



Growing minds, shaping futures and inspiring lifelong learning

# Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025



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

Dear Parents, Carers & Children,

Despite being hit by freezing temperatures and snow this week, we have had a fun-filled week of music and creativity.

We have had a fantastic week exploring many countries and cultures. Children learnt phrases in different languages and some children had a guest speaker sharing information about their food, traditional dress and music. Thank you to parents, carers and staff who visited classes this week. On Thursday, the school was vibrant and full of colour as staff and children wore colours to represent their own culture or colours of the country flags that they had been exploring.

This morning, we had a visitor from the iRock School of Music, who delivered an interactive and engaging assembly for all the children. He shared the benefits of performing in a band and encouraged children to play some of the instruments that he brought along. There will be an opportunity for children to take part in additional music lesson with iRock - further information will be sent out next week. Thank you to Mrs White for organising this.

This afternoon was full of dance, laughter and music during our disco. Thank you to the Friends of HRPS for organising this. We look forward to many more events to raise the profile of our PTA.

Last year, we applied for an Equal Access Award through the Football Association. This award recognises schools for providing equal opportunities for girls in football through both curriculum and extra-curricular activities. It is a recognition of a school's commitment to gender equality in sports, celebrating their success in ensuring girls can access football in the same way as boys.

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded the Equal Access School Award for 2025! At Houghton Regis Primary School, we are extremely proud of our inclusivity offer within our curriculum and provision. We provide a wide range of extra opportunities. Our provisions include specific and girls' only options, allowing all children to access a club across the year in an environment they feel comfortable and allows their confidence to grow. We also ensure fairness for all through our curriculum offer. We are incredibly proud to see Mrs White's dedication to girls' football and our commitment to inclusivity has been acknowledged and rewarded by The Football Association. We have been presented with a plaque which we will proudly display in school.

I wish you all a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

*Mrs R Parmar*

Headteacher

## 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/KS1: Ruby with 97%  
KS2: Teal with 99%  
Whole School: 95%

## Housepoint Winners

Johnson - 165 points  
Curie - 118 points  
Bell - 116 points  
Brunel - 106 points

# Headteacher Awards

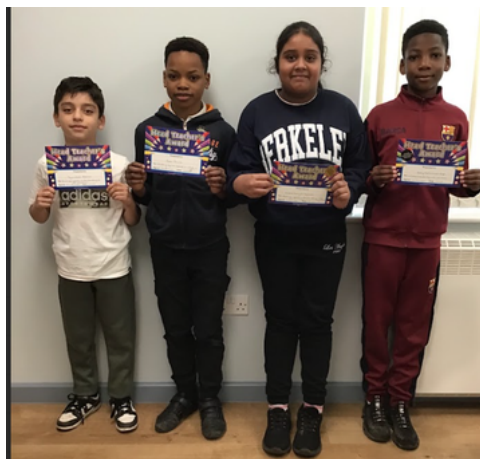
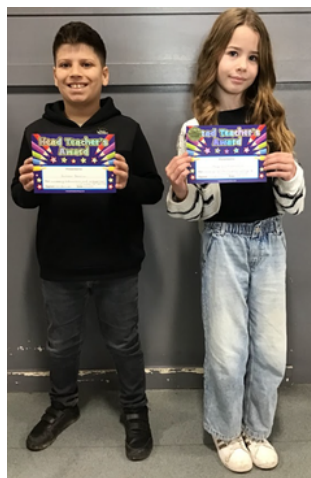
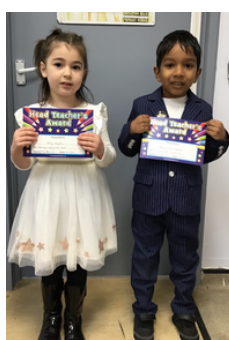
*Congratulations to the following children:*

