



The Owl – September 2026



Happy New Year!

If you ask anyone in education, they will probably tell you that the new year starts in September- so, happy new year to you all! Although we have only been back at school for a few weeks, we have already experienced so much, including of course our turn for the inspectors to call! What a way to start the new year!

I will let you know more once the report has been officially published, as you will be the first to get a copy of the report before it is available for the wider community to see. Until then, I can't say any more. However, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my amazing team of staff here, who as I have said to them, are the strongest team this school has seen in many years. Their commitment and care for your children makes Reed First School a wonderful place to be.

The children as well have been phenomenal! To be able to talk about life at school and their learning after 6 weeks away, and in some cases, being new to school, is remarkable. I am so proud of them all, and thank you too for the continued support you show towards the school and achieving our vision.

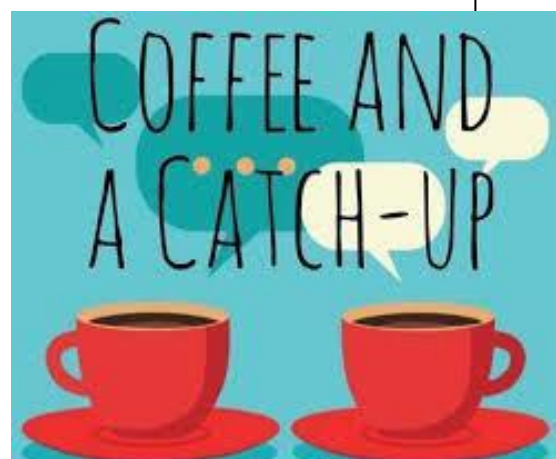
We have already worked with parents from Jackson Class to give them the knowledge they need to understand how we teach phonics and how to support their children at home.

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.

In order to ensure as many of you who would like to attend can, please follow this [link](#) to complete a survey to know when to run the sessions and what you would like to chat about.

The parent survey in the summer, also asked for feedback from parents and carers about their interest in open lessons to attend. You overwhelmingly, asked to attend a maths lesson. Interestingly though, every curriculum area had some interest.

As a result, we will be offering **open maths lessons** across the school for you to attend. Places will be limited but you will see from the form through this [link](#), there are multiple days you can attend, and so be able to visit more than one class too. You will join in with a lesson to help you understand how your child is taught in this subject. We will offer other open lessons through the year if these are successful.





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. The applications for **House Captain** were simply outstanding!

Not only did every Year 4 apply (that has never happened before) but every single application was heart felt and a true reflection of how important our school is to them!

The roles and responsibilities the children can take on, really are some our younger children aspire to be able to achieve when they reach Layton Class. I look forward to seeing House Meetings taking place soon and discussions with the children about how they might spend their house points.

I am meeting with all groups to discuss what they would like to achieve in their roles and decide if any changes are needed to make sure they can do the job as well as possible.



Our new **School Council** members are incredibly keen to hold their first 'Talking Group'. We will be meeting this week to decide on the first topic to discuss with the rest of the children in the school and to arrange times for them to visit the classes to find out what they want to talk about too.



Meet our **librarians** for 2026 / 2027. 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 other children and give you all some fresh reading challenges. We may even arrange an author visit for you all!



Our **play leaders** were selected from our observations of their work back in the summer term.

Some of the funds raised by our Athlete in School visit were used to buy some new playground equipment. These children under the watchful eye of Mrs Pitt have been brilliant and playing with other children, setting games out and looking after our new play leader shed which is as tidy now as it was when I photographed it last term!

As a thank you, I have arranged for our play leaders to have a training session with our new school sports partnership lead from Royston Town Football club on Wednesday 14th October.

She will teach them some new games to set up and play with the rest of the school. I know already, that she will be suitably impressed with the job our young leaders are doing already!



Our **Buddies** for 2026 / 2027 have been instrumental in the speed at which our youngest members of the school have settled. Playing with them outside, helping them at lunch and simply giving a reassuring smile and wave. Thank you!



Diary Dates

October 2026

- 2nd – Harvest donations brought to school
- 19th – FoRS AGM 2.00pm (all welcome)
- 20th - Layton Class Cross Country event at KJAR 9.30 – 10.30am
- 20th – Parent consultations 3.30pm – 5.30pm (virtual or in person)
- 23rd – Parent consultations 4.00pm – 6.00pm (virtual or in person)
- 23rd – INSET day (School closed to pupils)
- 26th - Half term break

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)
- 6th – Layton Class tag rugby festival at Roman Way Academy
- 6th – Bysouth Class Assembly 2.45pm
- 11th – Bedtime story for Jackson Class 6.00 – 6.45pm
- 14th - Children in Need
- 14th – 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
- 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

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.

Miss Wilson has been thrilled with the number of applications she received for members of **Eco-Council**.

It has been wonderful to see some of Key Stage One getting involved too and wearing their badges with immense pride! We look forward to the competitions and work the children do to take action to support ecologically.



Attendance Spotlight

September 2026

Jackson	98%
Bysouth	97%
Layton	96%

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

82% of our children have 100% attendance so far this year. Is your child one of them? Who is aspiring to keep that 100% until July?

100% ATTENDANCE

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 displayed at the front of the school. Thank you.

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.



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.

October'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 work on 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](#).

And finally...

Do let friends know about our open events. Our families really are our biggest champions for encouraging new families to join us.

Thank you as ever for your wonderful support!