

The Owl – September 2020

A Warm Welcome Back

It has been wonderful to open the gates to our families once more after the summer and to welcome all children some of whom were not able to come into school in July. We have been looking carefully for children who are making others feel welcome this week as our weekly celebration of this term's Jigsaw theme 'Being me in my World'. Despite being in separate bubbles within the school, I have been delighted to see how welcoming everyone has been. We have been thinking about kind hands in our assemblies and we have seen lots of examples of this across the school; from reassuring hand holding to waving and thumbs up across the playground to children who are in a different class. Hopefully the wonderful portraits at the front of the school have made you feel welcome too, they certainly put a smile on my face each morning as I arrive.

Thank you to our parents who have been so welcoming, reassuring and supportive to our new families and each other. One of the many special features of our school is the sense of community. We have all shown our value of **resilience** by facing new beginnings with positivity and determination.

Very well done to our new children who are making a brilliant start to school. Being away from home, starting a new school and getting to know new people is a lot to ask when you are just 3 or 4 years old!

I am finding any excuse I can to leave my office and pop into the classes to see the children. Although just hearing the voices of children having fun and learning around the school makes my day!

We look forward to a great year whatever it may throw at us!

Mrs Wittich

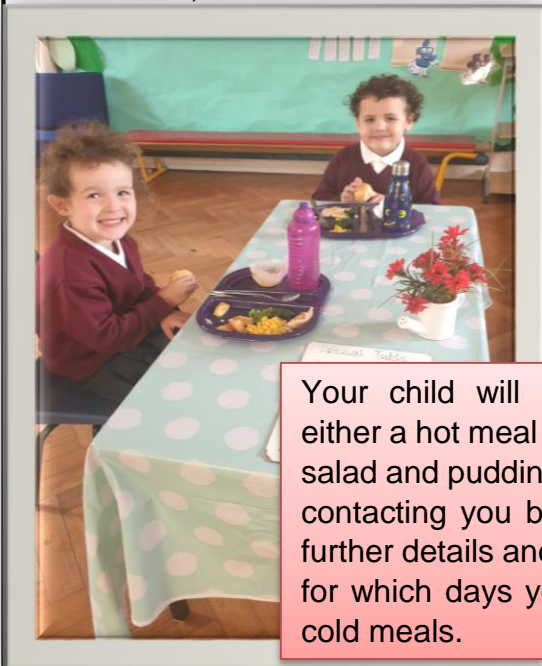


Parent Voice

Many thanks to those of you who attended the parent forums so early in the term. We gathered some really useful feedback and questions around **virtual learning**. As a result, you have received our plan for learning at home using Google Classroom.

We are also looking forward to our **Celebration Assemblies** which we hope you can join using Google Meet whenever you can.

I have also had lots of conversations about **school lunches** with you. The children are very good at trying new foods and it has been lovely to see the pride in some of our younger children's faces as they try a cooked carrot or sausages which 'look a bit different' to the ones at home. However, we have decided in partnership with Hertfordshire Catering to adapt the choices available to the children, with effect after half term.



Your child will be able to choose either a hot meal option or a filled roll, salad and pudding. Mrs Scally will be contacting you before half term with further details and to get your choices for which days you would like hot or cold meals.

Diary Dates

September 2020

21st – Virtual Friends of Reed School (FoRS) meeting 1pm

25th – Running club starts

25th – Celebration Assembly for home and school 1.30pm

October 2020

2nd – Food donations at harvest time

2nd – Harvest festival at St Mary's Church, Reed 7pm

5th – Walk to school week

5th – FoRS Virtual AGM 9.30am

6th - BagtoSchool Collection

10th - Open Day for prospective families, 11am–2pm

(appointment via school office only)

13th – Nasal Flu Vaccination (Reception – Year 4)

19th – Virtual FoRS meeting 1pm

21st – Parent teacher consultations (details to follow)

26th – Half term break

More ways for parents to get involved

As you know, we actively look to involve our parents with decisions and ideas to help further improve the school. If you are able to give some extra time and energy beyond sharing your views through the questionnaires, forums and meetings we regularly run, we would welcome you to look to become a **School Governor** or a member of **Friends of Reed School**. If you would like to know about either role, do ask when you see me on the playground, give me a call or send me an email. I can also point you in the direction of existing Governors and members of FoRS to tell you how rewarding the role can be.

Chance to Shine

Our *Chance to Shine* cricket lessons have got off to a flying start. There were some initial nerves around trying a new sport and even some requests for extra coaching at home but all of the children in Key Stage One and Two have thrown themselves into the experience.

We look forward to seeing skills develop and perhaps some more of our children becoming involved with cricket outside school. Perhaps they will play for Reed CC or even one day at Lord's! Our value of **aspiration** teaches our children that they can achieve whatever they put their minds to!



Running Club



We are restricted by Covid around the number of clubs after school which we can offer, however I would like to start a running club for children in Year 1 to Year 4 each Friday from 3.15pm to 4.15pm.

The club will take place outside in our grounds whatever the weather! Those who attend will wear their usual school PE kit but must make sure the kit has clothing for all weathers.

Numbers who can attend will be limited so places will be given on a first come first served basis. If your child(ren) would like to join me for some Friday fun and find out why there is a picture of a Smarties tube then email me at head@reed.herts.sch.uk by Monday 21st September. The **first session** will be on Friday 25th September.

Projects to improve our school facilities

Roofing

Over half term, we will be having the roofs of our Early Years classroom and main school offices replaced and fixed. The staff are very excited to not have to worry about leaks after heavy rain fall or snow.

Outdoor Learning

Once the roofing work has been carried out, we are planning to develop some of our outside learning areas for Early Years and also for the whole school to use in our wildlife garden. Outside learning offers learner-led exploration and discovery, nurturing meaningful experiences for positive lifelong impacts and we can't wait to see the difference our plans make to the children's learning.

Library

Fundraising for an extension to the front of the school which will create a new library and learning space continues to be led by our governors. The new facility will not only give the children more space and a place to enjoy and foster a love of books and reading, but also a place for the community of Reed to loan books and meet together.

If you would like to get involved, offer your skills or make a donation to the outdoor learning or library projects, we would love to hear from you. School budgets are tighter than ever and we'd love to see all of our plans become a reality. You may know someone else or a company who may like to help or donate too. Do let us know if you are able to help.

Food donations at Harvest

Food has been a real concern for many as you know during the pandemic. We would like to support the community by collecting **non-perishable** food to donate to food banks in Royston, Buntingford and to St Mary's Church in Reed.

Traditionally, the children decorate and fill a box. If you would like to specify where your donation goes please add a label.

Boxes should be brought into class on Friday 2nd October and we will deliver them for you. If you would like to donate through the church, you can take your box from school to their harvest festival that evening at 7pm.

Many thanks for your donations in advance.



And finally... Did you know that you can borrow e books from Hertfordshire libraries? <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/books-and-reading/ebooks-and-audiobooks/ebooks-and-audiobooks.aspx>