

Where everyone matters and every day counts



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter
Friday 17 January 2025

Acting Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Chair of Governors: Mr T Muldownie
Headteacher: Mr J Edwards

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had another great week with lots of exciting learning taking place. The children have been keen to share their learning with me as I have been visiting classes around the school. It is lovely to see high levels of engagement and interest from all children in Early Years to year 6.

Our recent training has included all staff reviewing our current behaviour policy. We have been making positive changes to ensure we adopt restorative strategies, yet instilling a firm and fair approach. If you have any queries about our behaviour policy, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to discuss this with you further.

We have seen an increased amount of absences this week across the school. Whilst we understand that there have been lots of illnesses spreading, I must remind you of the importance of keeping you updated with the reasons for your child's absence. If you have not done so already, please ensure you download the Studybugs app, as this will make it easier for you to communicate with the school. There is a QR code attached at the end of this newsletter. You can also access a link that to report absences via Studybugs on our school website.

From Monday, 20th January-Thursdays 23rd January, Bikeability Levels 1 & 2 training will take place for some children in years 5 and 6. The course is run by qualified cycle trainers and will be held during the mornings. Any children taking part have been notified and they have already received their checklist for the course. A gentle reminder that children will need to have their roadworthy bikes and their helmets at school from Monday. Children who forget their bikes and/or their helmets will unfortunately not be able to participate in the course. Due to the wet weather next week, children need to come to school in uniform and bring suitable clothing to change into for the weather each day. Thank you to Mr D for arranging this activity.

Children in year 5 have an eventful Greek day planned next Wednesday. They will be partaking in a range of activities throughout the day, including an outdoor event in the afternoon (PE kits required). If the children would like to wear a Greek costume, they are more than welcome to but it is not compulsory.

We would like to invite interested parents to a coffee morning on Thursday 23rd January where we can share information on what is available in school to support your child with their additional needs. There will be information on Provision Map for Learning Plans; the school website's SEND page; interventions and pastoral care in place at school. This will also be an opportunity for us to share what the Local Offer from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) looks like and how this can help signpost you to external services available to parents and families. Miss Alexis (Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo) will be hosting the coffee morning along with: Mrs Parmar (Acting Headteacher) and Miss Coleman (Assistant SENDCo and Pastoral Lead). Lisa Webb from SENDAT at CBC will also be around if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at 9am on Thursday morning. There will be refreshments available.

Later this half term, on Monday 3rd to Friday 7th February, we will be celebrating 'Children's Mental Health Week'. The theme this year is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. There will be a themed assembly and planned activities taking place during the course of the week. The week will end with a celebratory 'Dress to Express' day, where children can come to school in non-uniform for a contribution of £1. All contributions will be donated to our chosen children's charity Place2Be.

You will have received an important letter this morning regarding one of our pupils and the importance of notifying us if there are any cases of measles, chicken pox or shingles in your household. Please can I ask that all families co-operate with this request and notify us as soon as possible if there is a case of any of the listed illnesses.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mrs R Parmar

VALUE OF THE MONTH
FOR JANUARY:

Determination

the ability to continue trying to do something, even if it is difficult.



Kidz Zone Before and After School Club Information

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

Nut Free School

A reminder that we are a nut-free school. Please ensure children are not sent to school with any foods containing nuts as we have children with allergies.

Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is £2.20 for Nursery and £2.40 for Reception-Year 6 children. This can be paid via SchoolGrid.

Attendance Winners

EYFS/KS1: Platinum with 97.1%

KS2: Sapphire with 99.7%

Whole School Attendance: 92.6%

Housepoint Winners

EYFS/KS1:

Sandringham— 38 points

KS2:

Buckingham Palace—92 points

Overall Winning House: Buckingham Palace—118 points

EARLY YEARS

Nursery

This week, we have continued to explore the traditional fairytale of "The Three Little Pigs". The children have been looking at story sequencing and how to retell the story so far from memory. This is an important part of building early language skills and is also a great chance to develop attention and listening skills, learn new words, hear structured sentences and build up imagination. As an extension of learning we have been getting creative, building houses out of materials from the story such as straw, sticks and bricks.



Reception

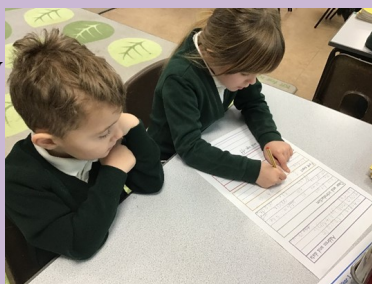
This week's story is 'The Enormous Turnip'. The children have enjoyed a range of activities around this story. We learnt about lots of different vegetables and where they come from. We talked about how important vegetables are to help us stay healthy. The children used their fine motor skills to chop vegetables. They have made vegetable soup, which I am sure will be delicious.



KEY STAGE 1

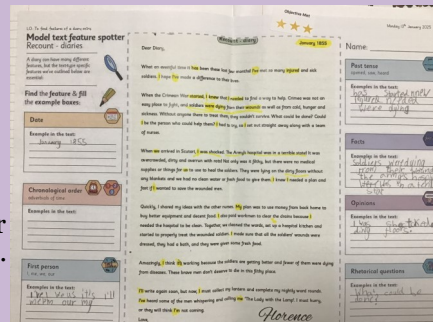
Year 1

This week, year 1 children wrote letters from their visit back from Space! They took inspiration from the letter written by Bob and included lots of features. The children remembered to include a range of questions, write in short paragraphs and ensured that the events were in chronological order.



Year 2

This week, children in year 2 have been learning all about diary entries. We have read some that were written by Florence Nightingale and tried to imagine what life was like for her during the Crimean war. We found lots of the features of a diary entry and are looking forward to writing our own diary entries soon.