*Early Years: Isabella M, Buddy P, Polly S, Aharan P*

*Years 1 & 2: Saoirse H, Leo I, Arthur R, Jessica B*

*Years 3 & 4: Sameer D, Harry O, Alice-Eva A, Zac A*

*Years 5 & 6: Teymullah A, Ryan A, Dishana S, Sadiq M-E*



## Kidz Zone Before & After School Club Information

If you would like further information on Kidz Zone, please visit their website or book on [www.kidzzzoneclub.com](http://www.kidzzzoneclub.com)

If you have a child due to start Reception in September 2026, applications need to be made via the Central Bedfordshire School Admissions portal

[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school\\_admissions/496/apply\\_for\\_a\\_new\\_lower\\_or\\_primary\\_school\\_place](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions/496/apply_for_a_new_lower_or_primary_school_place)

The deadline for applications is **Thursday 15th January 2026** and you are encouraged to use all 3 preferences and name 3 different schools closest to your catchment. If you require any support with this, please do come and speak to a member of the admin team.

## HOUGHTON REGIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Is your child starting school in 2026? Why not visit us to hear about what we offer.

Information evening



24th November 2025



5.15pm

Reception tours



25th November 2025



9.15am, 10am, 1.15pm, 2pm

Call now to book

01582 867487



# Our learning this week...



## Bronze Awards - 100 Dojo Points



# Autumn Term Events

| Date                                | Time                                                     | Year Group                                             | Event                                                                                                                                                                                | Location          |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November    | 1:45-2:30pm<br>2:30-3:15pm<br>3:15-4:15pm<br>4:20-5:20pm | Reception<br>Years 1 & 2<br>Years 3 & 4<br>Years 5 & 6 | Friends of HRPS Disco—children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 can come to school in appropriate party wear on this day. Years 5 and 6 can come to school in non-uniform. | Hall              |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December    | 9:00-10:30am                                             | All                                                    | SNAP Parent Carer Forum                                                                                                                                                              | Hall              |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December    | 2:15-3:00pm                                              | Reception                                              | Nativity - parents invited                                                                                                                                                           | Hall              |
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | 1:30-2:30pm                                              | Reception                                              | Nativity Trail                                                                                                                                                                       | School Grounds    |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December   | 9:15-10:00am                                             | Reception                                              | Nativity - parents invited                                                                                                                                                           | Hall              |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December     | 2:00-3:00pm                                              | Year 1                                                 | Nativity - parents invited                                                                                                                                                           | Hall              |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December    | 9:15-10:00am                                             | Year 1                                                 | Nativity - parents invited                                                                                                                                                           | Hall              |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December   | 2:00-3:00pm                                              | Year 2 & Choir                                         | Christmas Carol Concert                                                                                                                                                              | All Saints Church |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December |                                                          | All                                                    | Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day—children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform                                                                              |                   |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December  | 9:15am                                                   | Nursery                                                | Jingle & Mingle - parents invited                                                                                                                                                    | Hall              |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December  | 2:15pm                                                   | Nursery                                                | Jingle & Mingle - parents invited                                                                                                                                                    | Hall              |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December    | 2:00pm                                                   | 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 & Key Stage 1 Leader  
Lead Practitioner  
Miss M Davidson



Deputy 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-Stavrinides at: [ptahrps@gmail.com](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/missing-school)



**SAVE THE DATE**



**SAVE THE DATE**

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

## **Welcome from SNAP Parent Carer Forum!**

**We are inviting you to join our first PINS Coffee Event**

**Date: 2nd December 2025**

**From: 9.00am To: 10.30am**

**Place: Houghton Regis Primary**

*Each session will be themed and for our first session we will be introducing SNAP Parent Carer Forum, the PINS project, as well as the 6C's framework.*

*We are looking forward to meeting you and hearing about your parent carer experience, and that of your child.*

### **The Goal**

**To help every child feel included, understood, and supported—especially those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

#### **PINS is designed to:**

- ✓ Help schools improve how they support children with SEND
- ✓ Offer early help to children who may be struggling - with or without a diagnosis
- ✓ Provide training for school staff to build skills and confidence
- ✓ Enhance communication and partnerships between schools and families

