

Where everyone matters and every day counts



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter Friday 1st November 2019

**Headteacher: Mrs B Waite
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Chair of Governors: Mrs J Mew**

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had a very busy start to the Autumn Term and as always, our staff have continued to motivate and engage our children in their learning, which they have thoroughly enjoyed. It has been lovely to see the children showing such enthusiasm towards their work and willing to share their learning in assemblies and with visitors.

A huge thank you to all parents who were able to attend our Maths and Science Curriculum workshops that were held last month during World Space Week. We received positive feedback from the children and parents. Our next parent curriculum workshop will be held on Tuesday 26th November at 9am-10am and will be based on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.

Our children in Key Stage 1 thoroughly enjoyed their visit from The English School of Falconry, when they visited before half-term. The Leader commended our children on their behaviour and were extremely pleased with their enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

Our Parents' Evening meetings were very well attended and this gave parents and teachers a fantastic opportunity to discuss children's learning. If you were unable to attend, please arrange an appointment with your child's Class Teacher.

We held our PTA non-uniform day this week and we are very grateful for all the generous contributions that were made towards our Christmas Fayre, which will be held on Friday 29th November 2-5pm.

Well done to all the children and staff in Red Class, who performed their Class Assembly yesterday. It was full of interesting facts about the Romans and the children sang beautifully throughout.

Our after-school clubs started this week have been very successful. We are pleased that teachers and children have enjoyed the various clubs that are being offered across the school.

This is a polite reminder that parents and carers should park mindfully when dropping off or collecting children. This week, some local residents have had their driveways blocked, which has caused a huge inconvenience to them. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who are taking part in Bikeability next week will need to remember to bring in their bikes from Monday.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs B Waite & Mrs R Parmar

VALUE OF THE MONTH: Respect

Respect is a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.



Kidz Zone Before and After School Club Information

A Holiday Club will be held on Monday 23rd December 2019.

If you would like further information on Kidz Zone, please visit our website or book on www.kidzzoneclub.com.

Absence Procedures

If your child is absent, please ensure you contact the School Office to notify us and leave a message if we are unable to answer your call.

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is £2.25 payable by cash or cheque to Jackie Cook in the School Kitchen.

Class Attendance Winners for October

EYFS/KS1: Purple Class with 96.3%

KS2: Blue Class with 97.3%

Whole School Attendance: 95.6%

Housepoint Winners

EYFS/KS1: Falcons with 77 points

KS2: Hawks with 241 points

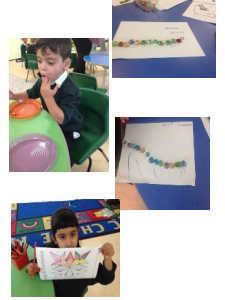
Overall Winning House: Hawks with 314 points

Our Learning

EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

The children have had a brilliant time learning all about mini beasts. They have particularly enjoyed watching the butterflies change from caterpillar to butterflies and releasing them outside. We made fruit salad from the left over fruit that we tasted from The Very Hungry Caterpillar story. Silver class have made some fantastic art work and have even enjoyed moving like mini beasts in P.E.

We are very pleased with the way the children have returned to school after the half term break. They have arrived fully refreshed and ready to learn. We have had an enjoyable week learning all about Diwali. The children have created some excellent Diya Lamps from playdough and salt dough. They have made Diwali sweets and chalked Rangoli patterns. Very well done Silver Class!



We have come to the end of our 'It's a bug's life' topic, and we can definitely say the children have loved it. We successfully released the butterflies during our 'Caterpillar' week and we also enjoyed reading the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. This book was fantastic, not only for exploring the life cycle of a butterfly but also learning days of the week and thinking about healthy eating too. Our next focus was spiders and the children had lots of opportunities to create spiders using a variety of resources. We made all kinds of webs, some of them big enough to crawl through ourselves and the best one of all was our friendship web where we passed the web to our friends. Following this, we explored some very slimy snails through the story of 'The snail and the whale'. The children are becoming more aware of rhyming words in our stories and they are beginning to think of their own rhyming words too. We had a very exciting afternoon observing real snails in the classroom, watching how they move and following the trail that they leave behind. Our final week was 'Frog' week and everyone loved the story 'Oi Frog!' It was very funny and again supported children to develop their rhyming skills. We learned about the lifecycle of a frog and we had some very messy play in pretend frogspawn. This topic has given the children so many opportunities to learn and talk about the world around them and we have been so impressed with the care and concern for living things that the children have demonstrated.



