

The Owl - September 2023

New School Year, more positive changes

When I wrote to you last September, I was celebrating the library build starting. Little did I know, it would be a whole year before I could fill the new space with books for the children! Better late, than never! The end result, I hope you agree has been worth the wait. The children are certainly pleased with it and have been showing real engagement in selecting books to read and share. All classes visit the library during the week and the space is also used for our volunteer readers, spelling lessons, Jigsaw lessons, School Council meetings and more.

Our librarians who wrote very persuasive letters of application to me for the job, have been very conscientious in their new role; ensuring the library and the books are being well looked after. Every time I am in there, I am always pleased to see how new it still looks! A far cry from the summer when there were books in piles all over the floor as I sorted them into categories.

The librarians are also keen to share their love of reading with the school by arranging reading sessions with Jackson Class children and they have also requested to read some of the assembly stories to the whole school too!

What great examples of respect and aspiration!



I will also be making use of our new library to support the wider community by inviting pre-schoolers with a parent or carer to come to story time sessions. Do let friends and family who may be interested know. The response on our Facebook posts have been good so far.

more positive changes continued...

I have also been enjoying the use of our outdoor space, particularly in PE lessons. A great new addition over the summer was the next few pieces of our trim trail being installed. All of the children have been enjoying it and we have made excellent use of it to continue to develop gross motor skills in our youngest members as part of our PE lessons. This will help with upper body strength to develop good posture leading to increased ability to mark make and eventually write. One more piece to raise funds for and the trail will be complete!

The children have been very busy with their letter writing! More letters were delivered to me from those children who wanted to help at playtimes as Play Leaders. They have made great start encouraging others to challenge themselves on the trim trail, setting up games on the field, making sure everyone has someone to play with and that they are safe. I am sure they will continue to be a great help to the staff when they are outside supervising.



Pupil Voice School Council

We have appointed our new school council for 2023 / 2024! To ensure our council has the opportunity to listen to all members of our school, they will be organising sessions over the year where 'hot topics' for the school will be discussed to find out more about what it is like to be a learner at our school and what we can do to make it even better. We will then be meeting in between to take some actions from what was shared.

It is great to see some previous members put themselves forward again and to have some new members too!



Diary Dates

October 2023

2nd – Childline Acts of Kindness week

2nd FORS 8pm on Google Meet (all welcome)

6th – Harvest donations brought to school

18th – Parent consultations 3.30pm – 5.00pm
(virtual or in person)

19th – Parent consultations 4.00pm – 6.00pm
(virtual or in person)

23rd Half term break

November 2023

1st – Open Morning for prospective families
9.30am – 11.30am

1st – Bedtime story for Jackson Class 6.00 –
7.00pm

3rd – Individual and sibling photos (pre-schoolers
welcome, but please let the office know)

14th – Flu vaccinations

10th – Open Day for prospective families 9.30 –
11.30am, 12.30 – 2.00pm

13th – Anti-bullying week starts (Odd sock day)

17th Children in Need

17th – FoRS AGM 2.00pm

17th – 2.45pm Bysouth Class assembly

23rd – Flu vaccinations

23rd – Positive Behaviour workshop 7pm at
school

24th – 2.45pm Layton Class assembly

December 2023

1st – Decorating Day

4th – Layton Class Kingswood Parents meeting
2.45pm

8th – 2.45pm Jackson Class assembly

**Please note that dates are also listed on our
website: [https://reed.herts.sch.uk/news-
dates/diary-dates/](https://reed.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates/)**

**Further details about events in
November and December will be shared
nearer the time.**



childline
A life-changing NSPCC service

We are delighted to be supporting childline and the NSPCC this October in the Kindness Challenge.

From the 2nd to the 6th October, the children will be challenged to complete acts of kindness around the school. For example, playing with someone they don't usually, painting a kindness rock and leaving it somewhere around the school for others to enjoy, opening the door for others, making a bug hotel to welcome insects to our school, saying please and thank you more and so on!

Every time a child completes an act of kindness, they will receive a star stamp in their home school communication book so they can track their progress.

Do let us know if they carry out any acts of kindness at home.

We would like our kindness to continue by asking for a voluntary donation to Childline through our Just Giving page which will be set up from Monday 2nd October to Friday 6th October.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT:

- Childline, visit nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/childline
- Keeping children safe online, visit nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

We see acts of kindness around the school so often, I think there will be lots of stars!

We thank you for your support in advance.

Whose is whose?

A polite request from the teachers: While we recognise having the same bags and uniform can cause confusion in the cloakroom, having a vast array of keyrings also causes a tangle! Could we ask please, that **one** key ring only is used to help the children identify their items.

A polite request from parents: If your child brings something home which is not theirs, please return it the next day.

If all items are named, they can be reunited much more easily!

Please remember we have a growing stock of second hand uniform available through the school office for a voluntary contribution. If you have any donations do let the office know. Thank you.

Volunteers in School

If you can spare any regular time to volunteer in school, please do get in touch with Mrs Kell in the office.

We are thrilled to welcome Sarah Wood to our volunteers team who has started helping in Jackson Class. She has been happily planning a master bug hotel with Mrs Arnott and we thank her for her time and enthusiasm!

Save the date: Positive behaviour workshop 23.11.23 at 7pm

Support to understand our positive behaviour policy and how you can support from home.

Congratulations to the Bray family on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Bonnie.



And finally...

Please remember to tell friends, family and neighbours about our Open Days:

Wednesday 1st November 9.30 – 11.30am

Friday 10th November 9.30 – 11.30am, 12.30 – 2.00pm

If they would like to visit us, they can make an appointment through the school office for a guided tour or they are welcome to decide come on the day.

If they are unable to make the day, they are welcome to make an appointment during the school day on another occasion.



REED FIRST SCHOOL
Learning Together. Learning for Life

REED FIRST SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Are you looking for a Nursery or Reception place?

Nursery places can start the term after children turn 3. 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!

Call us or email to make an appointment for a tour on:

Wednesday 1st November 9.30-11.30am or
Friday 10th November 9.30-11.30am, 12.30-2.00pm

REED FIRST SCHOOL, JACKSON'S LANE REED, HERTS, SG8 8AB
admin@reed.herts.sch.uk 01763 848304
www.reed.herts.sch.uk

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