



The Owl – October 2025



Community Strength

I wanted to focus on community this month, simply because I have seen such a sense of this at our school. While we have an incredible staff team who enable our vision to become a reality, we often feel at the end of the week that there are not enough hours in the day to do what we want to!

Thanks to our wider community, we are able to achieve so much more. Our aim to ensure 100% of our children leave Reed First School secure in their recall of multiplication facts is developing well thanks to the determination the children are showing, the support they get from home to learn there too, and of course our wonderful parent volunteers who come in each week to see how they are getting on.

We feel so lucky to have such supportive parents who help us to achieve our goals. Thanks to this, we are pleased to be getting a football club up and running again, which I know has already seen a great deal of interest. We have also received enormous help from parents to develop some of our outdoor spaces; to ensure high quality learning takes place both inside and outside in our beautiful grounds. We can now get pond dipping thanks to our new jetty!

I also really appreciate the time parents and carers take to engage in the events we run. There have been two ‘coffee and catch-up’ sessions so far this school year. They are such a useful chance for us to make sure our priorities for the year are understood and include the voice of our parents. We had very useful discussions this month about home learning. There are, as I am sure you are aware always national debates about home learning; its benefits and barriers and it was great to hear your views.

We always review our home learning policy each year, but this year, thanks to those who attended the sessions, we will be making sure our policy includes clearer direction about how to support at home and be flexible in the ways home learning is completed, for example, options to work with practical resources or online in maths.

As part of our community, we would really appreciate the completion of our annual parent view survey, which can be found following this [link](#).

Thank you as ever for your unwavering support.



DIARY DATES

November 2025

- 3rd – Pupils return from half term break
- 5th – Open Morning for prospective families 9.30am – 11.30am
- 6th – Parents/Carers workshop – Responsive teaching 7.00pm
- 7th – Layton Class tag rugby festival at Roman Way Academy
- 7th – Bysouth Class Assembly 2.45pm
- 10th – Anti-bullying Week 'Power for Good'
- 10th – Odd sock day (wear odd socks to school to support anti-bullying week)
- 11th FoRS meeting 8.00pm (Google Meet)
- 12th – Bedtime story for Jackson Class 6.00 – 6.45pm
- 14th – Open Day for prospective families 9.30 – 11.00am, 1.00 – 2.00pm
- 14th Children in Need
- 14th – Layton Class Assembly 2.45pm
- 21st – Jackson Class assembly 2.45pm
- 28th – Decorating Day

December 2025

- 4th – Parents/Carers workshop – Therapeutic Behaviour workshop 7.00pm
- 10th – Layton Class Christmas concert at St Mary's church, Reed 6.00pm
- 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

Please note that dates are also listed on our website: <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates/> Further details about events in November and December will be shared nearer the time.



Get spotty for Children in Need

On **Friday 14th November**, please come to school as spotty as you can! All we ask in return is that you make a donation via the link which will be on our website home page on the day.

Thank you!

Many thanks for the very generous donations to our harvest collection again this year.

The local food banks were very grateful for the much needed produce and I know that members of St Mary's Church in the village enjoyed having some of the boxes at their Harvest display which were then passed on as you will see below:

Liz Jakeman wrote: *I took the Harvest Festival Produce - much of which had been given by Reed First School - to Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge last week. They were truly most appreciative of all the gifts. St Mary's Church Reed are very thankful to the school for all that was given. The Church looked amazing.*



Spooky fun!

Many thanks to our FoRS team for organising some Halloween fun with our usual Pumpkin carving competition and this year; a Halloween party!

I know the children had lots of fun while raising money for the school.



Anti-bullying week 2025

As you know from our Jigsaw overview which we send you each half term, our Jigsaw lessons regularly focus on the theme of anti-bullying across this half term. However, we are also taking part in Anti-bullying week 2025 by asking all children and staff to wear odd socks to school for the day on **Monday 10th 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 'Power for Good'.



