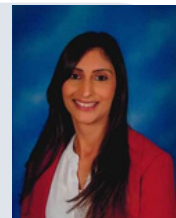




Growing minds, shaping futures and inspiring lifelong learning

Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter

Friday 12th December 2025



Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Chair of Governors: Mr T Muldownie

Dear Parents, Carers & Children,

As we move ever closer to Christmas, the penultimate week in school has been filled with a wonderful sense of excitement. There have been many festive events this week, which we have all enjoyed being a part of.

The week started with Year 1's outstanding performance of 'The Twinkly Nativity'. The children sang their hearts out with confidence and enthusiasm. I was impressed with their ability to memorise their lines and songs words. I am extremely proud of the progress they have made since the start of the academic year. As always, thank you to our staff for their hard work and thank you to parents and carers for all your support.

We were joined by Alexander from the Road Safety Education Team this week. He delivered an assembly about basic road safety awareness. He also talked about the importance of following traffic signals and safe crossing practices.

Yesterday, Mrs March took the choir to Morrisons where they sang Christmas carols to raise money for Luton & Dunstable hospital. There was lots of support and encouragement from the local community, which we always value and appreciate.

Mrs White and Mr D hosted our Girls' Football Tournament last week. The girls showed great tenacity but unfortunately went down 1-0 to St Vincent's in the first game. They rallied in their next game and went on to win 2-1. Well done to Danielle (1), Annabelle, Ellie, Everly, Zara (1), Maya, Francesca, Kira and Sophie. The player of the tournament went to Sophie, who showed great resilience in the way she played. Well done to you all!

On Tuesday, we are looking forward to our Christmas Carol Concert at the Church for Year 2 and the Choir. Our Christmas dinner and jumper day is being held on Wednesday. The children in Nursery have been practising for their Jingle and Mingle performance to parents on Thursday.

There will be no school clubs next week. We will be offering a range of clubs after Christmas. A letter will be sent out next week with details on how to register your interest to secure a place. Spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please note that if your child attended a club this term, they will not automatically be given a place for the same club next term - you will have to re-register.

As we move further into winter and in response to the increasing number of children and adults falling ill at this time of year, please refer to the following guidance:

[NHS Guidance for Parents: Is my child too ill for school? – a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.](#)

[Preventing and controlling infections Guidance: Includes advice on vaccination, ventilation, and good respiratory hygiene.](#)

[A to Z managing specific infectious diseases: Practical guidance on managing specific illnesses.](#)

A reminder that children must not be scooting or riding their bikes on the school premises before school and at the end of the day. Staff patrolling the playground will be reminding children to 'walk their wheels' in order to keep everyone safe by preventing any accidents from happening. Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

Next week is the last week of term and we will be finishing school on Friday at 2pm.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Mrs R Parmar

Headteacher

Uniform Expectations

- White plain polo shirt/blouse or white shirt and school tie (optional)
- Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan (with school logo - optional)
 - Grey trousers or grey skirt/pinafore (knee length)
- Leggings are not permitted
 - White or grey socks
 - White or grey tights
 - Black school shoes

PE Days

Nursery—Monday
Reception—Wednesday
Year 1—Thursday & Friday
Year 2—Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 3—Monday & Friday
Year 4—Monday & Thursday (Yellow)
Friday (Blue)
Year 5—Monday & Thursday
Year 6—Monday & Wednesday

Attendance Winners

EYFS/KS1: Purple with 98%
KS2: Indigo with 97%
Whole School: 93%

Housepoint Winners

Johnson - 59 points
Curie - 48 points
Brunel - 41 points
Bell - 35 points

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children:

Early Years: Freya Rose O, Elyanna N, Eleanor T, Ayman A

Years 1 & 2: Caoimhe-Rose O'H, Efrem T, Lilah M, Jack L

Years 3 & 4: Francesca K, Ruby W, Ayla R, Violet H

Years 5 & 6: Antonia T, Darius M, Ciara-Chanel M, Diana P



Kidz Zone Before & After School Club Information

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

Is your child due to start school in September 2026?

If you have a child due to start Reception in September 2026, applications need to be made via the Central Bedfordshire School Admissions portal

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions/496/apply_for_a_new_lower_or_primary_school_place

The deadline for applications is **Thursday 15th January 2026** and you are encouraged to use all 3 preferences and name 3 different schools closest to your catchment. If you would like to book a visit to our school or if you require any support with the online application, please do come and speak to a member of our school admin team.

