



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter
Friday 24th October 2025

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had an exciting week with many events taking place in school. It has been a lovely way to celebrate children's learning and showcase their excellent work. Miss Viks started the week with a special assembly about Diwali—the festival of light. She explained the significance of Diwali in Hinduism, which marks the start of a new year and honours Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity. Diwali celebrates the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. The assembly included the traditional Hindu story of Rama and Sita, which highlights bravery, loyalty, and the defeat of the demon King Ravana. Thank you to Miss Viks for sharing how this festival is celebrated.

On Monday, year 5 had a WOW afternoon which parents were invited to. The children designed and made their own Ancient Maya masks. They thoroughly enjoyed making these out of clay. They had many creative ideas which was lovely to see. In year 3, during our Art parent workshop, we explored the vibrant work of Moroccan photographer Hassan Hajjaj. The children created colourful tessellated patterns for their backgrounds and frames. Mrs Zarrouq captured photographs of the children throughout the week to incorporate into their pieces, resulting in artwork inspired by Hajjaj's distinctive style.



The children in years 1, 2 and 3 had an amazing visit from the Giant Journey Workshop, led by Darren, who showed the children a fascinating array of fossils. The children were thrilled to see a T-Rex footprint, a baby pterodactyl, a stegosaurus tail and even got to watch some staff and children handle fossilised poo! The highlight of the day was meeting a friendly baby T-Rex called Trixie, which the children absolutely loved. They could not stop talking about their incredible experience of being archaeologists for the day, using paintbrushes to carefully uncover dinosaur fossils. The children had the chance to excavate fossilised sea lilies, Iguanodon footprints, T-Rex skulls, and so much more. It was a truly unforgettable, hands-on experience that brought history and science to life!



Year 4 had a fantastic day on Tuesday participating in a Viking WOW day. They had the opportunity to make Viking bread with help from Mrs Hickles and they discussed what the Vikings would eat as part of their diet. The children designed Viking shields, painting them in bold colours with detailed features. They also drew fierce dragon heads and wrote their names in Viking runes using charcoal or crayons. They used templates to recreate drawings of brave Viking warriors, and finally, the children used colourful chalk to create giant longboats on the playground, making our Viking adventure truly unforgettable!



On Wednesday, the year 2 children enjoyed travelling back in time to the 1600s and to the time of The Great Fire of London. We baked bread like Thomas Farriner, wrote diary entries like Samuel Pepys and even created our own Tudor houses with the help from some of our parents and carers.

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 25-26

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

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is:
Nursery—£2.40
Years 3-6—£2.60
This can be paid via SchoolGrid.

PTA School Disco
Friday 21st November

Thank you to the Friends of HRPS for organising our annual school disco. Please see the timings below:

Early Years—1:45-2:30pm
Years 1 & 2—2:30-3:15pm
Years 3 & 4—3:15-4:15pm
Years 5 & 6—4:20-5:20pm

A £2 entry fee will be charged at the door and children will be provided with a drink and snack. Entrance to the disco will be via the door next to the bike shed. Children will be dismissed from the disco from the main playground.



Kidz Zone Before and After
School Club
Information

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

Snack at break times for Key
Stage 2

A reminder that children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to bring a snack in for break times, however, this must be a nut-free healthy snack. Class teachers will be monitoring this.

House Names

Here is a reminder of our new house names and colours:

Curie
Bell
Brunel
Johnson

Where everyone matters and every day counts



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We also hosted a group of trainee teachers from the Chiltern Training Group this week. They observed good practice across the school and planned and delivered lessons to children in classes in years 1, 4 and 5. The trainees commended the children on their behaviour and courteous manner across the school. It was a great opportunity for us to share the great teaching and learning we have at our school and we are proud of all our children and staff.

We ended our week of celebratory learning through our Art Gallery this afternoon, inspired by the work we have been studying during Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity Week. Thank you to Mrs Zarrouq for arranging this.



House Name	Points
Bell	518
Brunel	296
Curie	274
Johnson	168

Our Battle of the Bands competition on TTRockstars came to an end today and the children were excited and enthusiastic about taking part in our first intra-house competition. Congratulations to the winning house—**Bell!**

Yesterday, teachers set up appointment times on Class Dojo for our Parent Consultation Evenings. To select an appointment, please go to your child's class and choose a slot—you will be sent a confirmation of the day and time. If you are having trouble accessing this or require an alternative appointment on another day, please speak to your child's class teacher.

After half-term, children will be able to purchase poppies and products associated with Remembrance Day. We ask for a contribution which will be donated to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



A reminder that the clocks will be going back 1 hour on Sunday morning at 2:00am.

Finally, as your child's Headteacher, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire team at Houghton Regis Primary School. I am extremely proud of our children for the progress they have made since the start of this academic year and the way they have settled well into their new classes. Please join me in thanking our staff for their dedication and commitment to the school—they truly give their all and I am grateful to have them as part of the team. Lastly, a huge thank you to our parents, carers, governors and members of the local community for your support as we continue upon our school improvement journey.

I wish you all a well deserved and restful half-term.

We have a training day on Monday 3rd November so children will return to school on Tuesday 4th November.

I look forward to seeing you all after half-term.



Mrs R Parmar
Headteacher

Bedfordshire Police have asked us to share the following information to help protect students personal belongings and improve the chances of recovering lost or stolen items:

Register Your Child's Mobile Phone – Immobilise

This free service helps police identify and return lost or stolen phones and other valuables. By registering your child's device, you're helping protect their property and increasing the chances of recovery if it goes missing. The website also offers helpful advice on keeping devices safe and secure.

