

# Houghton Regis

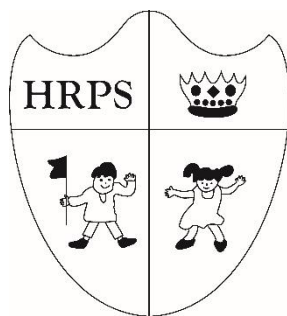
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# Primary School

St Michaels Avenue  
Houghton Regis  
Dunstable  
Beds  
LU5 5DH

02 October 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been fantastic to see the full reopening of the school since the start of this term – the school has been full of energy from both the children and the staff. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone; the children, parents & carers and the staff for quickly adapting to the additional protocols now in place.

We have lots to update you on today:

## Early Years round up

The children in Silver and Gold Classes have settled so well into school life. We are so proud of how they are coming into school and how they are already following the new routines and expectations. They have been exploring the inside and outside learning environments as we were so lucky with the weather at the start of term. Gold Class have particularly enjoyed our new mud kitchen and the water activities. We are excited for our Julia Donaldson topic over the next few weeks. Silver class loved bug hunting in the Forest School following the story of 'Superworm', another brilliant book from Julia Donaldson. Well done to all our children in Early Years!

## Key Stage One round up

All the staff in Key Stage One have been proud of how well our children have returned to school and settled quickly back into school life. They have gradually adopted new routines and are joining in confidently with their different learning opportunities. We spent the first week back completing a variety of 'Well-being' tasks, focused on the book 'The Colour Monster'. This allowed us to explore our different feelings from the last 6 months. We have now moved to a full timetable of activities, currently we are learning about Africa and comparing it to the UK. We have been excited to have a meerkat called Sunny join us in our lessons this week, linked to our English text 'Meerkat Mail'. Year 1 have also been enjoying using the Conservatory, Forest School and KS1 Paddock to develop our learning in practical ways and Year 2 have been very excited to begin their weekly swimming lessons. Well done to all of the children in Key Stage One for an enthusiastic start to the new school year.

## Key Stage Two round up

In Lower Key Stage Two we have been learning about the Stone Age. We found out about different types of homes and had a go at building some in our forest school area. We have also been creating cave paintings using chalk and pastel. This flows nicely into our Science where the subject is Rocks and Soils, where we are currently studying the characteristics of rocks. Blue Class children are really enjoying their swimming lessons which started last week, building up their confidence and stamina. It will be the turn of Yellow Class and Red Class to swim later on in the academic year.



## Upper Key Stage Two

In Upper Key Stage Two, Year 5 and 6 have started the year with an incredible attitude and have thoroughly enjoyed their creative lessons, from tie dye inspirational quotes to making our planet models so we can display the solar system. We are very enthusiastic about our new text 'Cosmic' as Liam is a cheeky and mischievous character who many of us can relate too but...will he ever return back from space?

## Jewellery

Just a gentle reminder that children are not permitted to wear necklaces, bracelets or rings to school. The only jewellery that is permitted are simple stud earrings and traditional watches, not Smart watches.

## Reminder for deadlines to apply for Primary School and Senior School places

For those of you with children in Year 6, please be aware that the deadline to apply for a secondary school place for your child/ren is 31 October 2020. You will need to submit an application to Central Bedfordshire Council even if your child already attends a feeder school and you live in the catchment area. For further information and guidance, please visit:

[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/7/school\\_admissions\\_applications\\_for\\_2019/498/apply\\_for\\_a\\_secondary\\_school\\_place](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/7/school_admissions_applications_for_2019/498/apply_for_a_secondary_school_place)

For those of you with children in our Nursery (Silver) classes, this is a gentle reminder that the deadline to apply for a primary school place for your child/ren is 15 January 2021. Even if your child currently has a place in our Nursery class, there is no automatic entry into our Reception class. You will need to submit an application to Central Bedfordshire Council. For further information and guidance, please visit:

[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school\\_admissions/496/apply\\_for\\_a\\_new\\_lower\\_or\\_primary\\_school\\_place](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions/496/apply_for_a_new_lower_or_primary_school_place)

## Please park considerably

Please can we remind you that we need to respect our local residents when parking. We have received complaints from residents on St Michael's Avenue who have had incidents with their driveways being blocked at school drop off and pick up times with allegations of anti-social language and behaviour displayed in subsequent altercations. This is not something the school condones under any circumstances. Where possible please walk to school and if you do have to drive please allow plenty of time to park. The extended drop off and pick up windows at the start and end of the day should assist with this.

## School Money for Clubs

For those of you waiting for a refund for events which were cancelled in the last academic year due to Covid-19, we would like to firstly thank you for your patience whilst we processed these. Unfortunately, we have had several non-Covid related absences within our office team which caused the delay.

It was not possible to refund fees back into School Money accounts so cheques were issued and sent home last week. Parents/cares should have received automated email/s from School Money confirming refund/s paid via cheque for each cancelled event/s. Should you have any queries relating to this please email [finance@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk](mailto:finance@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk)



### **Payment for clubs this term**

We will shortly be adding swimming, gymnastics and street dance for this term to School Money and registering the relevant parents who are not already on the system. We will advise when these clubs are up on School Money and ready for payments to be taken.

### **Hello SIMS InTouch, Goodbye ParentMail**

This term so far all letters have been sent home hard copy and no other electronic communications have been sent until this one. As a school, we are conscious of the substantial cost, time and environmental impact associated with paper communication and are keen to use electronic communication where we can.

We have now completed the replacement of ParentMail with SIMS InTouch – a huge thank you to everyone for returning the updated contact details to the school office. As with ParentMail, SIMS InTouch uses a combination of email, text messages and instant alerts, to send information electronically to parents and carers. Unlike ParentMail, Parents/Carers do not need to subscribe to this service as the system uses the information held within SIMS, our School Management System

### **Important:**

SIMS InTouch email messages will be sent from [8232058@capita-intouch.co.uk](mailto:8232058@capita-intouch.co.uk)

Please add this address to your email address books (or approved sender list) to prevent messages from being blocked by your SPAM/JUNK filters.

SIMS InTouch SMS messages will be sent from +44 7860 097746 – please add this number to the contacts or address book in your device as 'HRPS InTouch' or similar so you easily recognise any messages received which have been set from school.

If parents need to update or add priority contact details, they should contact the school office.

### **School Office opening hours**

The School Office team work from 8.30am to 4pm. If you need assistance outside of these hours, there is the option to either send an email to [office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk) or leave a message on 01582 867487 which the office team will respond to during the hours outlined above. Where it is relevant, you can contact your class teacher on the dedicated email address which is simply the colour name of the class followed by @houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

### **Multi-Activity October Half Term Holiday Club**

Kidz Zone who run the Before and Afterschool Club here at school are also running a multi-activity holiday club during the October half term on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October through to Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October for children aged 5 to 12 years old. For further details please see the attached flyer or visit <http://www.houghtonregisprimary.co.uk/basc/>. All bookings must be made directly with Kidz Zone who can be reached via email at [hello@kidzzoneclub.com](mailto:hello@kidzzoneclub.com) or by phone on 01525 630199.

### **We are recruiting!**

We are looking to appoint a cleaner to join our site team – please look at the vacancies section of our website for more details including how to apply:

<http://www.houghtonregisprimary.co.uk/vacancies-2/>

### **Thank you**

Finally, we would like to thank you all for your continued support, co-operation and patience so far this term - we are committed to supporting you and your child/ren as they transition back into school routines, new and old.

