

VALUE OF THE
MONTH:



Positivity

Where everyone matters and every day counts

Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter

Friday 19th October 2018

Headteacher: Mrs B Waite
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Chair of Governors: Mrs J Mew

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had a fantastic start to our first half of the Autumn Term at Houghton Regis Primary School. Thank you to parents for sending in items for our harvest assembly—these have now been distributed to local residents within the community. Our Parents' Evenings were held this week and teachers discussed children's progress. If you were unable to attend any of the sessions, please arrange an appointment with your child's Class Teacher.

Our annual Sponsored Walk took place this week. Thank you to our School PTA for organising this annual event. The children always enjoy taking part in this and always raise money for us to use towards developing the curriculum and resources within our school.

After half-term, we will be holding Maths Curriculum sessions for parents across the school, where you will be invited to attend a session to join in with your child's learning in their classroom. There is a choice of two sessions being held: 9-10am and 2-3pm. Parents only need to sign up for one of these sessions, which can be done through your child's Class Teacher.

After half-term, Mrs Reed will be returning from maternity leave and will be the teacher for Yellow Class alongside Miss Brett.

Have a lovely week's break and I look forward to seeing you after half-term on Monday 29th October 2018.

Mrs B Waite
Headteacher

Class Attendance
Winners (w.c 15/10/18)
EYFS/KS1: **Green Class** with 99.3%
KS2: **Yellow Class** with 97.3%
Whole School Attendance: 94%

School Money

As of Monday 29th October 2018, we will be using a cashless system and all payments to the school will need to be made online.

A letter was sent home this week explaining how to access this service.

Halloween

As Halloween approaches Bedfordshire Police is reminding parents and guardians to keep their children safe. If possible, parents and guardians should go out trick or treating with their children, sticking to well-lit areas and only knocking on the doors of people they know. Some people may have 'No trick or treat' posters up at their doors and we ask that these are respected. Bedfordshire Police is also reminding children and parents to be mindful that some of the more vulnerable or elderly members of the community may feel intimidated by people calling at their doors and appeals to all residents to look out for their neighbours who may feel frightened during this time. Extra patrols will be on hand over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period to ensure that the evenings can be enjoyed safely. If you do have any concerns during Halloween, it's important that you call 101 in order to keep 999 free for genuine emergencies - 31st October is one of the police's busiest nights of the year!

For more advice about Halloween please visit:
www.bedfordshire.police.uk

Housepoint Winners
EYFS/KS1: **Eagles with 76 points**

KS2: **Hawks with 121 points**

Overall Winning House:
Hawks with 190 points

Our Learning

EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

The children in Silver class have been learning about the changes that occur in Autumn. They have hunted for the 3 bears in the Forest School and painted pictures of them. They have also used magnifying glasses to investigate autumn artefacts such as conkers, leaves, sticks and acorns. They have enjoyed stories about woodland animals and have learnt that some animals hibernate over the coldest times of the year. Following this they made leafy beds for their toys as they went into hibernation.



Gold Class have had a fantastic few weeks exploring the stories of Julia Donaldson. The children had a wonderful time creating and following the Gruffalo Trail outside and they also enjoyed some super imaginative play in the Gruffalo cave that they helped to develop inside. The story of 'Stick Man' was a particular favourite which began with a lovely Autumn walk around the field and in the forest school area. We collected sticks which we used for lots of activities. We sorted them by size and also used them to make our very own stick men. The children had a magical time when we read 'Room on the Broom'. They especially enjoyed making their own potions and writing lists for a spell. Our final story was 'The Smartest Giant in Town' which came along with a clothes shop like the one the giant visited in the story. With all of the stories, the children have been amazing at retelling the events in the correct sequence and recalling the characters. They have acted out the stories using props and they have tried to use the story language and repeated phrases in the books. The children have been working hard in daily phonic sessions and we can see that they are using this phonic knowledge in their writing activities. Other highlights this month have included our Taste Tuesdays where we have enjoyed 'Owl on Toast' and Stick carrot men. We also had a wonderful afternoon with our Grandparents sharing activities and songs. We were so pleased that so many could join us and we had some lovely comments back. What a busy few weeks! We are as always so proud of all the children.



KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

In Year 1 Maths we have been learning about addition. We used part-whole models to partition numbers and find number bonds up to 10. In English, we read the story 'Pumpkin Soup' by Helen Cooper. We enjoyed acting out the story and hot-seating certain characters to find out the reasons for their actions. We used time connectives to write instructions for pumpkin soup which we made in class. We loved preparing and cooking the soup, which we found very tasty. In Science, we have been learning about 'Autumn Changes', we visited our forest school to collect leaves from evergreen and deciduous trees. We also learnt why some animals hibernate during the winter. We were fascinated that Queen Bumblebees can hibernate for up to 9 months! In Art and Design, we learnt how to draw autumn trees using chalk in autumnal colours. In PE, we have been using ABC – agility, balance and co-ordination, to support our multi-skills. We all thoroughly enjoyed our trip to College Lakes in Tring on the 8th of October. The day consisted of building micro-parks for elves, pond-dipping and being Nature Detectives. This trip was linked to Science and Geography; it also created fantastic opportunities for English and Maths.



During October, Year 2 have been finding out all about 'Autumn'. This has presented us with a fantastic opportunity to begin using our new 'Forest School' outdoor classroom, which we have done several times in both our English and Science lessons. In our Maths lessons, we have moved onto developing our knowledge of 'Addition and Subtraction'. We have also been working really hard to develop our 'Times Tables' and many of us have gained certificates to show our excellent progress. In English, we have written Autumn poems, developing our ability to use adjectives and expanded noun phrases to describe the things around us. We have begun to use adverbs and synonyms to improve our writing. We have learned to use sub-headings to group facts in our Information writing about Autumn. We have written a story set in an Autumn wood and begun to learn how to write recounts. We have loved our Science lessons this term. We have used 'Forest School' to explore seasonal change in our outdoor environment, gathering and sorting leaves into evergreen and deciduous. We had a gorgeous day for our Autumn trip to **College Lake**. The sunshine made the day even better. We were able to join in with pond dipping, which was by far the most popular activity of the day. We also explored the woodland, learning about different habitats and the creatures which live there. When we got back to school we used those skills to explore Forest School to find evidence of animal life. A fantastic day!



Our Learning

LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

This month in Year 3 we have been focusing on mental addition and subtraction. We know that we need to put the biggest number in our head and count forwards or backwards depending on the question. In English we have used drama to predict what might happen next in our book 'Giant'. We performed drama to our peers and enjoyed being a good audience. In PE, we have been exploring African dancing and learning new moves. We have also taken part in our new topic called Boot Camp. We have been practising circuits and recognising the affects of exercise on our bodies by listening to our heartbeat. In Science, we have been continuing with our topic of 'Animals including Humans'. We have been learning about the human skeleton and how it differs from those of animals. We worked in teams to construct our own skeletons and labelled the bones. Look at our fabulous skeletons on our Science working wall.



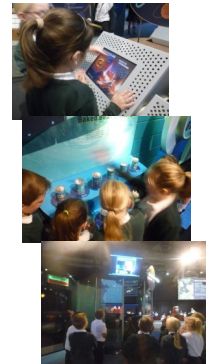
In Year 4 this month, we have continued our reading of 'Giant' and explored a range of texts, including newspaper reports, instructions and imaginative stories. We have also used drama to create new, inventive scenes relating to the story line of the book. In Maths, we have been using our knowledge of place value to learn how to add and subtract mentally, as well as using a written method. We have also been looking at how to solve word problems; learning how to systematically break the problem down, highlight the important information and solve the calculation.

