

Where everyone matters and every day counts



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter
Friday 18th July 2025

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I would firstly like to start by extending my gratitude to the staff, parents, governors and the local community for working tirelessly to provide our children with the best possible opportunities and support. As your child's headteacher, I feel proud of the achievements that we have made in the school so far and look forward to completing the journey we are on in order to make continued progress.

This week has been a very busy one! As you are aware, we had an Ofsted inspection this week. We will share the outcomes of the report once it has been finalised and sent back to us—this will be in the Autumn term.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their transition days and the school has been filled with positivity and excitement. We hope your children have enjoyed meeting their new teachers and spending time in their new classrooms as they prepare for the year ahead. It was wonderful to see so many of you join us on Thursday at the end of the day to meet your child's class teacher. Thank you for taking the time to come in and share this important step in your child's journey.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our school community—our incoming Nursery and Reception children. It has been an absolute pleasure meeting them and their families and we hope the 'stay and play' sessions helped the children feel more comfortable and excited about starting school. The sessions were filled with smiles, curiosity and a lot of exploring—a lovely beginning to their learning journey with us. An extended welcome to our new families who will be joining us across the school in September.

Congratulations to our children in Nursery, who graduated this week. It was a lovely event and the children proudly received a certificate to celebrate the end of their journey in Nursery. We are excited to watch their progress continue next year in Reception and wish them all the very best.

The children were excited to take part in 'Break the Rules' day. Thank you for supporting us with this fundraising event—we raised a total of £700—a huge thank you to you all for your contributions. Mrs Everitt and the children in School Parliament are very much looking forward to organising further events and activities next year.

I would like to shine a spotlight on our year 6 pupils—they have reached a huge milestone and should be extremely proud of their progress and achievements during their time at primary school. Please join me in wishing them all the very best as they enter the next chapter of their education. We look forward to celebrating our final year 6 events with you on Monday—their leavers' assembly at 9:15am and leaving party at 4:30pm.

We also have some children leaving our school and we wish them the very best of luck as they transition to their new schools.

We say goodbye to some of our staff—Mrs Norris is retiring; Mr Haghoo is moving on to complete his teacher training in a secondary school and Mrs Hendrickson is leaving to work in a Nursery setting. Please join me in thanking these members of staff for all their hard work and we wish them well in their next venture.

Next week, we look forward to our Reception children's graduation, which will take place on Monday at 1:45pm.

We will be sending children's exercise books home next week—please can children bring in a carrier bag or a 'bag for life'—there will be quite a few books coming home!

I am sure some of you were excited to watch the Lionesses complete a dramatic comeback in last night's game to reach the Euro 2025 semi-finals. Let's hope they make it through to the finals—I know many of us will be cheering them on!

Wishing you all a well deserved summer break—have gratitude for the time that you can spend with your children making happy memories.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 2nd September.

Mrs R Parmar

VALUE OF THE MONTH
FOR JULY:

Leadership

the ability to guide and influence individuals or groups towards achieving a common goal.



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.

Bikes and Scooters

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.



School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is:
Nursery—£2.40
Years 3-6—£2.60

This can be paid via SchoolGrid.

Wellbeing Ambassadors – Coming Soon in September!

We are excited to launch our new Wellbeing Ambassador programme starting in September. A group of current year 4 pupils will be selected to support and promote wellbeing across the school. Over the next few days, children will learn more about this role and have the chance to express their interest through posters and forms.

Attendance Winners
EYFS/KS1: Gold with 99%

KS2: Sapphire with 98.4%

Whole School Attendance:
94.8%

Housepoint Winners
EYFS/KS1:
Balmoral—25 points

KS2: Buckingham—78 points

Overall Winning House:
Sandringham—92 points

Happy retirement Mrs Norris!

Next week, we say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Norris as she starts her retirement. Twenty six years ago, Mrs Norris began volunteering at our school. Now, after 15 years of dedicated service, we bid a heartfelt farewell to our beloved teaching assistant. From the early days when she was based in Early Years to her current base in Year 6, she has had an immeasurable impact on hundreds of children's lives.

We would like to thank Mrs Norris- your unwavering support, kindness, and tireless commitment have left an indelible mark on students and staff alike. From patiently guiding learners through challenges to bringing warmth and encouragement to every classroom, your contributions have been invaluable.

As you retire, know that your legacy will live on in the countless lives that you've touched. As the oracle of Houghton Regis Primary School, we will miss your all-encompassing knowledge, sharp wit and friendly face.

We wish you all the joy and relaxation you so richly deserve in this next chapter of your life.



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
Miss M Davidson



**Upper Key Stage 2
Leader**
Miss E Naisby

EARLY YEARS

Nursery

This week we have completed our topic on 'Pirates'. We have been busy recapping our phonics too and we revisited our /ch/ digraph. The children really impressed us with how many words they remembered starting with the /ch/ sound. The children have especially enjoyed the pirate ships that they helped to decorate. They have really taken on the characters by creating their own pirate telescopes to search for treasure and fully embracing the role play.



