

Houghton Regis

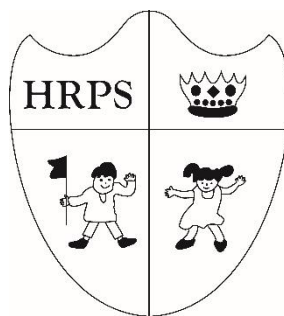
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Primary School

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10 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had another busy week in school. The children have again benefited from dance lessons in addition to plenty of PE and gymnastics with many children enjoying using the new crash mat. Children in the lower school bubbles (Nursery, Reception, Year 1, 2 & 3) have continued to work hard developing their reading, phonics and maths skills.

I have also had some wonderful reports about the excellent provision for children in our upper school bubbles (Year 4, 5 & 6). These children are absolutely thriving and are really being exposed to a great and productive last few weeks of term. Some of our new teachers including Mrs D and Miss Yates have also been in school working with our older pupils giving them a chance to get to know the children and the school in advance of September.

Arrangements for Reports

We are currently finalising the children's end of year reports. These will be posted 1st class towards the middle of next week to the parents of pupils not currently attending school. Children who are currently working as part of 'in school' bubbles will be handed their reports on Wednesday evening next week.

Refunds

I am aware that some parents are still owed money for cancelled events that occurred shortly before I started at the school. Unfortunately, there has been non-Covid related absence within our office team recently which has caused a delay in processing refunds. I wanted to re-assure parents that I have secured the services of an experienced additional bursar to work with our school at this time and we will refund parents owed money as soon as we are able to.

Uniform

There is a small adjustment to the school uniform for the next Academic year which is that green tights may be worn in replace of white tights in the colder weather as well as grey. A reminder of the full school uniform guidelines is attached as a reminder.

Swimming

It now looks very likely that swimming lessons will be able to start at the beginning of the autumn term. I have already written to the parents of our Year 1 parents to outline our new KS1 swimming programme for Year 2 which will commence next term. Our Year 1 children are very excited to be going to Inspire each week.



KS2 children will continue to swim at Lea Manor Swimming Pool and lessons will commence with Blue Class in the autumn term. A letter with further details around these swimming sessions will be sent out with end of year reports for those children entering Blue class in September.

If I could please ask Year 1 parents (who haven't already) to return the reply slip from the letter sent on 7 July as soon as possible. Due to the current national situation, we are simply asking for permission in the first instance. Once swimming lessons commence an invoice will be sent to relevant parents.

Learning Friends (values based merit scheme)

We will soon be introducing our new Learning Friends from our new values based merit scheme. These will motivate the children to achieve well by focusing on key values. From September, each week two pupils per class will be chosen for a 'star award.' Further information around this will be shared with parents in the autumn term but for now a sneak preview is attached.

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is the biggest children's reading for pleasure programme in the UK. Last year, 4591 children and their families from Central Bedfordshire alone took part. The challenge is aimed at children age 4-11, although anyone is welcome to join.

This year is going to be a bit different. The Reading Agency has developed a Digital Summer Reading Challenge on the theme of Silly Squad, which is running until September. Central Bedfordshire Libraries have lots of e-books, audiobooks, activities and information on how to sign up for this [Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge](#). Please see the attached leaflet for further details or visit <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Joining the Summer Reading Challenge is a way to support your children's reading and is especially important this year when children have missed so much of their normal schooling.

I look forward to the final week of term with our children.

Yours sincerely

J Edwards

Mr J Edwards
Headteacher

