

The Owl – November 2025

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!

I was saying to the children this week in assembly that I have been the filling in a Christmas sandwich! My office is perfectly placed to hear rehearsals for our Christmas shows coming from the hall and Layton Class. Despite having two different songs sung simultaneously, it has still been lovely to hear! As ever, you will be in for a treat when you hear and see the polished performances.

One of the many lovely things about working in schools is the joy of starting Christmas fun as soon as we can! Decorating Day is a great example of this. Still November, but the trees are up for the decorations made today to be hung, ready for Monday 1st December.

These activities and occasions always run so smoothly to the point things just ‘happen’. This as I am sure you know is far from the truth! The time and effort put in by the teachers in planning everything should never be underestimated – from how many buttons to order to ensure all children can make a wreath, to which parts in a play to give out to ensure everyone is happy and included. Thanks indeed to the teachers who dream about Christmas songs, buttons, ribbon and tinsel way into the new year!

Thanks also to Layton Class children today, who were so supportive to the younger children in making their crafts, sharing resources and making sure the little ones were settled before starting their own.

With so much support for each other, it is no wonder all of the children love coming to school!



Once upon a time...

Jackson Class was once again turned into a magical bedtime story space this month. The children were so excited to come back to school in the dark! It is always a treat to share some time with someone from home at school and I think the grown-ups enjoyed the stories as much as the children did!

The children enjoyed hot chocolate, singing and of course stories.

Huge thanks to Mrs Arnott and Mrs Cottenden for giving their extra time in the evening to create such wonderful and magical memories for the children.

This is now an event which will be planned every year. I have already heard some of the Bysouth children fondly saying, "I remember when I came to the Bedtime Story!"



Attendance Spotlight

November 2025

Jackson	96.7%
Layton	96.0%
Bysouth	95.2%

Why Attendance Matters

Attending school regularly helps children to:

- ✓ Achieve stronger academic outcomes
- ✓ Build friendships and develop social skills
- ✓ Strengthen emotional wellbeing and resilience
- ✓ Establish positive habits for future education
- ✓ Engage fully in school life and activities

24 children have 100% attendance so far this year. Is your child one of them? Who is aspiring to keep that 100% until July 2026?

Behaviour Curriculum

Our curriculum for behaviour maps out our expectations for behaviours in areas of **social skills**, **learning skills** and **organisational skills**. The statements are broken down into Key Stage groups to set clear expectations to enable our children to be ready for the next stage in their journey as a respectful, independent, aspirational and resilient member of society.

This month's whole school focus is on **Organisational Skills**:

Jackson Class: Carry some of my belongings home.
Bysouth Class: Carry most of my belongings home.
Layton Class: Carry all of my own belongings home

The whole document is available from our website at the end of our [Values, Vision and Mission page](#).

Fantastic football!

A huge well done and thank you to those members of Bysouth Class who represented our school at St Ed's football festival this week.

The children certainly demonstrated our value of resilience where our teams were predominantly Year Ones playing Year Two teams from much larger schools. The children's smiles and determination did not fade for a second.

Our children stood out again with another of our values: respect. Both teams made sure they went to shake hands with their opponents, even when some teams wouldn't reciprocate. As one of team Reed children said; "Rude!"



Toy Run

I am delighted to let you know that we will be supporting the Nutwood Toy Run this year. This fantastic charity organises a convoy of bikes and off-road vehicles (including our very own local rural police team) who take donated toys to children who will be spending Christmas in hospital at The Lister, Stevenage.



NUTWOOD TOY RUN

OUR STORY

The Nutwood Toy Run began in 2023 with just 50 teddy bears and a simple idea – to bring a little extra joy to children spending time in hospital over Christmas. That first year, a small group of around 20 bikers came together to hand-deliver the toys, and the event has grown ever since.

By 2024, support expanded even further. More biker groups and Land Rover enthusiasts joined the run, and thanks to Tesco Extra in Royston and the wider community, an incredible 23 crates of toys and books were collected. Local businesses also contributed generously, helping us provide a wide range of gifts for children of all ages. With the support of Herts Rural Police, the convoy travelled safely to Lister Hospital.

We chose Lister Hospital because we have a venue in Hertfordshire and our volunteers have personal links to the hospital. If we receive a substantial amount of donations, we plan to split contributions and support other charitable causes as well.

The toys and books delivered are not just for Christmas morning – they help Lister Hospital maintain a supply of comforting gifts for children recovering from operations, receiving treatment throughout the year, or spending time away from home during the festive season. These items offer comfort, distraction, and moments of happiness during difficult times.