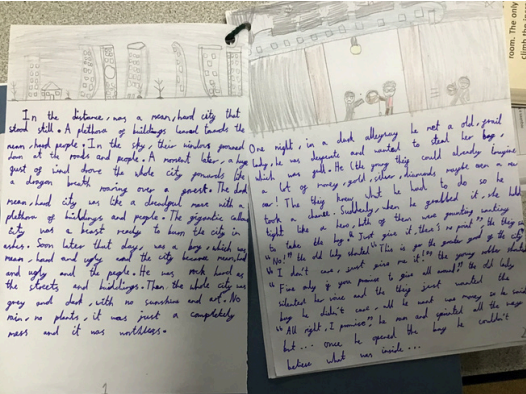
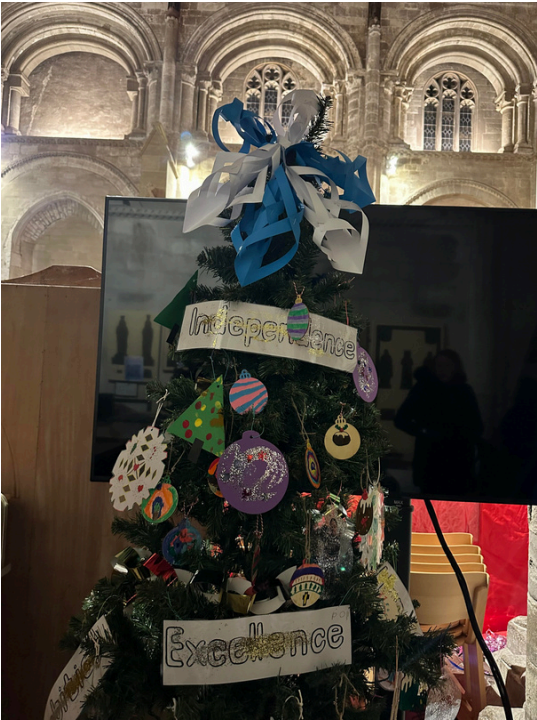
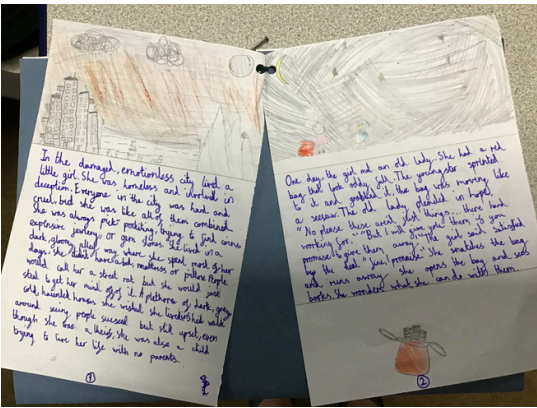
Bronze Awards - 100 Dojo Points



Silver Awards - 200 Dojo Points



Our learning this week...



Autumn Term Events

Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Tuesday 16 th December	2:00-3:00pm	Year 2 & Choir	Christmas Carol Concert	All Saints Church
Wednesday 17 th December		All	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day—children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform	
Thursday 18 th December	9:15am	Nursery	Jingle & Mingle - parents invited	Hall
Thursday 18 th December	2:15pm	Nursery	Jingle & Mingle - parents invited	Hall
Friday 19 th December	2:00pm	All	Last day of term—school finishes at 2:00pm. There will be no after school club on this day.	

Spring Term Events

Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Monday 5 th January		All	INSET day - school closed for all children	
Tuesday 6 th January		All	Children return to school	
Tuesday 13 th January	9:00-10:30am	All	SNAP Parent Carer Forum Coffee Morning	Hall
Tuesday 13 th January	12:00-6:00pm	Year 6 - Red Class	Parent Consultation Evening - appointments are available to book via ClassDojo	Enter via School Office
Thursday 15 th January		Nursery	Deadline for submitting primary school applications to the Local Authority <i>(for children starting school in September 2026)</i>	Online
Thursday 22 nd January	2:45pm	Year 6 - Indigo Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Thursday 29 th January	2:45pm	Year 6 - Red Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Thursday 5 th February	2:45pm	Year 4 - Blue Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Monday 2 nd - Tuesday 3 rd February		Year 5	Residential Trip	
Thursday 12 th February	2:45pm	Year 4 - Yellow Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Friday 13th February		All	Friends of HRPS Non-Uniform day - wear red for Valentine's Day	
Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th February		All	Half-Term	
Monday 23 rd February		All	Children return to school	

Our Leadership Team



Headteacher
Mrs R Parmar



Assistant Headteacher—
Pastoral & Inclusion
Ms D Faure-Alexis



Assistant Headteacher—
Academic &
Lower Key Stage 2 Leader
Mr D de Gouviea-Smith



School Business
Manager
Mrs F Jones



EYFS & Key Stage 1 Leader
Lead Practitioner
Miss M Davidson



Deputy Key Stage 1
Leader
Miss S Hayat



Key Stage 2
Leader
Miss E Naisby

Friends of HRPS

What is a PTA?

PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association. Volunteer organisations like this are usually composed of parents, class reps, teachers and other school staff who come together for regular meetings to discuss the school year and upcoming events.

PTAs bridge the gap between parents, teachers and pupils, helping to build productive relationships and further ensure the school is a place where pupils can thrive.

PTAs are now established in most schools and parents enjoy working closely with teachers, creating bonds with other parents, fundraising for events, working with the local community and learning more about the curriculum.

At our school, we are known as Friends of HRPS.

What do we do?

Friends of HRPS aim to accomplish a range of things, all usually geared at making the school a better place to learn. We work together to raise money with a variety of creative events throughout the school year, encouraging the whole community to get involved.

Friends of HRPS events

In previous years, we have organised summer fetes, Santa's Christmas Grotto, discos and a sponsored walk to name a few.

Why is our role so important?

We give parents more of a voice and get them feeling involved. Parents can provide the school community with a fresh perspective and highlight any concerns in a supportive environment.

The organisations are also instrumental in providing additional opportunities for pupils by strengthening the overall school experience.

Why should you join Friends of HRPS?

Being a part of your child's school community has several benefits:

- Scheduled meetings allow parents to keep up to date with upcoming academic events and socials.
- It creates stronger relationships with staff members, where they can easily communicate expectations and standards of learning.
- It allows parents to establish relationships and network with other parents.
- Parents can support the school in creating the best environment possible for their child and other pupils, helping make a real difference.
- Friends of HRPS members can learn new skills, from fundraising and problem-solving to communication and creativity.
- As a member of Friends of HRPS, you'll be able to see measurable results and appreciate the impact of all your efforts!

Please email the Chair, Mrs R Reid-Stavrinides at: ptahrps@gmail.com if you would like to find out more information.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS



Penalty Notice Fines for absence from school are changing

From 19th August 2024 Penalty Notice fines increase to £160 for each parent, for each child.



You can be fined if your child has a total of 5 days of unauthorised absences in 10 school weeks, for things like:

- being late after the register has closed
- truancy
- taking a holiday without permission from the school
- or if a headteacher isn't satisfied for the reason for missing school

Over a rolling 3-year period the sanctions are:

- 1st offence – £160 reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days
- 2nd offence – £160
- 3rd offence – Court hearing and up to £2,500 fine, or up to 3 months in prison and a criminal record

For more information go to:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/missing-school



SEND Dance Classes

Fun and inclusive classes for those with suspected or diagnosed additional needs

Imagine & Move | 4 – 4.30pm

Sensory movement class for those aged 3+
Aimed at those who need support from a parent/carer to participate
£5 per class invoiced termly



Magic Movers | 4.45 – 5.30pm

Creative dance class for those aged 7+
For those who can follow instruction and participate independently
£7 per class invoiced termly

**Introductory offer:
20% off for Spring Term!**

15th January – 26th March (No class 19th February)



Thursdays during term time
at Houghton Regis Leisure Centre

Limited spaces! Book now:
info.imaginationarts@yahoo.com
07394 934911



Central
Bedfordshire
Council



CHRISTMAS LUNCH DEC _____

MAIN MENU

Sliced Turkey Breast
with Chipolata Sausage
& Sage & Onion Stuffing
& Gravy

or

Roast Quorn Fillet
with Plant Sausage
& Sage & Onion Stuffing
& Gravy (Ve)

or

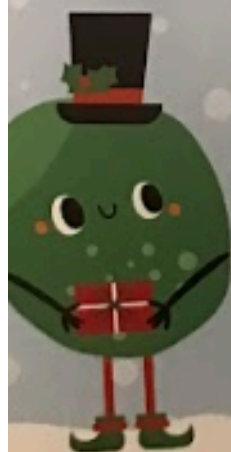
Plant Sausage & Gravy (Free From*) (Ve)

SERVED WITH

Roast Potatoes
with a Choice of Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT

Choice of Christmas Dessert



@hclcatering

www.hcl.co.uk

Houghton Regis Primary School – Parent Governor Vacancy

Governor Position Available

Houghton Regis Primary School is seeking a committed individual to fill a vacancy for a Parent Governor. This position is ideal for someone with the skills and dedication needed to contribute to the school's effective governance and ongoing success.

Who are our School governors?

