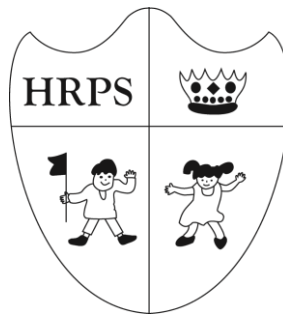


Houghton Regis

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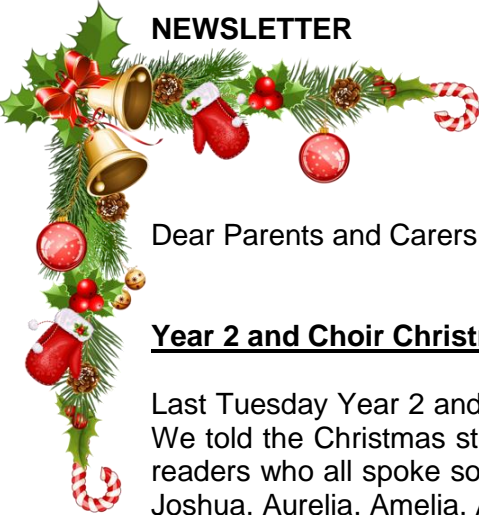
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Primary School

St Michaels Avenue
Houghton Regis
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NEWSLETTER



20 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 2 and Choir Christmas Carol Concert

Last Tuesday Year 2 and the school choir visited All Saints Church for a Christmas Carol Concert. We told the Christmas story and sang some carols to go alongside this. A super well done to our readers who all spoke so confidently in church, Marlowe, Everly, Eva, Lana, Jessica, Gracie, Ava, Joshua, Aurelia, Amelia, Aalayah, Kyrie, Alice-Eva, Annabelle, Harrison and Ella. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended, we hope you enjoyed it.

Early Years and Key Stage One Panto

On Monday afternoon, Early Years and Key Stage One watched 'Little Red Riding Hood' the panto. The children loved watching the performance and getting involved.

Christmas Dinner

A big thank you to our catering team for a very successful Christmas dinner on Wednesday. The food was enjoyed by children from Nursery to Year 6 as well as staff. The food was truly delicious!



Jingle and Mingle – Monday, 11 December



Last week, children from Silver and Platinum Jubilee took part in their annual Jingle and Mingle events. The children worked hard beforehand to learn a range of Christmas songs alongside the Makaton signs. The children also taught their family and friends their special songs and shortly joined the children on stage which was really exciting. Our Nursery children also baked their own gingerbread people which they shared with their family and friends. Thank you to everyone who attended their special Christmas events.

A Little Nativity – Thursday, 14 December

Our Reception children took to the stage last week to perform 'A Little Nativity' to friends and family in the audience. The children had worked hard to learn a number of songs and the Makaton signs to accompany the words. The children looked fabulous in their costumes. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting the children with learning words, for providing costumes and for attending our performances. The children are all superstars!



The Snowman at Peacock Theatre- Friday, 15 December 2023

A group of children in Years 2-5 furthered their interest in ballet and dance last week by attending a Sadlers Wells' performance of the Snowman. The children had a wonderful time watching this world class performance. Prior to the show, the children took part in a river walk and did a spot of sight seeing.



Our Visit to All Saints View – Tuesday, 19 December

Yesterday our Reception children visited All Saints View to sing Christmas songs to the residents and to spread some festive cheer. The children wrote over 80 Christmas cards to hand out to the residents and sang their favourite songs from their recent Nativity performance. It was so lovely to see the children and residents singing and smiling together. We will definitely visit the residents again!



Year 1 Nativity- Tuesday, 19 December

All children in Year 1 did a fantastic job in their Nativity performance. Miss Mole and Mrs Scott-Hyde are very proud of all of them and hope parents enjoyed the performance as much as they did. Well done to all the children that had lots of lines to learn and a super well done to every child in Year 1 for trying their hardest and putting on a great performance.



PTA Disco Events

A huge thank you and well done to the PTA for organising our Christmas discos this year. Early Years and Years 1 and 2 thoroughly enjoyed themselves and danced enthusiastically to the latest tunes. The free drink and sweets went down well.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 had a fun packed dance-off at their disco. The boys just edged the girls out of first place. Well done to all who attended- the behaviour was excellent as always. Thank you to all adults who were able to support with this event- your efforts are much appreciated.



