staff, our post box will be ready for collections from 1st December. If possible, please write:
J for Jackson,
B for Bysouth
or L for Layton
for the classes on the envelope to make the job quicker in the sorting room by the elves!



Congratulations to the Salmon family on the birth of baby Alice.

