

Where everyone matters and every day counts



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter
Friday 17th October 2025

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had a busy week and it has been lovely welcoming parents and carers to our many events this week. Our parent workshops were very well attended. On Monday, year 6 enjoyed making Anderson Shelters during our parent workshop. It was great to see how engaged and creative the children were and how many parents were able to join us. The children also enjoyed painting World War Blitz art, completing their ration books and wearing their identity tags. Children and parents in year 4 enjoyed our interactive maths activity workshop. It was lovely to see so many of our reception parents at our phonics workshop this week. If you would like anymore information about how we teach phonics and reading at our school, please get in touch. Thank you to all staff involved in planning and delivering these workshops.



A huge thank you to everyone who came and bought a book from the book fair. It was our busiest book fair yet and we managed to raise £778 to go towards new books for our school! Next week, the children will be selecting some books they would like to see in their class libraries for us to order with the money. If you missed out this time, the book fair will be back in February 2026 with a brand new selection of books.

To continue celebrating our enthusiasm for reading, we are excited to announce that on Friday 7th November, our school will be visited by award-winning children's author Emily Lloyd-Gale. She is the author of 'Mighty Maurice' and 'The Moose That Saved Christmas'. These books are based around the theme of anti-bullying with an emphasis on the importance of self-belief, friendship, teamwork, and love. Further information around this has been sent home.



Our assembly theme this week has been based on our behaviour expectations of children around the school. On Monday, I shared our school ethos which ensures all adults and children demonstrate that they are 'Ready, Respectful & Safe' at all times. Children are aware of the expectations and we are starting to see positive changes in and around the school.

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors led an assembly with Zoe Francois from the Mental Health Services Team, who has been delivering training to the children. The children introduced themselves and shared their aims, which are: to help children feel happy, included and to make our school a kinder place by supporting children with strategies to support their well-being.



We are looking forward to our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity Week starting on Monday. Children will take part in activities exploring the lives and work of diverse and inspirational figures, both past and present, from around the world. We are excited to welcome parents to join our celebratory Art Gallery afternoon on Friday from 2-3pm.

Next week, there are three parent workshops taking place and a Viking WOW day for children in year 4. Please check the events on the upcoming page for the days and times of the events.

We are also holding our first intra-House maths competition through TTRockstars and children will take part in Battle of the Bands. This is a competition taking place next week between our four houses and the winning house will be announced at the end of the week.

As the weather turns colder, please ensure children are coming to school with a coat and other warm items of clothing. A reminder that these must be clearly labelled with the child's name and class. We find many unnamed items in lost property, which makes it difficult to return to the correct child.

A reminder that children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to bring a snack in for break times, however, this must be a nut-free healthy snack.

From next week, children will be able to purchase poppies and products associated with Remembrance Day. We ask for a contribution which will be donated to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



I wish you all a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you on the gate next week.

Mrs R Parmar
Headteacher

Bedfordshire Police have asked us to share the following information to help protect students personal belongings and improve the chances of recovering lost or stolen items:

Register Your Child's Mobile Phone – Immobilise

This free service helps police identify and return lost or stolen phones and other valuables. By registering your child's device, you're helping protect their property and increasing the chances of recovery if it goes missing. The website also offers helpful advice on keeping devices safe and secure. It only takes a few minutes to register, and it's completely free—please take a moment to do this and help keep your child's phone safe.

www.immobilise.com/help/registermobilephone

Lost Property – Report My Loss

This free service allows you to register lost items, which can then be accessed by police and other agencies to help recover them. You'll also receive a reference number that can be used for insurance claims or replacement processes.

www.reportmyloss.com/uk



We're thrilled to share that our Christina Marks school of performing arts recently led an assembly to showcase what we've been doing and to encourage more students to get involved! The pupils did a fantastic job presenting their experiences, explaining our activities, and showing the positive impact the club has had on their confidence, teamwork, and creativity. Our aim is to raise the profile of Christina Marks School of Performing Arts across the school community and inspire more students to take part. Whether your child is already a member or interested in joining, this is a great time to get involved.

We'd love for you to encourage your child to come along and see what we're about. It's a fantastic opportunity to develop new skills, make friends, and be part of something exciting at school.

Thank you for your continued support — it means a lot to both the students and staff involved in the club.

To book classes or the trial, please follow the link below.

