



Growing minds, shaping futures and inspiring lifelong learning

Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter

Friday 20th March 2026



Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Chair of Governors: Mrs D Pargeter

Dear Parents, Carers & Children,

We have been very busy this week and as always, we have experienced every season of weather! Nevertheless, the children have continued to participate in their learning and have proudly shared their achievements.

On Wednesday, we had a non-uniform day in return for donations towards our Easter hampers. On behalf of the Friends of HRPS, I would like to extend a huge thank you to our families for their generosity. We were overwhelmed with the vast donations and as a result, our Friends of HRPS have been left busy creating many hampers ready for our raffle next Thursday! Raffle tickets can still be purchased on the playground after school or online by scanning this QR code.



Today we marked Red Nose Day in non-uniform by laughing loudly, proudly and together. Thank you for all your contributions - we have raised £241!

Well done to the staff and children in Green class for a wonderful class assembly. The children showcased their excellent work and spoke clearly and enthusiastically about their learning this year. It has been really lovely to watch them progress since the start of the year and we are all extremely proud of them. Thank you to Mrs Gammon and Mrs Card for all their hard work. Our next class assembly will be on Thursday 23rd April and we look forward to welcoming parents from Purple class.

We held our third PINS coffee afternoon this week. Our Parent Carer Representative Katie, discussed five ways to enhance wellbeing and highlighted available support through PINS training and the Healthy Parent Carer Program. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Next Thursday at 9:15am, all parents of children in our iRock band are invited to a concert. The children have been progressing well over the past few weeks and we are excited to watch their talent being shared.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all to our Parent Consultation Evenings on **Monday 23rd March 3:45-6:15pm** and on **Thursday 26th March 4:00-7:00pm**. Please enter the school via the side door next to the bike shed. Please see below for the location of your child's class teacher for both evenings:

- EYFS area:** Silver (Mrs McBrearty), Ruby (Miss Sullivan)
- Orange Classroom:** Orange (Miss Davidson), Gold (Mrs March) & Platinum (Mrs Baldwin)
- Purple Classroom:** Purple (Miss Hayat), Coral (Mrs Everitt) & Green (Mrs Gammon)
- Blue Classroom:** Sapphire (Mr D), Blue (Mrs Boland/Mrs White) & Yellow (Miss Vicks)
- Hall:** Teal (Mrs Zarrouq), Amber (Miss Naisby), Emerald (Mrs Rafael/Mrs Jenkins), Indigo (Miss Rogers) & Red (Miss Coleman)

A reminder that there will no clubs or boosters next week as it is the final week of term. We will be finishing school on Friday at 2pm and there will be no after school club on this day.

Have a lovely weekend - I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Mrs R Parmar

Headteacher

Happiness - Independence - Excellence - Respect - Ambition

Uniform Expectations

- White plain polo shirt/blouse or white shirt and school tie (optional)
- Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan (with school logo - optional)
- Grey trousers or grey skirt/pinafore (knee length)
- Leggings are not permitted
- White or grey socks
- White or grey tights
- Black school shoes

PE Days

- Nursery—Monday
- Reception—Wednesday
- Year 1—Thursday & Friday
- Year 2—Tuesday & Wednesday
- Year 3—Monday & Friday
- Year 4—Monday & Thursday (Yellow)
- Friday (Blue)
- Year 5—Monday & Thursday
- Year 6—Monday & Wednesday

Attendance Winners

- EYFS:** Gold with 96.2%
Reward - Hot chocolate
- KS1:** Orange 97.6%
Reward - Choose a lesson of your choice
- LKS2:** Sapphire with 92.3%
Reward - Golden time
- UKS2:** Indigo with 98.8%
Reward - Extra breaktime
- Whole School:** 93.2%

Housepoint Winners

- Congratulations to all the houses for coming joint 1st!
- Bell - 21 points
 - Curie - 21 points
 - Johnson - 21 points
 - Brunel - 21 points

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children:

Early Years: Sean J, Lillah O'D, Hudson S, Ezekiel J

Years 1 & 2: Aksel G, Jeremie B, Oliver S

Years 3 & 4: Cillian M, Medina N, Alex P, Aalayah A

Years 5 & 6: Charlie B, Ivy-Mai R, Parnika P, Everly K-A



Kidz Zone Before & After School Club Information

If you would like further information on Kidz Zone, please visit their website or book on www.kidzzoneclub.com

Walk your wheels

A reminder that children need to 'walk their wheels' on the school premises before school and at the end of the day. Staff patrolling the playground will be reminding children of these rules in order to keep everyone safe by preventing any accidents from happening.

Staff Values Champion of the Week

Congratulations to Mrs Pylik-Fornal for... displaying the value of **Happiness** and showing determination when carrying out tasks on a daily basis!