We have also enjoyed continuing to learn about our topic of Prehistoric Britain, where we have looked at the Neolithic era and the creation of Stonehenge. Our teachers were very impressed by our homework projects, where we created our own Prehistoric shelters using natural materials; replicating how people in the Stone Age would have built their own shelters. We are also very excited for our upcoming trip to the Chiltern Open Air museum in November, where we will partake in activities and experiences relating to the Stone Age and Iron Age.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE CLASSES

In Year 5, in Maths, we have been learning how to use long and short multiplication as well as learning how to express our answers as fractions and decimals when dividing. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been solving problems and using reasoning skills to consolidate our knowledge. In English, we have continued reading 'Space School' by Tom and Tony Bradman, which has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres; for example non-chronological reports, narrative writing and setting and character descriptions. The children finished their Space School book by performing their own alternative ending. Our guided reading book, 'The Jamie Drake Equation' follows the genre of science-fiction, where children have been able to use their comprehension skills using inference and deduction. As our Earth and Space topic in Science draws to an end, the children have enjoyed learning about the phases of the moon and were able to draw their own graphs to represent how many hours of daylight we have each month. The children have been thoroughly enjoying guitar lessons on Wednesday afternoons, where some of them have been learning to play for the first time. This is an exciting opportunity to build on their skills over the year.



In Year 6, in Maths, we have been learning about long multiplication and long division. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been solving problems and using reasoning skills to consolidate our knowledge. In English, the book we have been reading, 'The Boy in the Girl's Bathroom' by Lois Sachar, has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres; for example: a setting description, a character description and a play-script. As part of our English lesson we also have been studying formal language and how it is used in parliament to deliver speeches. This has led on to the children creating their own speeches on a topic such as: environment, transport, schools, jobs and crime. The book we have been reading 'The boy in the Girl's bathroom' by Louis Sachar has also been used within our guided reading sessions; as a final lesson children will be writing a book review. More recently in our Science topic, Living things and their Habitats, we did an experiment in which we investigated the best conditions in which mould thrives. We used bread as the medium and used a variety of conditions then observed over the course of two weeks to find out the one which gave us the best results. We found the mould grew best in warm and damp conditions. Our visit to the Rainforest on 11th October was a fabulous success; the children enjoyed the experience immensely. Being linked to our topic for this half term, (North and South America), children learnt about the different species that live in the Rainforest and how they have adapted to their current environment. As well as this, they were given information about how the Rainforest is so important and how it requires people to help keep it sustained.



Upcoming Events:

Please see the dates below for events taking place after half-term

Half-Term Week

Monday 22nd October to Friday 26th October 2018

Bikeability for children in Years 4 & 5

Monday 29th October –Friday 2nd November 2018

Please ensure children bring in their bikes to school if they are taking part in Bikeability

Maths Curriculum Sessions for Parents

Tuesday 30th October 2018—9:00-10:00am & 2:00-3:00pm

Key Stage 2—Blue, Yellow, Red, Amber, Emerald, Sapphire

Thursday 1st November 2018—9:00-10:00am & 2:00-3:00pm

Key Stage 1—Orange, Green, Purple

School Photographs

Tuesday 6th November 2018

Group Photographs for – Eco-Warriors, School Parliament, Prefects, Values Champions, Science Ambassadors, Junior and Senior Leadership Team

Wednesday 7th November 2018

Individual and Sibling Photographs

Kingswood Meeting for Year 6 Parents

Wednesday 7th November 2018

5:30-6:30pm

Red Class Assembly

Thursday 8th November 9:00am

PTA Fireworks Disco

Friday 9th November 2018

3:30-4:30pm—Years 1,2 & 3

4:45-5:45pm—Years 4,5 & 6

Year 4 Visit to Chiltern Open Air Museum

Tuesday 13th November 2018

Year 3 Visit to Chiltern Open Air Museum

Wednesday 14th November 2018