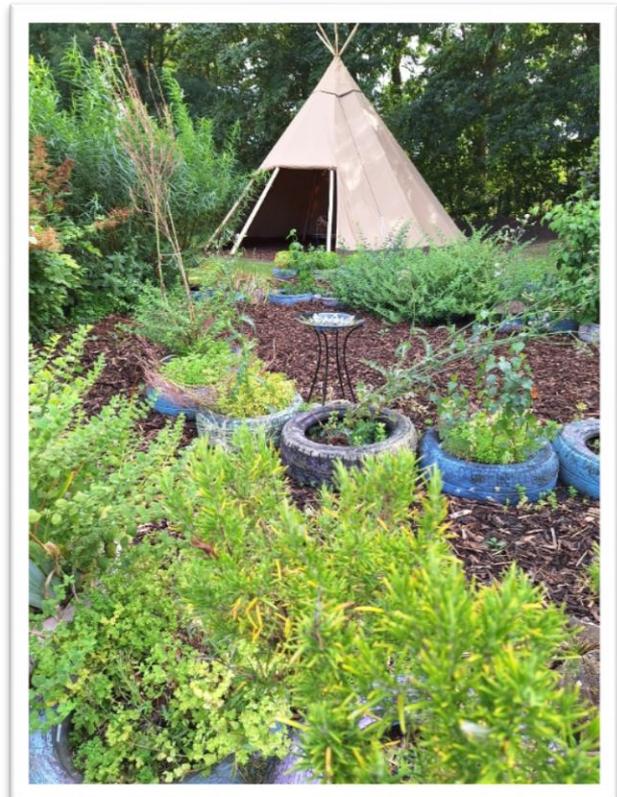


The Owl – September 2024

New School Year, bringing in the new...

Having filled yet another skip during the summer, on what was I think the hottest day we had, it was a welcome relief to watch our new tepee being erected. I am not a fan of heights so was totally in awe of the height climbed by our installation team! The tepee came all the way from Devon with one person, so it was many local hands on deck to move it from the truck to the finished spot. Huge thanks to the Arnotts and Char Eeles for giving up their time to help and make up for my vertigo issues!



Most importantly, the children love the new outdoor learning space and is a great opportunity to further enhance our Forest School provision.

We also have replaced most of our indoor lighting ensuring greater energy efficiency and of course; a well-lit environment to learn in all year round.

Despite all of this work, many of the children were equally impressed (if not more so) by the new bin on the playground! It's nice to know they appreciate the smaller changes as well as the bigger ones. Hopefully it's clear to all that we continue to have high aspirations for our school.

Positive changes continued...

We are looking forward to officially opening our outdoor area at a Christmas concert led by Layton Class on the 5th December at 6.00pm. All families, children, staff and governors are welcome to join us. Layton Class will also be performing their concert at St Mary's church, Reed at 6.00pm on the 4th December.

Competition Time

We would like some ideas for a name for our outdoor learning area which includes the new tepee and the wildlife area behind Jackson Class. Entries for the name should be given to Mrs Wittich by Friday 8th November and the winning entry will be revealed at our grand opening in December.

You will see from the diary dates later in this newsletter, that Jackson Class and Bysouth Class will also be busy rehearsing to share another spectacular nativity performance for you at school on the 12th and 13th December.

As ever, there are lots of exciting things to look forward to as we move into the school year. We look forward to sharing them with you all!



Team Reed!

The new school year also brings new responsibilities. I have been very impressed (but not surprised) by the volume of applications we received from the children in response to our job vacancy adverts.

There were letters, videos, art work and even books created to let us know what they would bring to the role.

I know that our House Captains are thrilled with their chance to lead a democracy by asking their House members whether to spend or save their house points. Meetings have already been held in the tepee and all Houses have voted to hold out for one of the bigger prizes!



More roles and responsibilities



Well done to all of our children with a very important responsibility!

Thank you!



A huge thank you to the children in Layton Class who have really helped Jackson Class settle into our school.

When chatting to some of our new members of the school, on more than one occasion, when asked what the best bit of their day has been they have said, "My buddy!"

It has been lovely to see them eating together, chatting and playing. The smiles and waves from Jackson Class children, when they see their buddy, shows the great relationships they are making!

Diary Dates

October 2024

- 1st - 30th - Childline Acts of Kindness
4th – Harvest donations brought to school
10th – Year 3 and 4 Cross Country event at KJAR
11th – Year 2 Football Festival at St Eds
14th – Maths open event for parents 7.00pm
18th – Drama 4 All workshops (fully funded) all year groups
23rd – Parent consultations 3.30pm – 5.00pm (virtual or in person)
24th – Flu vaccinations offered for children in Reception and years up to and including Year 4. Details to follow.
24th – Parent consultations 4.00pm – 6.00pm (virtual or in person)
25th – Individual and sibling photos
28th Half term break

November 2024

- 6th – Open Morning for prospective families 9.30am – 11.30am
8th – Layton Class Assembly 2.45pm
11th – Anti-bullying Week 'Choose Respect'
12th – Odd sock day (wear odd socks to school to support anti-bullying week)
13th – Bedtime story for Jackson Class 6.00 – 6.45pm
15th – Open Day for prospective families 9.30 – 11.00am, 1.00 – 2.00pm
15th Children in Need
15th – Bysouth Class Assembly 2.45pm
22nd – FoRS AGM 2.00pm
22nd – Jackson Class assembly 2.45pm
29th – Decorating Day

December 2024

- 4th – Layton Class Christmas concert at St Mary's church, Reed 6.00pm
5th – Layton Class Christmas concert at school 6.00pm
12th – Jackson Class and Bysouth Class Nativity 2.00pm
13th – Jackson Class and Bysouth Class Nativity 2.00pm
18th – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
20th – 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.



childline
A life-changing NSPCC service

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

From the 1st to the 4th October, the children will be challenged to complete acts of kindness around the school. The children will be encouraged to: **Play More, Share More and Talk More.** 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, checking to how we all are, asking about a friend's weekend or hobby 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 Tuesday 2nd October to Friday 4th

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 good stock of preloved uniform available through the school office for a voluntary contribution or to swap. If you have any donations do let the office know. Thank

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.

Huge thanks to Sam Godden for giving her time to run our netball club. We can't wait to get some matches with other local schools at some point!



Maths Methods Parent Workshop Monday 14th October 7 - 8pm

Support your understanding of the methods taught in school for addition and subtraction.

After our successful maths workshop last term, parents and carers who attended, expressed an interest in being shown how children calculate in order to help them secure methods at home.

At this next event, Miss Wilson and Mrs Dear will be leading lessons for you to engage with in their classrooms which will demonstrate the methods taught in Years 2, 3 and 4 in addition and subtraction.

You will also be reminded of our calculation policies which are available on our website in our maths curriculum section. The methods you see in these policies will be modelled and tried out by you.

We know that many parents across the country often comment that they were taught in such different ways. They also understandably revert to the methods they were taught as that is what they know! However, although as you will see many methods are the same, the steps we take to get those formal written methods particularly in Years 5 and 6 are broken up more with use of practical resources to help.

This event is open to all parents and carers across the school. The lessons will be taught twice so if you wish you can take part in both.

If you would like to attend please email admin@reed.herts.sch.uk to let us know.

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 6th November 9.30-11.30am or
Friday 15th November 9.30-11.00am, 1.00 -2.00pm

REED FIRST SCHOOL, JACKSON'S LANE REED, HERTS, SG8 8AB

admin@reed.herts.sch.uk 01763 848304

www.reed.herts.sch.uk

