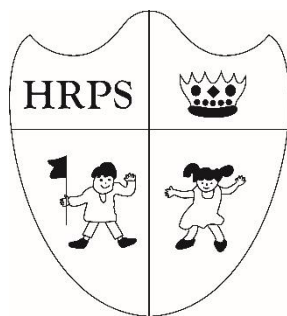


Houghton Regis

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Primary School

St Michaels Avenue
Houghton Regis
Dunstable
Beds
LU5 5DH

23 October 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

This has been an exceptional and busy half term for all and we are very proud of all the children for the way they have conducted themselves. They have shown resilience, positivity and demonstrated brilliant behaviour for learning. We have lots to tell you about today:

Sweet treats for birthdays

At the start of term, we were unable to facilitate the children bringing in sweet treats and party invitations to share with friends due to the ongoing covid restrictions. However, now that we are managing to successfully quarantine reading books, we feel we are in the position to extend this to birthday practices in order to support well-being. To this end, if your child wishes to bring in sweet treats or invitations to give to friends as part of their birthday celebrations, please bring these into school but do note any items will require to be placed in quarantine for 48 hours prior to distributing them so please plan ahead accordingly. Please also note that at this time we would prefer that children do not bring in cakes or other home baked goods for their classmates but instead shop bought individually wrapped sweets or cakes. We would like to gently remind you of the [current restrictions](#) on the number of people able to gather in one group socially when you are planning any celebrations. Thank you for your understanding.

Half term activities

[Full House](#) are running **free creative workshops** for children aged 5 to 12 years in Houghton Regis this half term offering the opportunity to learn new skills and have fun in a safe environment with artists. Further details can be found here: <https://fullhouse.org.uk/current-show/houghton-half-term/>

Final reminder that [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 26th October through to Thursday 29th October for children aged 5 to 12 years old. For further details please 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 or by phone on 01525 630199.

Central Bedfordshire Libraries have launched Select and Collect, a safe way to access library books again, despite libraries remaining closed. Children can also join for an interactive zoom performance of Roald Dahl's Enormous Crocodile, Tues 27 October at 2pm. For further details, please see the attached poster or visit:

https://virtual-library.culturalservices.net/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.beds_libraries/select_collect.htm

[Sustrans](#), a charity who aim to get children riding bikes in a safe, off-road environment are running local free '**Learn to Ride, Lose the Stabilisers**' sessions during half term. For more details, please see the attached leaflet or contact Alister Barclay (local Sustrans schools officer) on alister.barclay@sustrans.org.uk or 07917 084663.



Another reminder to park considerably

This was mentioned in the last newsletter but since then we have disappointingly received further complaints. Local residents on St Michael's Avenue are still having their private driveways blocked allegedly by parents/carers at school drop off and pick up times. This is unacceptable. Please be courteous and respectful to our neighbours and make sure you park without blocking driveways or entrances, regardless of how long you are planning to be there for. Thank you.

New availability for piano lessons

Julia Gommon, a piano teacher who has been teaching a number of pupils since September during the school day using the school's piano, has availability to extend this to more pupils if there is sufficient interest after half term. Please contact juliagommonmusic@gmail.com no later than Wednesday 28th October (during half term) to register your interest - places are limited and will be offered first come first served. A copy of the letter sent out this week with all the relevant details including prices and lesson structure can be found on the website here: <http://www.houghtonregisprimary.co.uk/newsletters-2020-21/>

School photos on Wednesday 18th November 2020

School photos are currently planned for Wednesday 18 November 2020. Unfortunately due to the current covid restrictions, it is not possible for any group, class or sibling photos to be taken. The Tempest Photographer will only be able to take individual portrait shots of each child and all orders will be required to be placed online. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Flu immunisations jabs in school on Monday 23 November 2020

The schools immunisation team are currently scheduled to be in school on Monday 23 November to administer flu vaccinations. The team advise this vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family members and friends by preventing the spread of flu. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic it is more important than ever that we ensure that children receive the flu vaccine to protect themselves, their families and to help protect the NHS. Please see the attached letter with a link to complete parental online consent (one for each child) which needs to be done by 5pm on 19th November 2020.

A final reminder for deadline to apply for 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. This is during half term. 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

Payment for clubs this term now live on School Money

Payments for swimming, gymnastics and street dance for this term are now live on School Money and reminders have gone out to the relevant families for payments to be made. Any queries with this, please contact finance@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

Guidance on reporting and contact tracing of COVID-19 during half term

Please see attached a letter from the Director of Public Health for all parents and carers ahead of the half term break with guidance on reporting and contact tracing of COVID-19 during half term.

Thank you

Thank you all for your continued support, co-operation and patience so far this term.

Following a Staff Training/Inset day on Monday 02 November -
the school will re-open to students after half term on Tuesday 03 November

Wishing all the children, their families and loved ones, a safe and restful half term break.

