Houghton Regis

Headteacher: Mr J Edwards BA (Hons) QTS Deputy Head: Mrs R Parmar BA (Hons) PGCE

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St Michaels Avenue Houghton Regis Dunstable Beds LU5 5DH

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Dear Parents and Carers

I have lots of news and exciting announcements to share with you all this week.

Gymnastics

I am delighted to announce that the Gymnastics element of the PE program will be enhanced for the forthcoming academic year. To support this, we have invested in a range of resources including extra mats, a springboard and a vault. We are fortunate enough to have several staff members with strong backgrounds in gymnastics including Ms Hewer, Miss Waller and Mrs Clarke.

Our youngest children will experience a range of 'kindergym' activities which will include early gymnastics skills alongside music and movement and climbing frame activities.



Further up the school for children in Year 2 to Year 6, we will be offering an after school gymnastics club and plan to develop a school gymnastics squad to compete in British Schools Gymnastics Association competitions. We will be sending out club letters next term but will be starting a register of interest this term to support our planning. If your child already has experience in or shows a keen interest in gymnastics, please feel free to mention this to myself, Ms Hewer or Miss Waller. I look forward to sharing further exciting developments in this area in due course.

Swimming



Mrs Reed and I have been finalising the plans to increase the swimming opportunities for our children for the next academic year.

From September (*subject to a change in current Covid-19 restrictions to allow pools to reopen*), swimming will now start in Year 2 (as an optional activity) and in addition all KS2 pupils will enjoy an entire term of swimming per class, doubling the previous half term per class arrangement.

We will be writing to the current Year 1 parents shortly with further details around this optional swimming activity available to their children as they join Year 2 in September. A big thank you to those Year 1 parents who completed the recent swimming survey which really aided our planning.





Values-based Education IVET Quality Mark









School Uniform

I understand that a small number of children have been wearing gingham playsuits/short jumpsuits to school this term. This is a gentle reminder that these are not part of the school uniform and never have been. They are not suitable to be worn in school and so we kindly ask that these are not worn by any of our children moving forward. To clarify, if green gingham summer dresses are being worn they need to be the traditional dress style. This rule will be enforced from September to give all parents a chance to source the correct uniform.

Parents should also ensure pupils wear black school shoes every day and not trainers/crocs/sandals. For those children in receipt of the Pupil Premium grant, the school is able to purchase new school shoes on their behalf. Please speak to Mrs Bannon, Ms Hewer or Mrs Foster in confidence if you would like to access this or if you would like further details on how to apply for the Pupil Premium grant. Thank you for your understanding.

Appointment of Mrs Emily Jane De Rouffignac for Year 4

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs De Rouffignac who will be our Year 4 teacher from September. 'Mrs D' (as the children are welcome to call her) will also be working with older key worker children alongside Mrs White next week until the end of this term.

Mrs De Rouffignac is a highly experienced teacher having taught in a range of schools in Hertfordshire and Hampshire and holds an advanced qualification in forest schools so will be able to support the children in this area.

Teacher & staff allocations for next Academic year

I am delighted to share with you all the teacher and staff allocations for each year group for Houghton Regis Nursery and the main school effective from September:

Class	Year Group	Teacher
Gold 1	Reception	Miss E Diamond
Gold 2	Reception	Mrs S Norris (Lead for Reception)
Orange	Year 1	Miss A Waller
Green	Year 1 and Year 2	Mrs S Consar
Purple	Year 2	Mrs L Bonney (Lead for Years 1 & 2)
Yellow	Year 3	Miss J Yates
Blue	Year 3 and Year 4	Mrs T White (Lead for Years 3 & 4)
Red	Year 4	Mrs E De Rouffignac
Sapphire	Year 5	Miss A Rogers
Emerald	Year 5 and Year 6	Mrs S Reed (Lead for Years 5 & 6)
Amber	Year 6	Miss E Naisby

Nursery Strategic Lead Teacher/SENDCo	Ms K Hewer
EYFS Lead/Advisor to the Nursery	Mrs S Norris
Silver 1	Lead: Mrs S Banfield Early Years Practitioner: Mrs J Gammon
Silver 2	Lead: Ms K Hewer Early Years Practitioner: Mrs E Hill

End of term reports and class allocations

We will be sharing end of term reports for every child during the last week of term, (beginning Monday 13 July), along with your child's class allocation for next year.

Deep clean

Finally, a reminder that the school will be closed on Friday 3 July for a scheduled 'deep clean'. This will allow our cleaning team to cleanse the school uninterrupted and also provide PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time for teachers. The school will be closed on this day except to key worker children whose parents are unable to make other arrangements. We will only be able to accept pupils who have pre-booked so please contact the school office by next Wednesday (24 June) to do this.

Yours sincerely

J Edwards

Mr J Edwards Headteacher











