

# Houghton Regis

Headteacher: Mr J Edwards BA (Hons)  
QTS

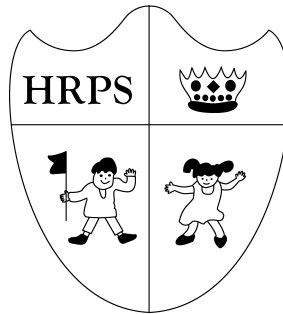
Deputy Head: Mrs R Parmar BA (Hons)  
PGCE

Telephone: 01582 867487

Fax: 01582 867487

Email: [office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk)

Website: [www.houghtonregisprimary.co.uk](http://www.houghtonregisprimary.co.uk)



# Primary School

St Michaels Avenue  
Houghton Regis  
Dunstable  
Beds  
LU5 5DH

14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am hoping that you are now in slightly more established routines with home learning, I know that staff are working hard to post tasks daily on Google Classroom. If you are still struggling to access the work, please let us know. If IT access is a problem, please let the school office know or email your class teacher on the class email address and we will be happy to support you or send out hard copy packs to you. The fantastic response from our parent and student community has been very much appreciated, we are all learning together but with patience and cooperation we can see the children are able to continue their learning even in these difficult times. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

As you are aware, we have increasing numbers of cases in the school and in the local community. It is vital that you get a test if you or your child displays any symptoms. As previously mentioned, the symptoms do not need to be the three classic ones that are frequently mentioned. Children often present with slightly more unusual symptoms such as stomach ache, lethargy, sore eyes and general sense of feeling unwell. If you visit the website <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> you can book the test 'at the request of the local authority.'

If you or your child tests positive, please let us know as soon as possible. We then need to notify Central Bedfordshire and the Department for Education. After 18<sup>th</sup>, the school will be shut for the Christmas break, but someone will be monitoring the emails. If your child tests positive after the 18<sup>th</sup>, please could you email the school at the address above and put the heading as COVID POSITIVE.

## Isolation Periods

You will be aware that the government has reduced the isolation period from 14 days to 10 days. We really appreciate that it has been inconvenient for you



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to isolate your child, but Public Health England were confident that we had significant numbers of a-symptomatic children, for every child to possibly be exposed. The good news means that your child's isolation period should be shorter. The following table details the changes and impact on dates.

<b>If your self-isolation period was due to end on</b>	<b>Your self-isolation period now ends on</b>
Saturday 12 December	Saturday 12 December
Sunday 13 December	Sunday 13 December
Monday 14 December	Monday 14 December
Tuesday 15 December	Monday 14 December
Wednesday 16 December	Monday 14 December
Thursday 17 December	Monday 14 December
Friday 18 December	Monday 14 December
Saturday 19 December	Tuesday 15 December
Sunday 20 December	Wednesday 16 December
Monday 21 December	Thursday 17 December
Tuesday 22 December	Friday 18 December
Wednesday 23 December	Saturday 19 December
Thursday 24 December	Sunday 20 December
Friday 25 December	Monday 21 December

### **Word of the Week**

Just before the school shut, we introduced a new word into each classroom. If your child used the word accurately, spelt correctly and in a complete sentence – they were rewarded with 50 house points. To keep the motivation going, we are offering all children 50 house points if they can use the word in their on-line learning or a story or letter they may wish to write in their free time. If they bring the work back or submit it on-line they will be given 50 house points they can add on their return in January.

The holiday words of the week are:

21st December: majestic

28<sup>th</sup> December: meander

### **Winning House**

On the children's return the winning house for the autumn term will be rewarded with every member getting a gift from their class treasure box. These treasure boxes are based in each classroom and contain stationery, books and other goodies children can win as prizes. Prizes will also be given for reading at home and getting 100% in a dozen Accelerated Reader quizzes - quite a feat and well worth a prize!

### Number Nerds

I think it was Bill Gates who said 'Be nice to the nerds, chances are you will end up working for one.' There is nothing better than being a number nerd in school and one of the best ways to achieve this is to know your tables, with random rapid recall and inverse operations. We use Times tables rock stars in school and also recommend <http://www.timestables.me.uk/printable-pdf-quiz-generator.htm>

for practise sheets. Anyone who is able to answer 100 random times tables in 5 minutes is definitely deserving of a prize from the treasure box. Key Stage 1, you could do 50 with 2,3,4 and 10s. Key Stage 2 – go for it with all of them. Year 5 and 6, you need to add division facts into the 100 test. Challenge yourselves!

### Present and Food Parcels

A local school is providing a food bank and present service to those in need, in our community. You are welcome to nominate anyone you think may be alone this Christmas and would really like a box of treats and a present. Alternatively, we know times are tough for many families and we would be delighted to arrange a delivery to you. Please do not be proud – if things are tough this service is designed to help you. If you feel you would benefit from a parcel and presents, or know someone who will, please call or email the office.

Keep safe and Merry Christmas.

Regards



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University of  
Bedfordshire



Deborah Pargeter  
Executive Headteacher