

The Owl – October 2026

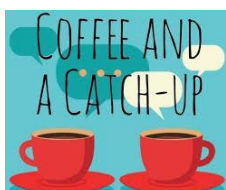
Forward thinking

One of the many strengths seen during our Ofsted inspection was how closely our self – evaluation matched what the inspection team saw and evidenced. In order to continue to move the on, it is important that our priorities are shared with the whole community. Each year, a self-evaluation form is completed, using the Ofsted criteria as the measure. Alongside this, a School Improvement Plan (SIP) is written. This lays out the priorities for the school year to ensure continued school improvement. A copy of our School Improvement plan can be viewed through this [link](#).

Objective Three, focuses on curriculum and teaching. We are delighted, that our focus on foundational learning across the curriculum has been so successful. We have demonstrated strength in ensuring the children are taught a well sequenced curriculum in manageable steps, including making clear links between what has been taught and what comes next. Now, we have already begun to focus on the challenge we want to see in every lesson in every subject. Teachers and teaching assistants have spent time, reflecting on how to ensure every child is challenged while still ensuring learning does not move on too fast. Monitoring over the year, will look to see challenge in action and evidence gathered through pupil voice. The children are always honest in how they find their lessons and how we can make their experiences even better.

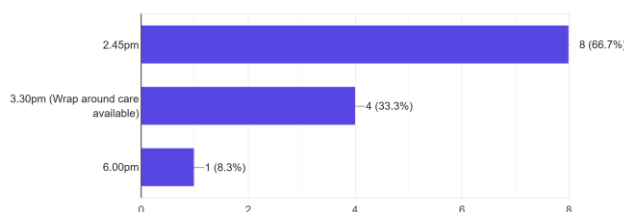
While challenge can be and is planned prior to lessons being taught, the staff are reflecting on the priority of ensuring challenge in the moment. This is starting with the methods used in Early Years where staff ask children to add to what they have done, adding to ideas through careful questions and modelling to be seen across the school. Further use of our existing system for pupil self-assessment is also to be used by everyone in class, including the adults. Our aim is to ensure that there are no moments lost to learning, either through deeper thinking or application of learning taught.

- T - Tell them something you like about the work
- A - Ask a question about the work
- G - Give a suggestion for improvement to the work



Those of you who have signed up to join in with a maths lesson in November, will see our drive for challenge in action.

What time of day would suit you to attend?
12 responses



I would also like to talk you through our plans at the next Coffee and Catch up. The next date in response to those

of you who fed back when you would prefer to attend is:

Thursday 12th November, 2.45pm, 3.30pm and 6.00pm.

DIARY DATES

November 2026

- 2nd – Open Morning for prospective families 9.30am or 10.15am tour
- 3rd – Individual and sibling pupil photos 1.30pm (Families with Preschool siblings- please arrange with the school office a time to come in for your family photo if you would like one)
- 4th – School fundraising bake sale
- 6th – Layton Class tag rugby festival at Roman Way Academy
- 6th – Bysouth Class Assembly 2.45pm
- 10th – Layton Class cross country at KJAR 9.30 – 10.30am
- 11th – Bedtime story for Jackson Class 6.00 – 6.45pm
- 12th – Coffee and Catch up 2.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.00pm
- 13th - Children in Need
- 13th – Layton Class Assembly 2.45pm
- 16th – Anti-bullying Week 'Break the Silence'
- 16th – Odd sock day (wear odd socks to school to support anti-bullying week)
- 20th – Open Day for prospective families 9.30am, 10.15am or 1.00pm for a tour
- 20th – Jackson Class assembly 2.45pm
- 25th – Jackson Class Enchanted Audley End railway visit
- 27th – Decorating Day

December 2026

- 9th – Layton Class Christmas concert at St Mary's church, Reed 6.00pm
- 10th – Jackson Class and Bysouth Class Nativity 2.00pm
- 11th – Jackson Class and Bysouth Class Nativity 2.00pm
- 16th – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
- 18th – Final assembly 1.30pm, end of term for pupils at 2.00pm

January 2027

- 4th – INSET day (school closed to pupils)
- 5th – Term starts for pupils
- 6th – Whole school pantomime (at school)

Please note that dates are also listed on our website:
<https://reed.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates/>



Get spotty for Children in Need

On **Friday 13th 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.

The local food banks were very grateful for the 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 to Jimmy's Night Shelter.

Very many thanks for all the Harvest Produce provided by Reed First School. I took it all to Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge yesterday. They are profoundly grateful for the kindness and generosity shown.

The children were also delighted to receive a thank you card from the Buntingford food bank.



Anti-bullying week 2026

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 2026 by asking all children and staff to wear **odd socks** to school for the day on **Monday 16th 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 'Break the Silence'. Find out more if you are interested in the QR code.



Attendance Spotlight

October 2026

Layton	98.6%
Jackson	98.2%
Bysouth	93%

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

Remember **96% is our minimum expectation**. Families who are meeting attendance below this figure will be contacted during November.

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 **Social Skills**:

Jackson Class: Know that there are similarities and differences between us all.

Bysouth Class: Know what makes me unique, know that we are all different and celebrate this.

Layton Class: Respect our uniqueness and different points of view.

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](#).

Community matters



Our play leaders enjoyed welcoming Gemma from Royston Football Club, this month. Our play leaders have been brilliant so far this year, making sure that all of our outdoor playtimes are enjoyable and inclusive. Gemma came to see them in action and also teach them some new games to add to what they set up each day.

I have been so impressed to see all of our playleaders independently using what they have been taught.

Gemma has also sent me games for indoor play. As you know, we try hard to get outside whatever the weather. Some days, though the rain is too much even for us! Our next steps are to make indoor play boxes to keep everyone engaged and interacting with each other at play inside as well as outside.



We all enjoyed welcoming PCSO Chris to talk about what he does and how to keep ourselves safe at Halloween and Bonfire Night.



PCSO Chris will be visiting us regularly to keep our strong links with the wider community.

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 on 27th November 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 that day.



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.



Spectacular Spooks!

Huge thanks to FoRS for organising such fun events for the last day of the half term. Our traditional pumpkin decorating competition was run, with an added event of the chance to wear fancy dress for the day. Many of our children love crafting and dressing up, so I was not surprised to see how many children took part!

As ever, our pumpkin winners were chosen by entries which clearly demonstrated that the children themselves had been in charge of their creations!



We were all pleased to see resilience from the children who took part but did not get a prize. A great opportunity to show our values.



And finally... Congratulations!

To the Nicholls family on the birth of baby Nell!

Also, to the Hamilton family on their wedding day!



REED FIRST SCHOOL WELCOMES YOU **Are you looking for a Nursery or Reception place for 2027?**

Set in beautiful grounds, we are proud of our caring and inclusive environment. Our children, staff, parents and governors love being part of our school. Children can start with us, the term after they turn 3 years old.

Call us or email to book a tour with our Headteacher on:

**Monday 2nd November 9.30 / 10.15am or
Friday 20th November 9.30 / 10.15am or 1.00pm**

Other dates and times are available upon request.

Reed First School, Jackson's Lane, Reed,
Hertfordshire, SG8 8AB
admin@reed.herts.sch.uk 01763 848304
www.reed.herts.sch.uk



Learning Together, Learning for Life

Wrap around care, before and after school; for Nursery too.