**MORE INFORMATION**



For more information please email  
[PINS@snappcf.org.uk](mailto:PINS@snappcf.org.uk) and see our PINS webpage

Central  
Bedfordshire  
Libraries

Houghton Regis Library  
Saturday Opening hours:  
9am - 4pm

Central  
Bedfordshire

**great**  
lifestyles

# DINO DAY

Join us at Houghton Regis Library as we once again  
celebrate our Dinosaur Day with a range of fun  
activities:



## DINOSAUR HEADBAND

Using card, foam and felt, make a dinosaur  
headband and wear it proudly

## COLOUR A DINOSAUR

Colour a dinosaur that's made of  
plaster, and bring it home to keep once  
it's dry!



Saturday  
22nd November  
10am-2pm



## DINOSAUR SCAVANGER HUNT

Find the dinosaurs in our Dino Scavenger Hunt, solve  
the word puzzle and win a prize!

## NAME THE DINOSAUR

Guess the name of our dinosaur toy, for a  
chance to win the toy!  
(library card required for entry)



**FREE!**

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# Christmas Storyteller

Houghton Regis Library

Saturday 29th November

10am-11am & 12pm-1pm

Come along to one of our two Christmas sessions hosted by Puppet Theatre Maker & Artist Charlotte Read!

Enjoy a hilarious story, Christmas arts & crafts and a lovely present to keep at the end.

Visit Houghton Regis library or call 0300 300 8058 to reserve a slot.

**CHARLOTTE READ CREATIVE**

Puppets. Theatre. Art.



Slots cost £1 and both sessions will be at Houghton Regis Library. Slots are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Please note this event is for children ages 3+, but accompanying parents and guardians don't need to pay for slots themselves.



## Houghton Regis Primary School – Parent Governor Vacancy

### Governor Position Available

Houghton Regis Primary School is seeking a committed individual to fill a vacancy for a Parent Governor. This position is ideal for someone with the skills and dedication needed to contribute to the school's effective governance and ongoing success.

### Who are our School governors?

Given the nature of our school, our governors comprise a mixed parents, local authority members, staff members and other members of the community who work with the school's leadership team. See our page on the school website for a personal statement of each member.

### What do School Governors do?

Governors are 'overseers' of the school and the employers in law of school staff. Whilst the day-to-day running of the school and operational decisions are the responsibility of the school's leadership team, the governors are responsible for the long-term strategic decisions regarding the school. In particular, governors have three core functions:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, striving to ensure that each child obtains the best education possible and ensure the safety and security of the child whilst at our school
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is spent most effectively to the benefit of our children.

The governing board also decides school policy and ensures that the school complies fully with statutory safeguarding procedures. The Governing body is often referred to as "a challenging friend" to the school leadership team.

### Expectations of an Effective Parent Governor

As an effective Parent governor, you will be expected to:

- Support the aims and ethos of the school
- Visit the school regularly to become familiar with its environment and operations
- Work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team, and fellow governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
- Prepare thoroughly for meetings by reading relevant papers in advance
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development, including attending governor training sessions
- Attend all full governing board and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for their full duration
- Stay informed by reading briefings and newsletters for governors
- Support and remain loyal to decisions made by the governing board
- Respect the confidentiality of governing board discussions and affairs
- Declare any interests and withdraw from meetings where you, a partner, close relative, or associate could benefit or where impartiality could be compromised
- Uphold the broader responsibilities of a governor in a public institution, including promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing board.

The role of a Parent Governor is distinct to your role as a Parent with a child at the school and it is important to distinguish between those two different roles.