It only takes a few minutes to register, and it's completely free—please take a moment to do this and help keep your child's phone safe.

www.immobilise.com/help/registermobilephone

Lost Property – Report My Loss

This free service allows you to register lost items, which can then be accessed by police and other agencies to help recover them. You'll also receive a reference number that can be used for insurance claims or replacement processes.

www.reportmyloss.com/uk



We're thrilled to share that our Christina Marks school of performing arts recently led an assembly to showcase what we've been doing and to encourage more students to get involved! The pupils did a fantastic job presenting their experiences, explaining our activities, and showing the positive impact the club has had on their confidence, teamwork, and creativity.

Our aim is to raise the profile of Christina Marks School of Performing Arts across the school community and inspire more students to take part. Whether your child is already a member or interested in joining, this is a great time to get involved.

We'd love for you to encourage your child to come along and see what we're about. It's a fantastic opportunity to develop new skills, make friends, and be part of something exciting at school.

Thank you for your continued support — it means a lot to both the students and staff involved in the club.

To book classes or the trial, please follow the link below.

<https://christina-marks-sopa.classforkids.io>

HEADTEACHER AWARDS



Congratulations to the following children:

<i>Early Years</i>	<i>Theo R, Ayan A, Erik R</i>
<i>Years 1 & 2</i>	<i>Adonis D, Nehemiah K, Klara K, Myles W</i>
<i>Years 3 & 4</i>	<i>Jude E, Floeda M, Sophie F, Adrian F</i>
<i>Years 5 & 6</i>	<i>Iyla D, Ellie S, Parnika P, Alexandra E</i>



OUR LEARNING THIS WEEK:



AUTUMN TERM EVENTS:

Day	Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Monday-Friday	3rd November-7th November		6	Residential Trip	
Monday	3rd November		All	INSET DAY—school closed for all children	
Tuesday	4th November		All	Children return to school	
Thursday	6th November	8:45-10:00am	All	Macmillan Coffee Morning & Health Talk—parents invited	Hall
Friday	7th November		All	Author visit—Emily Lloyd-Gale	
Monday-Friday	10th-14th November		All	Anti-Bullying Week	
Monday	10th November		All	Odd Socks Day to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week—children and staff are invited to wear odd socks	
Monday	10th November	3:45-6:15pm	All	Parent Consultation Evening	Hall, Classrooms
Tuesday	11th November		All	Remembrance Day	
Tuesday	11th November		Reception—Year 6	Flu Vaccination (1st Session)	
Tuesday	11th November	1:00-3:00pm	All	Friends of HRPS—Sponsored Walk to raise funds for the disco	School grounds
Thursday	13th November	4:00-7:00pm	All	Parent Consultation Evening	Hall, Classrooms
Friday	14th November		All	Children in Need—children and staff are invited to wear yellow and/or spotty clothes. Children will take part in a 'Challenge Yourself to 25' activity.	
Monday-Friday	17th —21st November		All	Cultural Week—On Thursday, children and staff are invited to wear traditional clothes from their own culture or coloured clothing to represent the country flags they have explored this week.	
Tuesday	18th November		Reception, Year 6	Heights & Weights	
Friday	21st November	1:45-2:30pm 2:30-3:15pm 3:15-4:15pm 4:20-5:20pm	Reception Years 1 & 2 Years 3 & 4 Years 5 & 6	PTA Disco—children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 can come to school in appropriate party wear on this day.	Hall
Tuesday	2nd December	1:30-2:30pm	Reception	Nativity Trail	School grounds
Thursday	4th December		Reception—Year 6	Flu Vaccination (2nd Session)	
Thursday	4th December	9:45- 10:15am	Reception	Nativity— parents invited	Hall
Monday	8th December	2:00-3:00pm	Year 1	Nativity—parents invited	Hall
Tuesday	9th December	9:15-10:15am	Year 1	Nativity—parents invited	Hall
Tuesday	16th December	2:00-3:00pm	Year 2 & Choir	Christmas Carol Concert	All Saints Church
Wednesday	17th December		All	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day—children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform	
Friday	19th December	2:00pm	All	Last day of term—school finishes at 2:00pm. There will be no after school club on this day	

Meet 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



Early Years Leader
Mrs R Baldwin



**Key Stage 1 Leader/
Lead Practitioner**
Miss M Davidson



**Upper 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 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



MacMillan Coffee Morning & Health Talk

Hosted by Houghton Regis Primary School

Thursday, 6th November
8:45-10am

Join us for a warm cup of coffee, delicious cakes, and a great cause! All proceeds will go towards Macmillan Cancer Support, helping those affected by cancer.



Our School Nursing Team will also be giving a special Health Talk — sharing tips on wellbeing, and services they can offer to our school and community.

- Cakes for Sale!
- Good company, great cause!



**Come along, bring your friends,
and help make a difference!**



November Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Raising Self Esteem	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	4 Nov 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	4 Nov 7pm
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	11 Nov 10am
Supporting A Child with ADHD	11 Nov 7pm
FREE ADHD Kids & Homework	13 Nov 6-7pm
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	17 Nov 7pm
Facing Defiance	18 Nov 10am
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	18 Nov 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
Anxiety Explained	24 Nov 7pm