In 2025, the Toy Run continues to grow. We now have dedicated volunteers, local schools lining the route to wave the convoy on, and an Amazon Wish List to make donating easier than ever. With even more community partners involved and excitement building, this year's Toy Run promises to be bigger, brighter, and better – bringing joy to even more young patients when they need it most.

DONATION POINTS

- Royston Tesco Extra
(Toy Run donation trolley)
- The Woodman Inn,
Nuthampstead
- The Pheasant, Great Chishill
- The Duncombe Arms, Wareley



I am sending out on a second communication to you with the details about how to donate. However, we are asking those of you who would like to, to bring a new, unwrapped toy to school before the 17th.

We will cheer the convoy on and pass on our gifts for them to continue the journey with. They would welcome new toys and books for children up to the age of 16. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Sight loss awareness

We were very fortunate to welcome representatives from *Herts Vision Loss* to school. Our visitors included those who are living with sight loss. They shared openly and bravely with the children what life is like for them and how they adapt their lives to be as independent as possible. They also shared how technology is significantly helping those with sight loss and some of the children had the opportunity to try it out.

The children and staff were so impressed with the resilience our visitors have and continue to show in their lives.



ForS news

Friends of Reed School are delighted to inform you that their application to Tesco Stronger Starts has been successfully selected for the customer vote in Tesco stores. Voting will commence in store from mid-January 2026 until the end of March 2026.

The funds are being raised to purchase and install the final piece of our trim trail for all children to use.

Please do use your blue token to vote for us and tell local friends and family too!



The stores where you can vote will be:
Royston Extra SG8 5UA
Royston Priory Lane Express SG8 9JZ

DIARY DATES

December 2025

10th – Layton Class Christmas concert at St Mary's church, Reed 6.00pm (Layton Class and families)

11th – Jackson Class and Bysouth Class Nativity 2.00pm

12th – Jackson Class and Bysouth Class Nativity 2.00pm

17th – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

19th – Final assembly 1.30pm, end of term for pupils at 2.00pm

15th - FoRS present wrap Christmas shop

17th - Christmas Toy Run

17th – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

19th – Final assembly 1.30pm, end of term for pupils at 2.00pm

19th – FoRS Christmas party



January 2026

5th INSET day - school closed to pupils

8th Pantomime at school – Beauty and the Beast

13th FoRS on Google Meet 8.00pm

15th Non-uniform day – Bring a bottle for FoRS tombola

15th Oral health workshops Bysouth and Layton Class

February 2026

10th and 12th Parent consultations

13th House pancake races

16th Half term

27th World Book Day celebrations begin with West End in Schools Dance workshop: *Pinocchio*

27th Bysouth Class assembly

March 2026

4th Primary Books book fair

5th World Book Day – Dress as a word

6th Layton Class assembly

13th Mother's Day morning

18th and 19th Bikeability

20th Jackson Class assembly

Please remember all dates are available on our [website](http://www.reed.herts.sch.uk).



We will remember them



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

Thank you to members of Layton Class for selling items on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

Our House Captains spent time at St Mary's church where the village war memorial is located. They placed a wreath made by all of children by the plaque including the names of Bysouth and Layton that mean so much to us.

We hope you have also spotted the beautiful wreaths at school in the hall and on our front window.



Make a noise about bullying

Thank you for wearing your odd socks to start anti-bullying week.

The children yet again, demonstrated a strong understanding of what bullying is and what they would do about it when they or someone they knew experienced it.

The use of our trusted 5 is so well embedded in school life now that the children often talk about them throughout the whole year.

**POWER
FOR
GOOD**
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK



Christmas post...



If your child would like to write Christmas cards to their friends and staff, our post box will be out for collections through December.

It is a tradition that the children really love, from writing them to posting them and of course, receiving them!

If possible, please write:

J for Jackson,
B for Bysouth
or L for Layton

for the classes on the envelope along with the recipient's name to make the job quicker in the sorting room for delivery team!

The post box will be outside from Monday 1st December.

A spotacular day!

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

We totalled an amazing **£267.00** through our online giving page.

Thank
you!



And finally...

Huge congratulations to the Hardiman family on the birth of their second daughter. It has been lovely to see the whole family so excited and to meet the newest addition to the Hardiman team!

*It's a
Girl*

School admissions

Parents wishing to take up a Reception place for their child here must apply by 15th January 2026 **regardless of whether they are already attending 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