

## The Owl - October 2021

As I have mentioned before, I enjoy looking back at what was written in the Owl newsletter a year ago as I begin to write the latest news. What never fails to hearten me, is to see how much has been achieved. This time last year, I shared one of our school priorities:

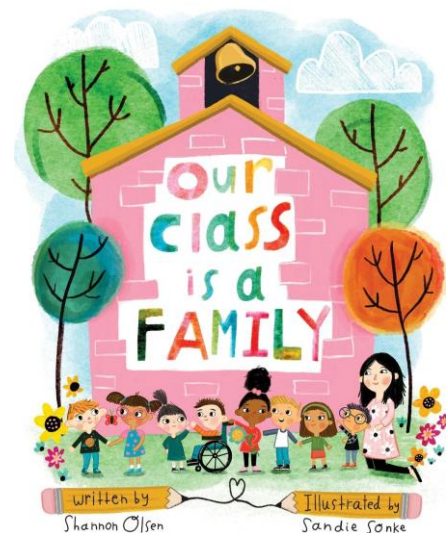
**'To ensure that the school values are embedded in every aspect of school life in order to ensure high quality behaviours for learning.'**

When you spend time researching what makes successful values for schools, the same messages come across again and again. Values should underpin all that we do, be known and understood by all members of the school community and reflect our aims. The values which were chosen two years ago now, were selected to support our children in becoming effective learners. Part of our mission as a school is to help children learn skills that are firmly based on a shared set of values. The values we choose support our children not just now but for life. At the root of these values are ethical considerations. While it may seem that Primary education is too early for ethics, children from a very young age do have a sense of a sense of fairness and of a sense of honesty.

The honesty of our children is very much what drives us to continue to strive for a better and better experience at Reed First School. This has certainly been seen when talking to the children about their learning and in Talking Groups where honesty is imperative to making positive changes.

I have felt an enormous sense of pride listening to your wonderful children in assemblies and Jigsaw lessons - discussing what is fair and unfair in their world and the wider world. One moment which struck me significantly, was while the children discussed what the cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason and author and activist Malala should be proudest of. Our values simply spilled out of our children in explaining their achievements. What was made clear by the children, was the strength of their feeling that it doesn't matter who you are, but that you can achieve whatever you set out to do if you show **respect, independence, resilience and aspiration**.

The children's passion for our values and learning not just in subjects but in life is, I hope you agree, a real strength of our school. What I really want to say is - what a privilege it is to listen to how well thought out your children's morals are already at such a young age!



One of the books we have shared in assembly is really worth a read to get a sense of how our children see our school. It could have been written for us! Do ask if you'd like to borrow it.

## DIARY DATES

### November 2021

1<sup>st</sup> – Please remember Forest School has ended for now – full school uniform please except for our Romans!

1<sup>st</sup> – Junior Class Roman Workshop

2<sup>nd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November - poppies and accessories on sale for Remembrance Day.



2<sup>nd</sup> – PE club continues

3<sup>rd</sup> – Junior swimming continues

4<sup>th</sup> – Geography club starts

4<sup>th</sup> – Parent Forum 2.15pm (school hall) / 7.30pm Google Meet

5<sup>th</sup> – Infant class assembly 2.45pm

5<sup>th</sup> – Running club continues

15<sup>th</sup> – Anti-Bullying week

16<sup>th</sup> – FoRS meeting 8.00pm on Google Meet

19<sup>th</sup> – Children in Need



19<sup>th</sup> – Early Years Class assembly 2.45pm

26<sup>th</sup> – Junior Class assembly 2.45pm

### December

2<sup>nd</sup> – Bags 2 School



3<sup>rd</sup> – Decorating Day (details to follow)

10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas jumper day for Save the Children



13<sup>th</sup> – FoRS present wrap

Save the Children

15<sup>th</sup> – Christmas lunch and movie afternoon

16<sup>th</sup> – Winter play performance 2pm

17<sup>th</sup> – Winter play performance 2pm

21<sup>st</sup> – Term ends 2pm

## STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Mrs Tansley who, in amongst teaching live and remote lessons simultaneously last year, also successfully completed the training and assessments to achieve the **National Award for SEN Coordination**. Mrs Tansley's first task as our new SENCO is to further develop our systems to support children with additional needs which will draw more upon the voice of the pupil and their family. Further details about this will be coming out to you soon after half term if your child is or will be receiving extra support.

We were thrilled to welcome Miss Wilson to the team in September. She has already expressed a keen interest in Forest School. As a result, she will be training over the year to become our accredited in-house **forest school leader**. This means that from October 2022, all children will take part in weekly forest school sessions for the whole school year. She also has plans to develop our wildlife area to become our forest school hub.



We are also very pleased to announce that our partnership with **School Readers** – an organisation which matches local volunteers to come into schools to hear children read is able to start up again. Mrs Philpott will be visiting our school weekly from after half term to hear children read one to one. Extra time to read at school and home as you know has a significant impact on progression in reading and developing fluency to become a reader for life. We thank Mrs Philpott for giving up her time to support our children.

**Schoolreaders**  
improving literacy • increasing life chances

## Remembrance Day

As listed in the diary dates, poppies and other goods supporting the Royal British Legion will be on sale at school from the **2<sup>nd</sup> November**. If your child would like to buy something, then please send a cash donation into school with them. Members of the Junior Class will be selling items including: poppies, wrist bands and badges, each day up to the 11<sup>th</sup> November. We will also as usual be making a school wreath to take to the village memorial.



## Anti-bullying week 2021

As you know, our Jigsaw lessons regularly focus on the theme of bullying across the half term. However, we would still like to acknowledge Anti-bullying week 2021 by asking all children and staff to wear odd socks to school for the day on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November**. All classes will take part in extra activities during the whole week in addition to our year group Jigsaw lessons around the theme of 'One Kind Word'.



## Get spotty for Children in Need!

On **Friday 19th November**, please come to school as spotty as you can and / or wear a fancy costume! All we ask in return is that you make a donation via a link which will be on our website home page nearer the time.



**Thank you** to all those children who show such respect for our school by wearing our uniform so smartly! I will be on the lookout for children to receive a sticker for being so well presented. That will include correct PE kits too!





# Pumpkins for Friends of Reed School



Many thanks for so many families who used their creative carving skills to transform the front of our school into a fantastic pumpkin patch! There were many walkers who stopped off for a brave look!



Thanks as ever to our FoRS team who organised the event to continue to raise funds for our school while having lots of fun! Well done of course to our competition winners!

## And finally...

I just had to share the fun we had at our final running club for the half term. The children put to good use all of the skills learnt so far to have various races involving leaf collection! There was amazing team work and **resilience** in action as the two teams competed in a **respectful** way to create the biggest pile of leaves they could. A fabulous reward at the end was being able to kick the pile of leaves down. I think this may feature in a few more running clubs as our field continues to fill with leaves!