Staffing Updates

Miss Odoi will be leaving the school at the end of the week to resume her previous career in further education. We wish her well working with older students again. Miss Lee will be returning from her placement school and will be working in Blue Class for the remainder of the year. Mrs Tracy Green is returning to her other school but will return after February half term for her next placement. I am also pleased to report that I have appointed an additional experienced teacher. Mr Graham Page is an accomplished teacher having previously been the Deputy Head of a well known local school. Mr Page will be working with Year 6 throughout the week. A lot of Mr Page's work will be focused on small group booster and 1:1 work with our Year 6 pupils.

Unused winter clothes

If you have any unused winter hats, gloves, scarves or coats that are still in good condition and your child has grown out of, please can you donate them to the school office for a good cause.

If anyone is in need of any of the above, please contact the office and we will do our best to allocate these items to you.

Season Greetings

Finally, it leaves me to offer everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards

Mr James Edwards

Headteacher



School Admissions 2024

Central Bedfordshire Council have produced a booklet to help you with applying for your child's school place for 2024.

The following link will take you to the booklet

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions

The national closing dates for applications to be received by the School Admissions Team are:

15 January 2024

- Starting School 2024
- Transfer to Middle 2024

Free school meals

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call the Local Authority on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- Dates of birth for your children
- If you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

If your application is successful, please contact the school office to confirm this to enable us to update our records to reflect this.





UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Year groups involved	Date
Last day of term	All	Wednesday, 20 December 2023 school closes at 2:00pm
School opens	All	Thursday, 4 January 2024
National Child Measurement Programme	Year 6	Thursday, 11 January 2024

This week's Attendance Awards

Reception/KS1 Prince Louis – Orange 99%

Lower KS2 Princess Charlotte – Red 99.3%

Upper KS2 Prince George – Charlotte 98.5%






Values-based Education
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Star Awards

			
Danny DETERMINATION says, "DON'T GIVE UP."	Colin CURIOSITY says, "THINK FOR YOURSELF."	Chloe COMMUNICATION says, "RESPECT OTHERS."	Izzy INDEPENDENCE says, "DO YOUR BEST."
Lewis P	Myles W	Hetty C	Grace D
Efrem T	Xivaan G	Jessica-Rose B	Paul DJ
Keyan M	Dylan S	Esmae T	Willow D-S
Conor H		Annabelle M	Elliott S
Lou-Lou G		Ellis L	Alfie C
Joshua H			Ahmad K
Jessica G			
Lilly-May KG			
David T			
Danielle U			
Matei L			
Emmanuel A			
Spencer A			





Essex Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

FLU VACCINE CATCH UP CLINICS

Has your child missed their flu vaccination in school?
We are running catch up clinics in Luton.

Your next catch up clinic in the area is:

Date: Wednesday 20th December 2023

Time: 09:30am-14:00

Venue: Dallow Community Centre, LU1 1TB

**PRE BOOKED APPOINTMENT AVAILABLE
OR DROP IN**

It's easy to catch up.
Book your appointment **NOW**
on 0300 790 0594 or for
more information on missed
vaccinations.

#DOYOURBITLUTON



Essex Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

FLU VACCINE CATCH UP CLINICS

Has your child missed their flu vaccination in school?
We are running catch up clinics in Luton.

Your next catch up clinic in the area is:

Date: Friday 22nd December 2023

Time: 09:30am-12:00pm

Venue: Luton Irish Forum, 102 Hitchin Rd, LU2 0ES

**DROP IN CLINIC- NO APPOINTMENT
NECESSARY**

It's easy to catch up.
Book your appointment **NOW**
on 0300 790 0594 or for
more information on missed
vaccinations.

#DOYOURBITLUTON



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience; these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.

ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=f68dcd3dbefc49860f3eac03368370 https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=f53e0afdbd44a03af1eb2ed3961936 https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=f592efc6db0aac5005ceaac13961917 <https://help.disneyplus.com/en-GB/article/disneyplus-en-us-scam-prevention#--text=be%20wary%20of%20sites%20that%20ask%20for%20passwords%20or%20billing%20details>

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