

The Owl – September 2025



Next Steps



With the summer break feeling like a long time ago now, we look into the new school year ahead. While this means we look forward to continue to move our school on, we also reflect on what has gone and how we can improve.

For schools to progress, teams need to be reflective and choose priorities that will make a significant difference to the experience we offer. These will be shared with you when a copy of our School Improvement Plan is sent out.

A really powerful way to keep our parents and carers informed and involved is through workshops and information evenings which we run successfully every year. We have already worked with parents from Jackson Class to give them the knowledge they need to understand how we teach phonics and how to support their children at home.

In addition to information events, I schedule sessions for parents and carers to catch up with me over a drink and biscuit called ‘Coffee and Catch Up’. These sessions are a chance to get some more parental views and to discuss any hot topics amongst our parents and families relating to school.

The first dates for these are planned for you to attend Monday 20th October or Wednesday 22nd October both at 2.30pm. The School Improvement Plan will be shared with you by then and you can use the sessions to ask about our priorities as part of the session.

One of our School Improvement Plan priorities under the heading of Curriculum and Teaching is:

To embed teacher application of responsive teaching to ensure consistently highly effective choices about what to teach, and when and how to teach it.



If you would like to find out more about responsive teaching, I will be running a workshop at school on Thursday 6th November at 7.00pm. Please let me know at head@reed.herts.sch.uk if you would like to attend a **Coffee and Catch up** or the **Responsive Teaching workshop**. I will also be running our popular **Therapeutic Behaviours workshop** on Thursday 4th December at 7.00pm, again, let me know if this would be of interest to you.



Team Reed!



A huge part of what makes our school a family and team is of course the children and how they involve themselves in every aspect of school life.

The new school year also brings new responsibilities. I have been inundated as ever, with applications 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 was particularly taken with children identifying how the roles could improve their skills and confidence as well as saying what they could 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. All House groups already have a good number of points! Meetings will be held in the tepee for Houses to vote whether to hold out for one of the bigger prizes or not!



Meet our librarians for 2025 / 2026. They are avid readers who want to inspire all children to enjoy books like they do. They will be keeping an eye on the neatness of the library, read to Jackson Class and have had the great idea of displaying their book recommendations.

Our new School are incredibly keen to hold their first 'talking group'. We will be meeting this week to decide on the topic to discuss with the rest of the children in the school.

Look out for announcements of who our new Eco-Council are soon!



Diary Dates

October 2025

- 1st – Bysouth Class football festival at KJAR
- 3rd – Harvest donations brought to school
- 9th – Layton Class Cross Country event at KJAR
- 20th – Coffee and Catch up 2.30pm
- 21st - Individual and sibling photos (pre-school siblings welcome too, please come to the front door after drop off)
- 21st – Parent consultations 3.30pm – 5.00pm (virtual or in person)
- 22nd - Coffee and Catch up 2.30pm
- 23rd – Parent consultations 4.00pm – 6.00pm (virtual or in person)
- 24th – FoRS Pumpkin carving competition
- 27th - Half term break

November 2025

- 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’
- 11th – 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.

Attendance Spotlight

September 2025

Jackson	98%
Bysouth	98%
Layton	95.8%

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

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

100% ATTENDANCE



We love our lunch time walks. The sun came out for us today too!

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. Thank you.

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



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: Understand how I am feeling

Bysouth Class: Understand how I am feeling makes a difference to my learning

Layton Class: Understand how my feelings can impact my learning and how to feel ready to learn

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 with a weekly change in focus.

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

And finally...

Do let friends know about our open events, who wouldn't want to come to Reed First School when you can do this?

Thank you as ever for your wonderful support!