Attendance Spotlight

October 2025

Bysouth	98.4%
Jackson	98.3%
Layton	97.6%

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

35 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 **Learning Skills**:

Jackson Class: With support, manage times when others are unkind.

Bysouth Class: Know what to do if someone is unkind.

Layton Class: Be able to attempt to resolve conflicts myself but know when and how to involve adults for support.

I will be highlighting this in assemblies and supporting the children to grow their emotional literacy. Class teachers will also be choosing an area from our Behaviour Curriculum which the class together chooses to work on.

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

Team Reed – Sporting news!



As ever, we continue to give a high priority to being active and taking part in sporting events; October saw Layton and Bysouth classes representing the school.

Layton class put their running skills to the test at a Cross Country event hosted by King James Academy. I was very impressed not only by the distances covered in 20 minutes but also the **resilience** all of our children demonstrated and how much they ran rather than walked!

They were not daunted by the number of children there or the size of the field! It is always harder running somewhere new. I was proud to see our children's understanding of adapting their running to suit distances in use, yelling "Yack, yack!" to each other to be able to keep running for 20 minutes. The children all challenged themselves, determined to beat Layton Class' record of 4 laps last year. Many more achieved an equal 4 to last year and some managed 5! The children represented themselves and our school brilliantly; joining in with the warm up, listening to instructions and expressing their thank to the leaders of the event.

Earlier in October, Bysouth Class put our football skills lessons to great use by joining in with other local schools again at KJAR with a football festival.

The children were supported brilliantly by students from King James and took part in team activities to develop their control of the ball and aim to reach targets. This culminated in a match where the children played against their own school.

There were lots of positive comments from staff and specialists about our children. These included, Laura Mills from Royston Town FC who made a point of coming to find me because she had so enjoyed working with us last year due to our engagement and respect shown. She saw this again with our Bysouth players – well done!



Decorating Day

For those of you who are new to the school, I thought you might like to know a bit more about our special day. Every year, the children come into school ready to enjoy a day of Christmas crafting.

The children will all make three crafts which will be hung on our school Christmas trees until the end of term when they will be transferred to yours at home!

The children will need to be in usual school uniform please as there will be no Forest School.



Poppies and other remembrance accessories such as snap bands and zip pulls, will be on sale on our return after half term for the Royal British Legion.

School Council members will be selling before and after school for cash donations.



The Heart of our Community

Thank you to our librarians who are supporting their priority to see all children find a love of reading by setting monthly fun challenges. They really are inspiring their friends to pick up a book!

Thanks also and well done to our School Council members who brilliantly and calmly ran their first 'Talking Group' of the school year. The council were asking the following questions:

- Do you enjoy school?
- Do the adults help you to do your best?
- Do teachers give you challenges which make you think?
- What makes learning harder for you?

The children were very positive about school when talking to our councillors. They clearly see challenges as a positive experience and were able to list many examples. They were also very useful in sharing suggestions of what we could do more to help when learning feels hard sometimes. As ever, the feedback we get from the children is passed on to the staff and the councillors will check to see the differences they have made.

REED FIRST SCHOOL WELCOMES YOU

Are you looking for a Nursery or Reception place for 2026?

Nursery places can start the term after children turn 3 and **we have nursery spaces available now!**

Set in beautiful grounds, we are proud of our caring and inclusive environment. Our children, staff, parents and governors love being part of Reed First School and would be pleased to welcome you too!

We also have a small number of places available in Years 2, 3 and 4 now.

Call us or email to make an appointment to find out more on a tour with our Headteacher on:

**Wednesday 5th November 9.30-11.30am or
Friday 14th November 9.30-11.00am, 1.00 -2.00pm**

Other dates and times will be available upon request.

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Learning Together, Learning for Life



And finally...

Don't forget, you are invited to a workshop explaining the impact of Responsive Teaching on Thursday 6th November at 7.00pm at school.

Please RSVP head@reed.herts.sch.uk if you are attending.