## Support and Training

Appropriate support, free training, and resources are available for all members of governing boards. This includes:

- Induction training, which all governors are expected to complete within the first six months of their appointment
- Access to a comprehensive, high-quality training and development programme designed to support improvements in leadership, management, and governance

Our existing governing body members are generally allocated to particular area of oversight including Accommodation, Early Years, Finance, Health & Safety, Pay, Safeguarding and School Development Plan. Whilst we try to ensure all areas are covered effectively we also seek to match the interest of any Governors to one of these areas of oversight wherever possible.

## Time Commitment

Governors are expected to attend all full governing board meetings as well as committee meetings, as appropriate. There are approximately six meetings per calendar year. In addition to meetings, governors are expected to visit the school during the school day to monitor and evaluate practice—an essential part of the role. Governors are also often invited to attend school events, such as assemblies and sports days.

## Time Off from Work

Under employment law, employers must provide employees who serve as school governors with reasonable time off to fulfil their duties. The amount of time off is agreed upon by the employee and employer, and in most cases, employers grant this time off with pay.

Following a recent audit of the governing board skills any one of the following experiences would be desirable for us although not essential:

- Links with local businesses
- Experience of Human Resources
- Experience of premises maintenance and facilities management

Increasing diversity is important for us to enable us to maintain good critical thinking. We would be delighted to hear from people with views and experiences that enable us to better represent children from different backgrounds. We would particularly encourage applicants from anyone who can represent the following groups which are currently not represented on our board and are under-represented.

- Asian / Asian British
- Black / Black British / Caribbean / African
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

What can we offer?

- A chance to develop skills in strategic leadership
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors, headteacher and senior leaders in driving school improvement
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school matters and governance roles
- A sense of achievement in making a difference and supporting children in our school
- Becoming part of the biggest volunteer workforce in the UK
- Chance to visit the school, meet teachers, hold discussions with subject leaders etc...
- Induction training and support
- Inclusion in a friendly team of professionals

**Our vision:**

When pupils leave Houghton Regis Primary School, they will be confident, independent and resilient citizens of the world who are open minded and ready to embrace their future.

**Our values:**

Happiness, Independence, Excellence, Respect, Ambition

**Our ethos:**

At Houghton Regis Primary School, we believe that every child has the right to a high-quality education in a safe and nurturing environment and our children have the potential to be worthy citizens of the world.

We believe that every child is capable of achieving their full potential and maximising their learning opportunities to excel in all that they do.

Our learning approach embraces our diverse community, reflecting our commitment as an inclusive school.

We expect our children to be ready, respectful and safe.

We are ambitious in promoting positive relationships with parents, carers and professionals so we can achieve the best outcomes for our pupils.

Wellbeing for our pupils, staff, parents and carers is at the heart of everything we do.

If you would just like to find out more, please contact:

**Mr Tom Muldownie, Chair of governors**, at [governingbody@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk](mailto:governingbody@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk)

**Mrs Rajneet Parmar, Headteacher**, at [office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk)

or chat in the playground to any of our parents who are already governors at Houghton Regis:

**Mrs Sam O'Connell, Mrs Amy Knights-Allen**

# CHRISTMAS LUNCH DEC \_\_\_\_\_

## MAIN MENU

Sliced Turkey Breast  
with Chipolata Sausage  
& Sage & Onion Stuffing  
& Gravy

or

Roast Quorn Fillet  
with Plant Sausage  
& Sage & Onion Stuffing  
& Gravy (Ve)

or

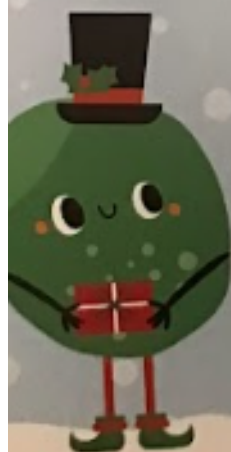
Plant Sausage & Gravy (Free From\*) (Ve)

## SERVED WITH

Roast Potatoes  
with a Choice of Seasonal Vegetables

## DESSERT

Choice of Christmas Dessert



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[www.hcl.co.uk](http://www.hcl.co.uk)