LOWER KEY STAGE 2

Year 3

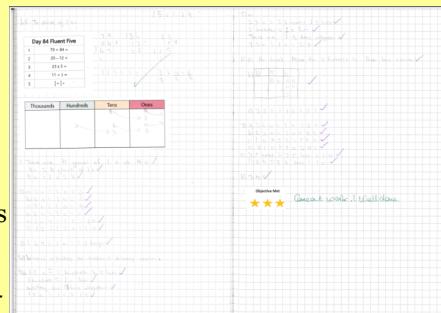
In history this week, the children have been learning where and how the Roman Empire began.. They have enjoyed learning how the Roman army became so successful. They now understand that superior military tactics and valuing their soldiers allowed them to create their empire.



Year 4

This week in maths, year 4 children have been learning how to multiply and divide by 10 and 100.

We have been learning to explain what happens to each digit and using place value charts to demonstrate our understanding.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

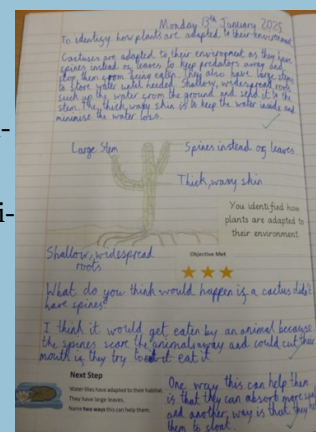
Year 5

This week, children in year 5 have continued to read the book 'Who Let the Gods Out?' which is linked to our topic, the Ancient Greeks. The children have written a diary entry in the role of a character and begun to plan a persuasive letter. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting mixed numbers and solving fraction problems. The children have been discussing the different types of government in Ancient Greece – monarchy, oligarchy and democracy. We have also prepared some art work ready for the year 5 Greek wow day next week which the children are looking forward to.



Year 6

This week, we have been using ratio language and have learnt how to use ratio. In English, we wrote from another character's perspective. In science, we looked at how plants have adapted to their environment. In history, we discussed why the river Nile was so important.



STAR AWARDS

			
Danny DETERMINATION says, "DON'T GIVE UP."	Colin CURIOSITY says, "THINK FOR YOUR-SELF."	Chloe COMMUNICATION says, "RESPECT OTHERS."	Izzy INDEPENDENCE says, "DO YOUR BEST."
Mollie G	Charlie N	Lucas C	Reico P
Blayne F	Leo I	Jake L	Davina D
Joel B	Harry A.	Freddie H	Tia J
Harry O	Adrian F	Levi U	Freya D
Hannah K	David J	Lyla H	Justin V
Sophia D	Ben C	Matei L	Arber A
Toby P			Kira A
Parnika P			Aiden N
Elsie H			

Contact Information

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Upcoming Events:

Day	Date	Time	Year Group	Event
Monday-Thursday	20-23 January	Mornings	Years 5 & 6	Bikeability Training
Wednesday	22 January		Year 5	Greek Wow Day
Thursday	23 January	9:00-10:00am	All parents	SEND Information morning for parents
Wednesday	29 January		Year 4 - selected children	A.I.M. High Maths Day at Chantry Primary Academy
Thursday	30 January	2:45-3:10pm	Year 6 - William & Charles Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Friday	31 January		Year 1	Trip to the post office
Monday-Thursday	3-6 February		Year 6	Mock SATs week
Monday-Friday	3-7 February		All children	Children's Mental Health Week 'Know Yourself. Grow Yourself'. Non-uniform day on Friday.
Tuesday	4 February	2:45-3:10pm	Year 5 - Elizabeth Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Tuesday	4 February	3:45-4:15pm	Year 1 & invited Year 2 parents	Phonics Screening Check workshop for parents
Thursday	6 February	All day	Year 2	Wow day
Thursday	6 February	All day	Year 4	DT Wow day
Thursday	6 February	2:45-3:10pm	Year 5 - Sapphire Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Thursday	6 February		Reception	Once Upon a Time Wow Day
Friday	7 February	All day	All children	'Dress to Express' day
Friday	7 February		Year 6	Ancient Egyptians Wow Day
Monday- Friday	10-14 February		All children	Cultural Week
Tuesday	11 February	2:45-3:10pm	Year 4 - Amber Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Thursday	13 February	2:45-3:10pm	Year 4 - Emerald Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Monday-Friday	17-21 February		All children	Half-Term
Monday	24 February		All children	Return to school
Thursday	27 February	2:45-3:10pm	Year 3 - Yellow Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Monday	3 March		Year 6	National Offer Day - Secondary School
Tuesday	4 March	2:45-3:10pm	Year 3 - Blue Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Thursday	6 March	2:45-3:10pm	Year 2 - Purple Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Thursday	6 March		All children	World Book Day
Tuesday	11 March	2:45-3:10pm	Year 2 - Charlotte Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Thursday	13 March	2:45-3:10pm	Year 1 -Orange Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Friday	14 March		Year 1	Trip to the library
Tuesday	18 March	2:45-3:10pm	Year 1 - Green Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Thursday	20 March	2:45-3:10pm	Reception - Platinum Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Tuesday	25 March	2:45-3:10pm	Reception - Gold Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Monday	31 March	3:45-6:15pm	All children	Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday	1 April	9:30-10:00am	Years 3 & 4	Easter Performance - parents invited
Wednesday	2 April	2:45-3:15pm	Years 3 & 4	Easter Performance - parents invited
Thursday	3 April	4:00-7:00pm	All children	Parent Consultation Evening
Friday	4 April		All children	Last day of term – school finishes at 2.00pm, no clubs or after school club on this day



Download the Studybugs app for reporting your child's absence.

A quick and secure way to report absence due to illness and send messages to school.



Studybugs 