

The Owl - October 2020

Have we really been back at school for half a term? What have we done in what feels like such a short space of time? These are the questions I was asking myself as I wrote my termly report to Governors. Once I started the list, it grew and grew! I thought I would share a couple of the celebrations with you.

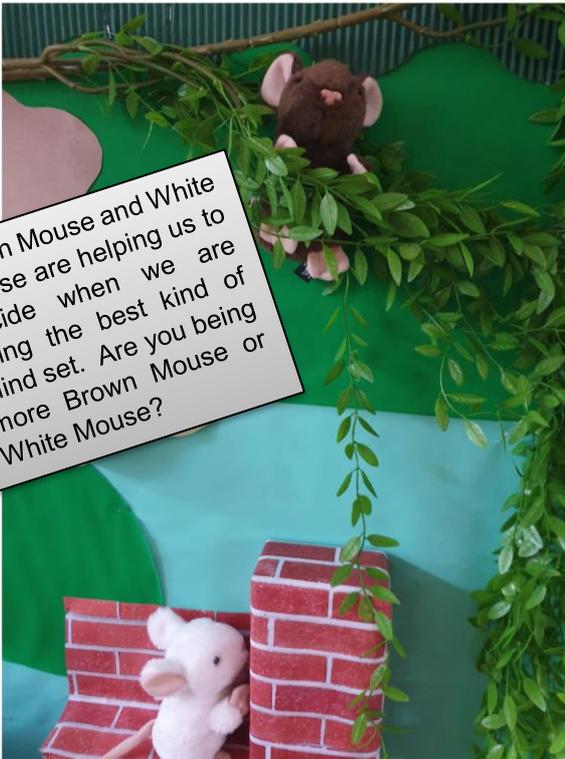
Let's focus on **resilience**...

Our Junior Class and Infant class took part in the national Big Anti Bullying Assembly where they met virtually with children who have experienced difficult times but who have had the courage to speak out and ask for help. All of our children including Early Years now have a 'trusted 5'. These are people who they would speak to if they had a worry or concern. Knowing that there is someone there for you certainly helps you to show **resilience** when needed.



Do you have a growth mind set? How do you know? Have you ever said, "I'm not good at maths", or "I can't draw!"? If you have ever said or thought similar things, then you are showing a fixed mind set. We are supporting the children (and staff too) to work on a growth mind set. Using assessment for learning, we are aiming to nurture our school towards becoming full of powerful, **resilient** and **independent** learners. The children are working hard to help themselves and their learning partners to understand that advice is not criticism and mistakes are not wrong. Both are avenues for growth on the learning journey. Staff are also being asked to think of areas of their own practice to grow; recognising, having a focus of development as an exciting thing to explore not to shy away from. We have some new friends to help us to grow our minds.

We truly are aiming to **learn together and learn for life.**

A scene with a brown mouse on a tree branch and a white mouse on a brick wall. The background is green and blue, suggesting an outdoor setting. The brown mouse is perched on a leafy branch, and the white mouse is sitting on a red brick wall.

Brown Mouse and White Mouse are helping us to decide when we are using the best kind of mind set. Are you being more Brown Mouse or White Mouse?

DIARY DATES

November 2020

3rd – After school football club (yrs 1-4)

6th – Celebration Assembly 1.30pm via Google Meet

6th – After school running club recommences

8th – Remembrance Sunday

10th – Parent governor breakfast

13th – Junior class assembly 1.30pm via Google Meet

18th – Infant Class assembly 1.30pm via Google Meet (no Celebration assembly on the 20th)

23rd – Remote FoRS meeting all welcome 1pm

24th – Parent Forum 10.00am

26th – Parent Forum 6.00pm

27th Early Years class assembly 1.30pm via Google Meet

December

4th – Decorating Day (details to follow)

8th and 9th - Winter performances times tbc

11th – Christmas jumper day for Save the Children

14th – January intake Nursery pupil taster morning (9am – 11am)

16th – Nasal Flu Vaccination, second session

16th – Christmas lunch and movie afternoon

17th – Term ends 2pm

18th – Occasional day (School closed)

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS



Our School Council has been meeting virtually between their bubbles and bringing hot topics that the children would like to be discussed.

Our children love being outside whatever the weather so not surprisingly, there was discussion around playground toys and more learning outside.

As a result, the councillors have been busy asking the children across the school for a wish list of toys and outdoor equipment. The council are very clear though that once we have bought some new items, they will be making very sure the children use them respectfully.

Mrs Tansley, the Early Years team and I are also busy making plans for more outdoor learning for our youngest children.

I had a feeling the request for more outdoor learning would come up, so the School Council were very pleased to hear that I had already booked a meeting with a Forest School teacher to come and see if she could help us at Reed. They had some very well thought out questions to ask her including – Can we build dens and have camp fires? Fingers crossed we can make their wishes a reality!



Google Classroom

Thank you for making use of our new G-Suite. It has been great to see so many parents and carers join us for our Celebration Assemblies using Google Meet. The children are also enjoying using it in school using our wonderful new Chromebooks. It will also make remote teaching and learning more interactive if we need to teach class bubbles from home.



Thank you!

Many thanks to all of the families, staff and residents of the village who contributed to an enormous mountain of bags for Bag2School! Not only does it benefit the economy of the countries the textiles are sent on to, and of course working in a sustainable way – it also raises much needed funds for our school. We are very pleased to announce that our efforts have resulted in a cheque for £96. A special mention must go to Jade Ames who made sure the whole village knew that they could get involved and my goodness did they! Everyone has had a good lock down clear out!



Thank you also for your generosity in donating food at harvest time. All of the products collected have been safely delivered to food banks in Royston and Buntingford.



School Priorities

It is important that you know what we are focusing on as a school to continue to raise standards and make the time spent as part of Reed First School memorable, enjoyable and successful.

One of our priorities this year is **to ensure that the school values are embedded in every aspect of school life in order to ensure high quality behaviours for learning.** Many of our children are able to explain what our values are and what they look like in our school. We are learning in particular to work with growing independence and resilience in order to achieve our best and learn from our mistakes.

At our next parent forums in November, one of the areas of discussion will be around how we can help you encourage the values at home as well as school.

Governor News Don't forget, we are looking to welcome a new parent governor to our Governing Body. Two of our existing governors Teresa (Grace and Edith's mummy) and Shelley (Frankie and Oliver's mummy) would like to invite you to an informal breakfast to find out what they do.

This is not just for the parents who are considering putting themselves forward to become a governor, but also a chance for all of our parents to meet them and talk about school life. Please see the attached invite.



And finally...

Please make sure if you haven't already, that you provide a pair of wellington boots which can be kept in the class welly boxes. We are lucky to have such large grounds and the children love using them. To do so though, they need appropriate footwear. Another reminder that every child should have a plain pair of black tracksuit bottoms to enjoy outdoor PE lessons in, now the weather is getting colder.

Thank you for continuing to use our one-way system at drop off and pick up. The teachers and I are always outside to chat and answer any questions you have; can we politely remind you though that a distance of at least 2m should be kept when talking to us in person. We want to stay safe to keep learning on site.

Values in action



I hope that you are enjoying sharing the photographs on our website celebrating our values in action with your friends and families! If you haven't had a look, please do!

www.reed.herts.sch.uk

The children have been enjoying sweeping up the leaves showing great **respect** for our school and how it looks. It feels like a bit of a losing battle with the number of trees we have but the children are determined to keep on top of it. Well done!

