

Reed, Royston, Herts SG8 8AB Tel: 01763 848304 admin@reed.herts.sch.uk

Aspiration

Independence

Resilience

Respect

# 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!

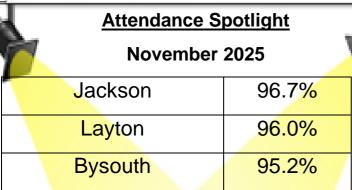
The children enjoyed hot chocolate, singing and of course stories.

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!"





### 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 <u>Values</u>, <u>Vision and Mission page</u>.

# **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.

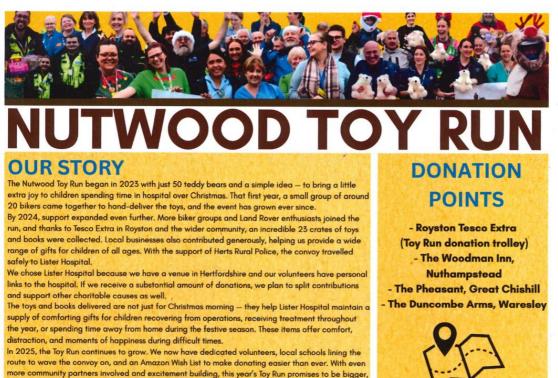
The children certainly demonstrated our value of resilience where our teams were predominantly Year Ones playing Year Two teams from much larger schools. The children's smiles and determination did not fade for a second.

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.



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 17<sup>th</sup>.

brighter, and better - bringing joy to even more young patients when they need it most.

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

27<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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.



# 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.

# 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!



### **School admissions**

Parents wishing to take up a Reception place for their child here must apply by 15<sup>th</sup> 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