Reception

This week, we have been sailing the high seas as pirates! The children loved reading 'The Treasure of Pirate Frank', which inspired lots of exciting activities. We decorated pirate ships, walked the plank, and even wrote our own messages to pop into bottles. One of the highlights was programming the Bee-Bots to help them find the hidden treasure — a fun way to build early coding skills! It has been a fantastic week full of imagination, learning and pirate adventures!



KEY STAGE 1

Year 1

This week, year 1 learnt about observing aerial photographs! We learnt that aerial photographs are photographs that are taken in the air. We discussed that they can be taken in aeroplanes, helicopters and even hot air balloons! We then deepened our learning by writing sentences of what human and physical features were found from the aerial photograph.



Year 2

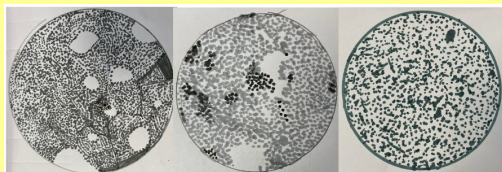
This week, year 2 have been busy building their problem-solving and reasoning skills. We have been learning how to describe and follow instructions using quarter, half, and full turns. The children have been spotting patterns in how shapes turn and using their thinking skills to explain what they notice. With lots of fun, hands-on activities and teamwork, they are really getting the hang of how shapes move and turn around.



LOWER KEY STAGE 2

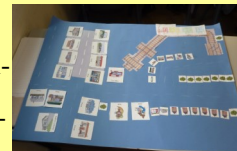
Year 3

During our art lessons this week, the year 3 children looked at Georges Seurat and explored his style of art, Pointillism. We then combined his style with our theme for our class assembly for this week – Celebrating the Moon Landing. The children showcased their artistic flair with some fabulous moon representations.



Year 4

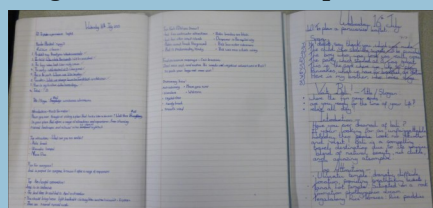
This week, the children have been focusing on their local area in geography. As part of their learning, the children created their visions of what Houghton Regis might look like 25 years from now. Their imaginative maps included exciting ideas such as a theme park, more open green spaces, a country park, a new railway line and station, a hospital, lavender fields, and even a fishing lake, to name just a few! It was fascinating to see the creativity and thoughtful planning that went into each child's futuristic map.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

Year 5

This week, the year 5 children have been planning persuasive leaflets in English. They have researched a place of their choice in Indonesia using persuasive language to encourage others to visit. This includes the use of rhetorical questions, alliteration and figurative language. In computing they have been creating quizzes using the Scratch program and have enjoyed asking other children to complete their quiz.



Year 6

This week, we have been practising and sharing our year 6 leavers' assembly with the school. In maths, we were working out annual salaries and hourly rates. We also started to work out how to budget for bills. The children worked in pairs to support each other with several maths related problems.



HEADTEACHER AWARDS



Congratulations to the following children:

<i>Early Years</i>	<i>Reico P, Erik R, Maria C, Elvin S, India W, Luca M</i>
<i>Years 1 & 2</i>	<i>Ainsley C, Patrick M, Myahh-Rose P, George F</i>
<i>Years 3 & 4</i>	<i>Arfa C, Lou-Lou G, Darius M, Ava S</i>
<i>Years 5 & 6</i>	<i>Emmett H, Aiden N, Ashleigh G, Elliott S</i>



CONTACT INFORMATION

Office:

office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

Nursery:

platinumjubilee@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

silver@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

ruby@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

Reception and Key Stage 1:

platinum@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

gold@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

orange@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

green@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

charlotte@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

purple@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

SENDCo:

senco@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

Family Support Worker:

fsw@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2:

yellow@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

blue@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

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sapphire@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

elizabeth@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

william@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

charles@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

Upcoming Events:

Day	Date	Time	Year Group	Event
Monday	21 July	9:15-10:00am	Year 6	Leavers' Assembly
Monday	21 July	1:45pm	Reception	Graduation
Monday	21 July	4:30-6:00pm	Year 6	Leavers' Party
Tuesday	22 July		All children	Last day of term—school closes at 2pm. There will be no after school club on this day.

Autumn Term

Day	Date	Time	Year Group	Event
Monday	1 September	All day	All	INSET day—school closed for all children
Tuesday	2 September		All	All children return to school

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



Exciting News... Central Bedfordshire is part of a national programme called PINS and your school has signed up to be involved. We are very excited to be working with you.



PINS

Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

PINS is a national project that brings health professionals, educators, and experienced parent carers together to support primary schools.



The Goal

GOAL!

To help every child feel included, understood, and supported—especially those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

HELP!

