

HOUGHTON REGIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

WHERE EVERYONE MATTERS AND EVERYDAY COUNTS

NEWSLETTER

23 September 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope everyone has by now had a chance to read the recent letter from our Chair of Governors, Mr Tom Muldownie. This emphasises how as a governing body, we are taking a long-term strategic view to ensure strong finances and an excellent education for all our pupils.

The governors have agreed for the existing school cabin to be doubled in size to create a full woodland classroom. The cabin classroom will also have additional windows fitted to the front. The room is already fitted with lights, heating and electricity. The lovely flooring will be matched and extended. This will create a lovely, large and unique classroom space in the centre of our attractive outdoors area.

From after half term Blue Class will move into the new classroom. The PTA will be running a coffee afternoon in the new classroom later on this term so parents can have a chance to look around. Some Blue Class pupils will support the PTA with serving the cakes so they can discuss their new classroom. At some stage in the summer term Onyx and Blue Classes will swap rooms. This will give our Year 6s the opportunity to use the new room before they go on to Secondary School.

In his letter Mr Muldownie also shared that the school will be slowly expanding. This will allow for stronger arrangements for all pupils. Indeed, after consulting with Central Bedfordshire Councils' admissions team we are aware that there are waiting lists for the school in many year groups. With the demand for spaces within the school expected to continue to rise for the foreseeable future, as it has for each of the last four years in succession, the governors recently agreed to increase the admissions number for Year 2. We know there are currently many more families wishing to attend our school and we are looking at ways to achieve this. As we have two Year 2 classes we have enough space for a few more pupils in Green and Purple Classes. It should also be noted that admissions for Reception and Year 1 will remain unchanged.

Finally, I wanted to share a decision to change the name of one of our groups in respect for HM Queen Elizabeth II. Our Year 3 Jubilee Group who are led by Mrs Abdullah and Mr Hewitt will be renamed 'Elizabeth Class' for the remainder of the year. They will continue to work closely with children in Red Class and continue to have sessions in their own room with Mrs Abdullah as has happened previously. Platinum Jubilee Nursery and all other classes will continue with the same names.

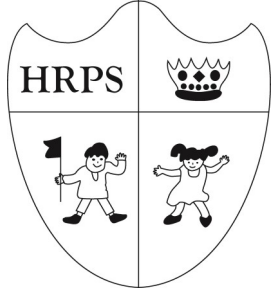
I would like to wish everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

J Edwards

Mr J Edwards
Headteacher

NURTURING EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY



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STAR AWARDS



Danny DETERMINATION
says, "DON'T GIVE UP."

Harper P
Tattva S
Jaxon-James G
Marlowe K-A
Jude M

Jasmine Q
Arinze P
Thomas S
Fleano M

Edward M

Colin CURIOSITY says,
"THINK FOR YOURSELF."



Chloe COMMUNICATION
says, "RESPECT OTHERS."

Adam G Louis T
Mia P Mason R.
Maya A Kalina W
Jorene B Daria P

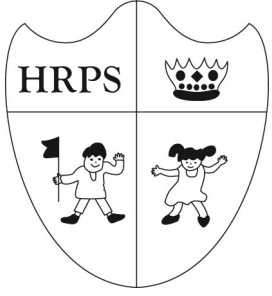
Adalin I
Jagoda O
Gracie A
Lara G
Ava O'D

Ronnie DW
Phillip S
Franky-Ray R-S
Oliver G
Frankie S

Izzy INDEPENDENCE says,
"DO YOUR BEST."



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UPCOMING EVENTS

| Event | Year groups involved | Date |
|--|----------------------|--|
| Year 6 Information Evening for parents | Year 6 | Wednesday, 28 September 2022 - 4.00-5.00pm |
| Grandparents Day | Nursery - Year 2 | Friday, 30 September 2022 |
| National Space Centre | Year 5 | Tuesday, 11 October 2022 |
| Celtic Harmony | Year 3 | Monday, 31 October 2022 |
| KS1 Nativity | Years 1 & 2 | Tuesday, 6 December 2022 - 1:45 – 3.00pm |
| KS1 Nativity | Years 1 & 2 | Wednesday, 7 December 2022- 9:15 – 10:15am |
| Reception Nativity | Reception | Wednesday, 7 December 2022 - 2.00 – 3.00pm |



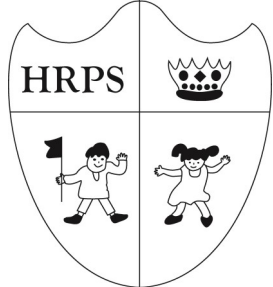
SUAVE WORD OF THE WEEK

bold

DEFINITION Very confident and with lots of courage.