Silver Awards - 200 Dojo Points



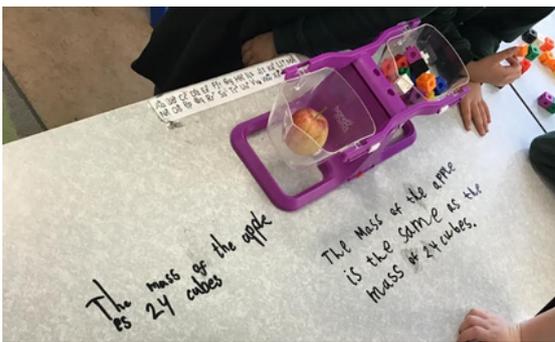
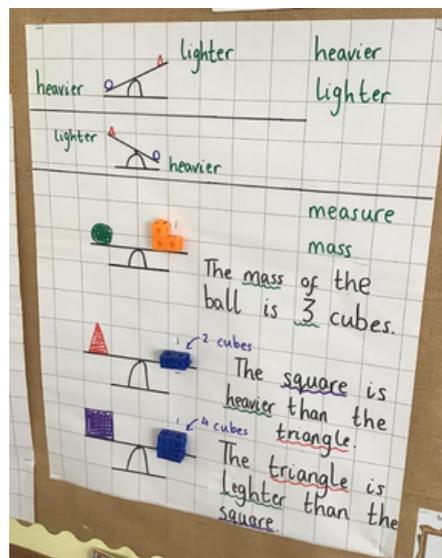
Gold Awards - 300 Dojo Points



Platinum Awards - 400 Dojo Points



Our learning this week...



Spring Term Events

Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Monday 23 rd March	3:45-6:15pm	All	Parent Consultation Evening - appointments times are available to book on ClassDojo	Hall/ Classrooms
Wednesday 25 th March		All	Easter themed lunch	
Thursday 26 th March	9:15am	Children in iRock band	iRock band end of term concert - invited parents to attend	Hall
Thursday 26 th March	4:00-7:00pm	All	Parent Consultation Evening - appointments times are available to book on ClassDojo	Hall/ Classrooms
Friday 27 th March	2:00pm	All	Last day of term—school finishes at 2:00pm. There will be no after school club on this day.	

Summer Term Events

Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Monday 13 th April		All	INSET day - school closed for all children	
Tuesday 14 th April		All	Children return to school	
Tuesday 14 th April	8:15am	Year 6	SATs Parent Meeting	Red Class
Tuesday 14 th April	4:30pm	Year 6	SATs Parent Meeting	Red Class
Thursday 23 rd April		Year 2	Trip to Ashridge	
Thursday 23 rd April	2:45pm	Year 1 - Purple Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Thursday 30 th April	2:45pm	Year 1 - Coral Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Monday 4 th May		All	Early May Bank Holiday - school closed	
Thursday 7 th May	2:45pm	Reception - Platinum Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Monday 11 th May		Year 6	Key Stage 2 SATs - English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Papers 1 and 2	
Tuesday 12 th May		Year 6	Key Stage 2 SATs - English Reading	
Wednesday 13 th May		Year 6	Mathematics Papers 1 and 2	
Thursday 14 th May		Year 6	Mathematics Paper 3	

Summer Term Events

Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Thursday 14 th May	2:45pm	Reception - Gold Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Thursday 21 st May	2:45pm	Nursery - Silver & Ruby Classes	Workshop - parents invited	Hall
Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th May		All	Half-Term	
Monday 1 st June		All	Children return to school	
Saturday 6 th June		All	Summer Fayre - organised by Friends of HRPS	
Monday 8 th June		All	School photographs for class groups and siblings. Please ensure children have their full uniform in school for their photograph.	
Monday 8 th - Friday 12 th June		Year 1	Phonics Screening Week	
Thursday 11 th June	2:45pm	Year 5 - Amber Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Tuesday 16 th June	9:30-11:00am	Years 1 and 2	Sports Day	Field
Tuesday 16 th June	1:30-3:00pm	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	Sports Day	Field
Wednesday 17 th June	9:30-10:30am	Nursery and Reception	Sports Day	Field
Wednesday 17 th June	1:30-2:30pm	Nursery (afternoon children)	Sports Day	Field
Thursday 18 th June	2:45pm	Year 5 - Emerald Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Wednesday 24 th June	1:30-2:30pm	Reception	Visit to the library	
Friday 26 th June	10:00-11:30am 1:30-2:30pm	Year 2 Year 1	Visit to the library	

Summer Term Events

Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Monday 29 th June		Year 2	SATs Week - English	
Monday 6 th July		Year 2	SATs Week - Maths	
Monday 6 th July	2:15-3:00pm	Nursery	Nursery Graduation Day	
Tuesday 7 th July	2:15-3:00pm	Reception	Reception Graduation Day	
Friday 17 th July		All	Last day of term—school finishes at 2:00pm. There will be no after school club on this day.	

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



EYFS Leader
Lead Practitioner
Miss M Davidson



Key Stage 1
Leader
Miss S Hayat



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-Stavriniades 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



SEND Dance Classes

Fun and inclusive classes for those with suspected or diagnosed additional needs

Imagine & Move | 4 – 4.30pm

Sensory movement class for those aged 3+
Aimed at those who need support from a parent/carer to participate
£5 per class invoiced termly



Magic Movers | 4.45 – 5.30pm

Creative dance class for those aged 7+
For those who can follow instruction and participate independently
£7 per class invoiced termly

Introductory offer:

20% off for Spring Term!

15th January – 26th March (No class 19th February)



Thursdays during term time
at Houghton Regis Leisure Centre

Limited spaces! Book now:
info.imaginationarts@yahoo.com
07394 934911



Central Bedfordshire Council





FREE online talk by
Jane Keyworth

FACE family Advice Lead Facilitator

Decreasing Depression

23rd April 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Parents - Live Talks page

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



The National College