We have been so impressed with the children's developing phonic skills. They are recognising lots of sounds and beginning to blend them to read simple words. They are also hearing some sounds in words which they are then able to write down. We can tell that they have been practising at home with their phonics cards and words. In our maths sessions, the children are practising daily counting, number recognition and matching numbers to objects. They have also been naming and describing two-dimensional shapes and using shapes to create pictures. The children are very well settled into school life now and we continue to be so proud of all of them. Well done Gold Class!

KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

Years One and Two have continued our topic of 'Predators' during October. We were quite excited to explore how dinosaurs were 'Predators'. It was great fun learning to pronounce their names, we really had to work hard at applying our phonic knowledge. We made some beautiful dinosaur eyes out of clay and had absolutely fabulous displays of dinosaur models in our classrooms from the creative homework task. We finished our topic just before half term with an exciting visit from the English School of Falconry. We were lucky enough to meet four different birds of prey and watch them fly freely in the hall. We listened carefully to the lady and learned so many new facts. As a reward for sitting so sensibly we were given the opportunity to hold an owl all by ourselves. We used our values of bravery and respect during this activity.



We participated in World Space Week. Key Stage One had two amazing fun-filled practical Science days. All three classes rotated around each room and completed a total of six hands on Science Investigations. These included creating moon landers, mini-rockets and flying spaceships. We thought about hot, cold or watery planets and made volcanoes, rain clouds and planet surfaces. It was a really interesting week and we loved moving round and mixing with all the different adults in our Key Stage.

Green Class have enjoyed participating in a range of practical maths activities. We have developed our confidence with using lots of practical resources and have really improved our calculating ability. Orange Class really enjoyed acting out the story of 'Funnybones' to start our new topic. We are looking forward to writing our own 'Funnybones' stories next. Purple Class have been enjoying our cookery sessions. We have made some delicious cheese scones and we are really looking forward to finding out what we are making next.

All the children in Years 1 and 2 have now begun our new topic of 'All about me'. We will be learning about our bodies and what we need to do to keep our bodies healthy. We are also beginning to learn our songs and words for our Christmas Performance.

Our Learning

LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

During October, children in Years 3 and 4 took their Maths knowledge to a new level, focusing on column addition and column subtraction. We all worked really hard to move on to carrying with addition calculations and exchanging with our neighbour for subtraction! We then put our knowledge to good use by looking at problems that we could solve.

We also had a fabulous time during our World of Space week. We not only researched interesting facts about space, but we also used mathematical information in our Maths lessons and in the afternoon, created various pieces of artwork.

Mr Tony Tucker from Luton Astronomical Society came and visited during World Space Week and prompted interest in Astronomy and night sky awareness with the children.

Many of our children worked extremely hard over the half term period to complete their Roman artefact projects. Children made a range of shields, pots, crowns and pieces of jewellery.

We have also begun our new science topic ELECTRICITY! We have started to explore static electricity and circuits. We know our children are bright sparks!



UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE

In Years 5 and 6, in Maths, we have been covering the topic of Number. The children have been learning to use short and long multiplication and division. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been solving problems and using reasoning skills to consolidate our knowledge.

In English, we have been reading 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, which has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres; for example a balanced argument and an explanation text. The children thoroughly enjoyed creating a tool or item for survival in the Amazon Rainforest out in our Forest School.

Our topic in Science has been Living Things and Their Habitats, where the children have been looking at microorganisms and which ones are harmful or helpful. They have carried out an investigation over a week to observe the conditions which best enabled mould to grow on a slice of bread.

We have immersed ourselves into the topic of The Americas, which the children have shown great enthusiasm for. We have looked at natural wonders in The Americas and the children enjoyed creating a persuasive poster to convince others why theirs is the most significant.

Amber Class have enjoyed street dance for indoor PE, where they have been building on their knowledge and learning new moves to create a dance routine.

Sapphire Class have been able to develop their computing skills, when learning how to use and create spreadsheets on the Chromebooks.

Emerald Class have really enjoyed their Science lessons, where they investigated harmful microorganisms and experimented with bread to find which conditions cause mould to grow the fastest.



Upcoming Events:

Bikeability for Years 4, 5 and 6 children

Monday 4th November to Wednesday 6th November 2019

Year 6 Residential Activity

Wednesday 6th November to Friday 8th November 2019

School Photographs—Individuals and Siblings

Monday 11th November 2019

School Group Photographs

Wednesday 13th November 2019

Parent Curriculum Workshop—Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Tuesday 26th November 2019 9-10am

PTA Christmas Fayre 2pm-5pm

Friday 29th November 2019

Gold Class Nativity

Thursday 5th December 2019

Christmas Dinner Day

Wednesday 11th December 2019

Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production

Thursday 12th December 2019

Christmas Jumper Day

Silver Christmas Concert 9:30am

Friday 13th December 2019

Last Day of Term

Friday 20th December 2019

Children return to school

Monday 6th January 2020