We need your help to ...achieve the goal

SURVEY

- ✓ We need every parent carer to fill out our speedy survey!
- ✓ Your lived experience will support us to provide bespoke support for your school
- ✓ It takes just moments of your time to help make a difference



A link to the survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8P6KXDS>

MORE INFORMATION



For more information please email
PINS@snappcf.org.uk and see our PINS webpage

Summer ACTIVITIES



Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult
Organised & funded by Dunstable Town Council's Youth & Community Team

SCHOOLS OUT PARTY

Tuesday 22 July
3 pm to 6 pm

Bennett Memorial
Recreation Ground

Ages 3 to 10

FREE

INFLATABLE DAY

Friday 25 July
12 noon to 4 pm

Grove House
Gardens

Ages 3 to 10

£6
to play
all day

Playdaye



SEASIDE DAY

Thursday 31 July
11 am to 3 pm

Bennett Memorial
Recreation Ground

Ages 3 to 10

FREE



NATIONAL PLAY DAY

Wednesday 6 August
11 am to 2 pm

St Augustine's
Academy Playing Field

Ages 0 to 5

Sponsored by Perfect
Personalised Parties

FREE



ADVENTURE & ACTION

Thursday 14 August
11 am to 2 pm

Priory Gardens

Ages 3 to 10

FREE



SKATE SKILL SCHOOL

Thursday 21 August
10 am to 11 am
11 am to 12 noon

12 spaces available per session

Grove Skate
Park

Ages 5 to 10

FREE



Please call to book a space for skate skill
school, everything else just turn up on the day!
01582 891434 | communities@dunstable.gov.uk

We aim to be inclusive. If your child has specific
SEND needs, please contact us.

GC

40
DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION AND HOW TO SUPPORT IT

Thursday 24th July 2025
2pm – 3.30pm

STRATTON SECONDARY SCHOOL

FREE EVENT

PARENT WORKSHOP

What is Emotional Dysregulation?



Spotting the Signs to
Support the Behaviour

Escalation and Self-Care

Strategies and Techniques for
Effective change



Book a space via the Mental Health Support Team
n.wood18@nhs.net



Helpful Support Links for Families

- **The Integrated Front Door (IFD)** – Provides resources and support for families ensuring they have access to the right services [0300 300 8585](tel:03003008585)
- **Children's Centre** - The centre staff can offer support and advise on breast feeding, parenting, choosing childcare, FREE 2-year funded pre-school places, introducing solid food, toilet training, oral health, training/education, home safety, food parcels plus much more.
[Dunstable Children's Centre 0300 300 8104](tel:03003008104)
[Houghton Regis Children's Centre 0300 300 8115](tel:03003008115)
- **Local Offer** - If you have a child or young person with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), then think of the Local Offer as all of the services and support available to them and you as a parent or carer. Our Local Offer website contains information about education, health and care services, voluntary agencies, leisure activities and support groups - [Central Bedfordshire SEND Local Offer](#)
- **Family Information Directory** - The role of our service is to help families get the most out of the information and services available in the community and online. You can use our comprehensive Family Information Directory to find services, support groups, activities, events and more. - [Synergy - Enquiry](#)
- **Domestic Abuse** – If you are a survivor or current victim of domestic abuse, or are worried about your behaviour there are a number of support service available to you - [Home - Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership](#) Children's Centres can also offer support (contact numbers above).
- **CAMHS** - Is a multi-agency specialist mental health service for children and young people with complex, severe or persistent emotional, behavioural or developmental needs. They provide assessment and treatment for children and young adults up to the age of 18. – 01525 638613 / 01525 638614 [CAMHS \(South Bedfordshire and Luton\) | East London NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Please email us if you have any questions:
community.partner@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

FACE delivers online support via zoom for parents across the UK
Talks are 90 minutes long, £24 each or FREE with a school membership code
Book Online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk on the PARENTS page



Schools can purchase a
FACE School Annual Membership
which means **ALL parents** and **ALL staff**
get unlimited **FREE access** to **ALL 16** parent talks

Thursday
31st July
19:00 - 20:00
FREE



Supporting Healthy Screen Use

Screens are here to stay.
Identifying the issues and step by step guide
to reduce the negative impact.

Monday
21st July
10:00 - 11:30
£24
recording available



Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes and giving
practical interventions. Clear explanation of
the condition in all its forms and extremely
useful advice.

Monday
28th July
10:00 - 11:30
£24
recording available



Facing Defiance

Specific strategy to help parents manage
defiant and challenging behaviour,
especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA
conditions, 5 to 12 years old.

Tuesday
29th July
10:00 - 11:30
£24
recording available



Anxiety Based School Avoidance

Understanding and supporting children
who are anxious about school.
Steps you can take to help them back
into the classroom.

July Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk Recordings available for 48 hours

Understanding Anger	1 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	1 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 July 10am
Anxiety Explained	8 July 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	14 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	14 July 7pm
Decreasing Depression	15 July 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	15 July 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	21 July 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	21 July 7pm
Autism Improving Communication	22 July 10am
Improving Family Communication	22 July 7pm
Facing Defiance	28 July 10am