EXAMPLE He was bold enough to catch the escaped horse.

ACTIVITY Look up the word in an adult dictionary or online.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

How to apply for 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.

Eligibility for free school meals will also attract pupil premium grant that can be used to support payment for school trips and extra curricular activities.

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/4/free_school_meals/3



SCHOOL GRID

The lunchtime menus are on school grid and can be booked several weeks in advance. This gives you the opportunity to log into your account to make your child's lunch selections.

Please come into the school office should you experience difficulties accessing your account.

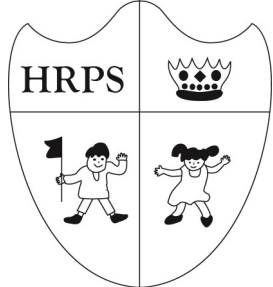
SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2023



Central Bedfordshire Council have produced a booklet to help you with applying for your child's school place for 2023. 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:

- 31 October 2022 - Transfer to Secondary 2023
- Transfer to Upper 2023
- 15 January 2023 - Starting School 2023
- Transfer to Middle 2023



SCHOOL MONEY

If you are struggling to log into your School Money account, the school office will be more than happy to assist. You will need to bring your phone with you to enable them to help.

Please note that we are not able to accept cash payments.

Should you be experiencing financial difficulty, please come to the school office.



This week's Attendance Awards

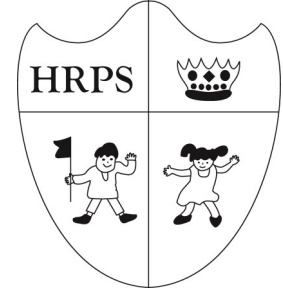
KS1 - Purple - 98.16%

KS2 - Blue - 97.49%



Extra Curricular Activities

| Club | Year/KS involved | Day | Time of Day |
|------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Taekwondo | Reception to Year 6 | Monday | Afternoon |
| Gymnastics | KS2 | Tuesday | 3.15— 4.00pm |
| Ballet | Reception to Year 4 | Tuesday | Mornings |
| Ballet | Reception to Year 4 | Wednesday | Afternoon |
| Football | UKS2 & Lower KS2 (Boys) | Tuesday | 3.00 - 4.00pm |
| Football | UKS2 & Lower KS2 (Girls) | Wednesday | 3.00 - 4.15pm |
| Football | KS1 (Boys & Girls) | Thursday | 3.00 - 4.00pm |



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FOOD INTOLERANCE/ALLERGIES

HCL, our catering contractor, has a rigorous process in place to provide a safe meal service to pupils with food allergies or intolerances.

If your child has a food allergy or intolerance and meets the qualifying criteria, they have a range of delicious and nutritious menus designed especially for your child's medical requirement.

The on-line account system takes just minutes to create and complete and is really easy to use. You will need at hand:

- Your child's school details including class name
- Medical evidence of your child's medical requirements
- Electronic Passport style photograph (which you will need to upload on to the system)

To apply, simply go to <https://specialmenu.hcl.co.uk>



CONTACTING CLASS TEACHERS

Every class in HRPS have their own email address to enable parents to easily contact their child's teacher. The format of the email address is the class colour followed by @houghtonregisprimary.co.uk. For example silver class would be silver@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk .

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We are joining thousands of schools, offices and communities on Monday 10 October 2022 by taking part in **#HelloYellow**.

The children can wear any yellow coloured item of clothing. Let's show young people they are not alone with their mental health.

This year might have felt a little more down than up. But it is the little things that have got us through it—the morning walks, singing in the shower, the perfect move, a best friend who makes you laugh, the teacher who has your back.

Saying **#HelloYellow** this World Mental Health Day is a little thing we can do to make a BIG difference to young people's mental health.

#HelloYellow

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