Given the nature of our school, our governors comprise a mixed parents, local authority members, staff members and other members of the community who work with the school's leadership team. See our page on the school website for a personal statement of each member.

What do School Governors do?

Governors are 'overseers' of the school and the employers in law of school staff. Whilst the day-to-day running of the school and operational decisions are the responsibility of the school's leadership team, the governors are responsible for the long-term strategic decisions regarding the school. In particular, governors have three core functions:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, striving to ensure that each child obtains the best education possible and ensure the safety and security of the child whilst at our school
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is spent most effectively to the benefit of our children.

The governing board also decides school policy and ensures that the school complies fully with statutory safeguarding procedures. The Governing body is often referred to as "a challenging friend" to the school leadership team.

Expectations of an Effective Parent Governor

As an effective Parent governor, you will be expected to:

- Support the aims and ethos of the school
- Visit the school regularly to become familiar with its environment and operations
- Work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team, and fellow governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
- Prepare thoroughly for meetings by reading relevant papers in advance
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development, including attending governor training sessions
- Attend all full governing board and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for their full duration
- Stay informed by reading briefings and newsletters for governors
- Support and remain loyal to decisions made by the governing board
- Respect the confidentiality of governing board discussions and affairs
- Declare any interests and withdraw from meetings where you, a partner, close relative, or associate could benefit or where impartiality could be compromised
- Uphold the broader responsibilities of a governor in a public institution, including promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing board.

The role of a Parent Governor is distinct to your role as a Parent with a child at the school and it is important to distinguish between those two different roles.

Support and Training

Appropriate support, free training, and resources are available for all members of governing boards. This includes:

- Induction training, which all governors are expected to complete within the first six months of their appointment
- Access to a comprehensive, high-quality training and development programme designed to support improvements in leadership, management, and governance

Our existing governing body members are generally allocated to particular area of oversight including Accommodation, Early Years, Finance, Health & Safety, Pay, Safeguarding and School Development Plan. Whilst we try to ensure all areas are covered effectively we also seek to match the interest of any Governors to one of these areas of oversight wherever possible.

Time Commitment

Governors are expected to attend all full governing board meetings as well as committee meetings, as appropriate. There are approximately six meetings per calendar year. In addition to meetings, governors are expected to visit the school during the school day to monitor and evaluate practice—an essential part of the role. Governors are also often invited to attend school events, such as assemblies and sports days.

Time Off from Work

Under employment law, employers must provide employees who serve as school governors with reasonable time off to fulfil their duties. The amount of time off is agreed upon by the employee and employer, and in most cases, employers grant this time off with pay.

Following a recent audit of the governing board skills any one of the following experiences would be desirable for us although not essential:

- Links with local businesses
- Experience of Human Resources
- Experience of premises maintenance and facilities management

Increasing diversity is important for us to enable us to maintain good critical thinking. We would be delighted to hear from people with views and experiences that enable us to better represent children from different backgrounds. We would particularly encourage applicants from anyone who can represent the following groups which are currently not represented on our board and are under-represented.

- Asian / Asian British
- Black / Black British / Caribbean / African
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

What can we offer?

- A chance to develop skills in strategic leadership
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors, headteacher and senior leaders in driving school improvement
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school matters and governance roles
- A sense of achievement in making a difference and supporting children in our school
- Becoming part of the biggest volunteer workforce in the UK
- Chance to visit the school, meet teachers, hold discussions with subject leaders etc...
- Induction training and support
- Inclusion in a friendly team of professionals

Our vision:

When pupils leave Houghton Regis Primary School, they will be confident, independent and resilient citizens of the world who are open minded and ready to embrace their future.

Our values:

Happiness, Independence, Excellence, Respect, Ambition

Our ethos:

At Houghton Regis Primary School, we believe that every child has the right to a high-quality education in a safe and nurturing environment and our children have the potential to be worthy citizens of the world.

We believe that every child is capable of achieving their full potential and maximising their learning opportunities to excel in all that they do.

Our learning approach embraces our diverse community, reflecting our commitment as an inclusive school.

We expect our children to be ready, respectful and safe.

We are ambitious in promoting positive relationships with parents, carers and professionals so we can achieve the best outcomes for our pupils.

Wellbeing for our pupils, staff, parents and carers is at the heart of everything we do.

If you would just like to find out more, please contact:

Mr Tom Muldownie, Chair of governors, at governingbody@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

Mrs Rajneet Parmar, Headteacher, at office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

or chat in the playground to any of our parents who are already governors at Houghton Regis:

Mrs Sam O'Connell, Mrs Amy Knights-Allen