<https://christina-marks-sopa.classforkids.io>

HEADTEACHER AWARDS



Congratulations to the following children:

Early Years

Annalise B, Leo S, Daisy Y, Ana A

Years 1 & 2

Nathan A, Jaxon A, Reuben S, Logan S

Years 3 & 4

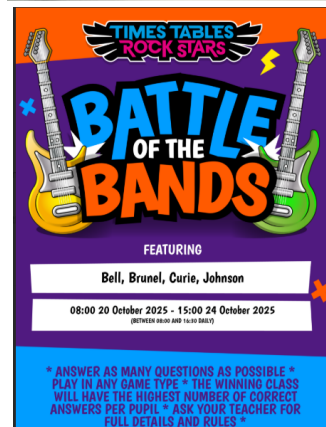
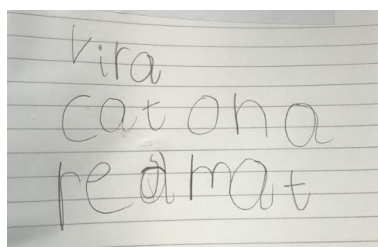
Reggie H-W, Mikael I, Marlowe K-A, Mia C-T

Years 5 & 6

Harrison P, Chiara P, Benjamin C, Lois U



OUR LEARNING THIS WEEK:



AUTUMN TERM EVENTS:

Day	Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Monday—Friday	20th-24th October		All	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity Week	
Monday	20th October	2:00-3:00pm	5	Parent workshop—Ancient Maya	
Monday	20th October	3:30pm		Friends of HRPS—AGM	
Tuesday	21st October		4	Viking WOW day	
Tuesday	21st October	2:00-3:00pm	3	Parent workshop—Art	Hall
Wednesday	22nd October	2:00-3:00pm	2	Parent workshop—The Great Fire of London	Hall
Friday	24th October	2:00-3:00pm	All	Art Gallery to celebrate work from our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity Week	Hall
Monday—Friday	27th October—31st October		All	Half-Term	
Friday	31st October		Year 6	Deadline for submitting secondary school applications to the Local Authority	Online
Monday-Friday	3rd November-7th November		6	Residential Trip	
Monday	3rd November		All	INSET DAY—school closed for all children	
Tuesday	4th November		All	Children return to school	
Thursday	6th November	8:45-10:00am	All	Macmillan Coffee Morning & Health Talk—parents invited	Hall
Friday	7th November		All	Author visit—Emily Lloyd-Gale	
Monday	10th November	3:45-6:15pm	All	Parent Consultation Evening	Hall, Classrooms
Tuesday	11th November		Reception—Year 6	Flu Vaccination (1st Session)	
Thursday	13th November	4:00-7:00pm	All	Parent Consultation Evening	Hall, Classrooms
Friday	14th November		All	Children in Need	
Monday-Friday	17th —21st November		All	Cultural Week	
Tuesday	18th November		Reception—Year 6	Heights & Weights	
Tuesday	2nd December	1:30-2:30pm	Reception	Nativity Trail	School grounds
Thursday	4th December		Reception—Year 6	Flu Vaccination (2nd Session)	
Monday	8th December	2:00-3:00pm	Year 1	Nativity—parents invited	Hall
Tuesday	9th December	9:15-10:15am	Year 1	Nativity—parents invited	Hall
Tuesday	16th December	2:00-3:00pm	Year 2 & Choir	Christmas Carol Concert	All Saints Church
Wednesday	17th December		All	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day—children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform	
Friday	19th December	2:00pm	All	Last day of term—school finishes at 2:00pm. There will be no after school club on this day	

Meet 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



Early Years Leader
Mrs R Baldwin



**Key Stage 1 Leader/
Lead Practitioner**
Miss M Davidson



**Upper 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





November Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Raising Self Esteem	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	4 Nov 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	4 Nov 7pm
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	11 Nov 10am
Supporting A Child with ADHD	11 Nov 7pm
FREE ADHD Kids & Homework	13 Nov 6-7pm
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	17 Nov 7pm
Facing Defiance	18 Nov 10am
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	18 Nov 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
Anxiety Explained	24 Nov 7pm

MacMillan Coffee Morning & Health Talk

Hosted by Houghton Regis Primary School

Thursday, 6th November
8:45-10am

Join us for a warm cup of coffee, delicious cakes, and a great cause! All proceeds will go towards Macmillan Cancer Support, helping those affected by cancer.



Our School Nursing Team will also be giving a special Health Talk — sharing tips on wellbeing, and services they can offer to our school and community.

- Cakes for Sale!
- Good company, great cause!



**Come along, bring your friends,
and help make a difference!**