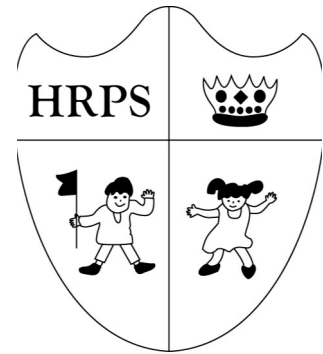


Houghton Regis Primary School

Key Stage One

Topic Newsletter

for Parents & Carers



Issue 2: November
2016

Autumn term Newsletter: 2nd half term

This half term we will be studying three topics; Autumn, Vehicles and Christmas.

Our topics for the Autumn term

- Magic & Mystery
- The Titanic
- The Great Fire of London
- Autumn
- Vehicles
- Christmas

Topic	Some areas to focus on...
Autumn	<p>We will be finding out about the season of Autumn.</p> <p>Science: How is our local environment changing? Can you name common plants and trees? What wildlife can you identify? We will be finding out about which creatures hibernate and why they do so. How can we help our wildlife prepare for Winter?</p> <p>Literacy: We will be developing our vocabulary to describe the colours, sounds and movement of Autumn leaves.</p> <p>Visits: We will be walking around the school grounds to look for signs of Autumn in different environments. We will be seeing how many trees and plants we can name and if we can identify any wildlife.</p> <p>At home: Help your child feed the birds and learn their names. Plant some Spring bulbs.</p>
Vehicles	<p>This topic will allow us to explore the Science topic of 'Forces' as well as developing Design Technology skills and mathematical measuring skills.</p> <p>Science: How are things powered? Pushing, pulling, electricity or engines? Look at things in your home and identify pushing or pulling forces at work. Make a ramp and push a toy car down it. Does it speed up or slow down? What happens if you make the slope steeper?</p> <p>Design & Technology: We will be making our own vehicles using some reclaimed junk, but also constructing a wooden frame using tools.</p> <p>Numeracy: We will be measuring when we build our models as well as measuring how far our cars travel off the ramps.</p> <p>Remember to measure in metres & centimetres!!!</p>
Christmas	<p>We will be talking about the 'Christmas' festival from a religious point of view as well as discussing how Christmas is celebrated around the world.</p> <p>RE: We will be retelling the Nativity story over a period of days. Allowing the children time to really think about each part of the story.</p> <p>Geography: We will begin to look at the wider world by locating different countries on a map or globe and then finding out about their Christmas customs. How are some customs similar or different to ours?</p> <p>Art & Craft: There will be lots of opportunities for children to make cards, calendars and decorations.</p>

Diary Dates:

- *Thursday 1st Nov– INSET day (no school)*
- *Monday 28th Nov– Cycle to Santa starts*
- *Tuesday 6th Dec– ORANGE Class Christmas assembly 2pm.*
- *Wednesday 7th Dec– GREEN Class Christmas assembly 2pm.*
- *Thursday 8th Dec– PURPLE Class Christmas assembly 2pm.*
- *Friday 9th December– Christmas discos*
- *Tuesday 13th Dec– Pantomime (Grove Theatre)*
- *Thursday 15th Dec– Christmas dinner*
- *Friday 16th Dec– Christmas parties.*

Hopefully our half-termly newsletter will provide you with any extra information that you may need to help you support your child with the topic work that they are doing in school, through family trips out or extra research.

We deliver a Creative Curriculum, which means that we plan a topic and use this to deliver many curriculum objectives that link naturally. We find that this helps your children to make links between subject areas and apply their learning. Each topic usually lasts for two weeks and will incorporate learning in both the indoor and outdoor environment, which helps us to provide for children's different learning styles, as well as enriching their experiences.

Feedback and news...

Sponsored Walk:

Just before half term we were able to complete our annual Sponsored Walk around the grounds. It was a real social occasion involving all pupils from Years 1-6. This meant many children were able to walk with siblings or friends in other classes. At the time of writing the total had just passed £1000, thank you all so much! All the money collected will be kept in school and used to replace and modernise our Library furniture.

Tuck Shop:

As a result of feedback from parents, the Tuck Shop has been reinstated. Children in Key Stage One can spend 10p a day. Please do not send your

child with large coins as we are not able to give change from £1 coins. Year 2 children are chosen to help serve in the tuck shop, as long as they are able to handle money competently.

Homework:

After many requests at Parents Evening we will be beginning to send homework home with your child, in addition to their reading book and weekly spellings. If you have any questions about the homework set, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher at the end of the day. We are quite happy to explain Grammar or Calculation strategies to you to ensure you are aware of how your child is learning.

Christmas Assemblies:

Your child will soon be beginning to learn songs, words and actions to entertain you in our Christmas performances at the beginning of December. Watch out for dates and times in the main school newsletters. Hopefully there will be a crèche for younger siblings during each performance to enable you to watch your child without distraction from your own or other toddlers and babies. Could we take this opportunity to remind you to switch phones off during performances. ***In accordance with our school photograph policy, please do not put photos of other children on your social networking site without permission from their parents or guardians.***

Values

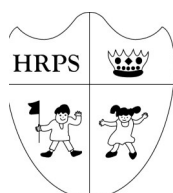
At Houghton Regis Primary School every individual is valued for who they are and what they contribute to our school community. Our Values Education Programme is intended to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every pupil throughout the school. The whole staff team and all pupils are involved in promoting values and recognizing where others are "living the values". The values developed through our Values Education Programme have been selected as those which are important within our school community and which will prove important throughout life.

This term our Values will be... 1st half term: September– Respect, October– Friendship,

2nd half term: November– Understanding, December– Thoughtfulness

You can help your child by encouraging them to... show **Understanding** by realising that we are all different. Some people learn to read more slowly, or struggle to learn their tables. Encourage your child to think about why another child might act as they do. Show **Thoughtfulness** by doing things for others without having to be asked. Think about others and change your behaviour if you think it will help other people or make them happier.

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