

**Where everyone matters and every day counts**



## Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter Friday 24th May 2019

**Headteacher: Mrs B Waite**  
**Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar**  
**Chair of Governors: Mrs J Mew**

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Following our recent OFSTED inspection, we are very pleased to announce that we are officially a 'Good' school in all areas. The full report can be found on our school website under the section, 'Our School'. A huge thank you to all our children, staff, parents and the local community for your continued support.

We have had an exciting start to the Summer Term. The children have engaged in a variety of learning experiences that have broadened their knowledge of the curriculum, particularly with the activities planned this week during Cultural Week. A huge thank you to all parents who attended our curriculum sessions in class and joined us in the hall for our cultural exhibition. As always, we appreciate your ongoing participation and engagement in your child's learning. It was lovely to see staff and children fully embrace and appreciate cultures from around the world, representing the growing diversity we have in our local community.

A huge well done to our Year 2 and Year 6 children for completing their SATs last week. We are extremely proud of all the children and the staff in the school for their dedication and effort in making sure the week ran smoothly for all children. The school will receive their Year 6 SATs results on 9th July.

Thank you to Emerald and Orange Classes for performing their Class Assemblies with confidence this term. It was wonderful to see how the children have matured throughout the year and shared their fantastic talents to the rest of the school and their parents. Well done to the children and staff for all your hard work.

A group of children from Years 3,4 and 5 visited Beecroft Academy to take part in a Maths Puzzle Day. They showed excellent teamwork and reasoning skills by working together to solve a range of puzzles and challenges.

To promote pupil wellbeing, we asked children how they would like to be rewarded for their hard work this term. They opted for a non-uniform day, which will be on Friday 14th June. The children will take part in a 'creative morning' and will end the day with a 'relaxing afternoon', that will focus on mindfulness.

The PTA are also holding a non-uniform day (Mufti Monday) on Monday 24th June to raise donations for the Summer Fayre. All donations would be greatly appreciated:

Silver, Gold & Orange Classes—Sweets  
Green & Purple Classes –Chocolates  
Blue, Yellow & Red Classes—Toiletries  
Emerald, Amber & Sapphire Classes—Cakes

A reminder that we have an INSET day on Monday 3rd June. We wish you all a very happy half-term and look forward to seeing you back at school on Tuesday 4th June.

*Mrs B Waite & Mrs R Parmar*

### **VALUE OF THE MONTH:** **Confidence**

Confidence is the feeling or belief that one can have faith in or rely on someone or something.



### **Kidz Zone Before and After School Club** **Information**

If you would like further information, please visit our website or book on

### **Nursery—30 hours**

We are now offering 30 hours in our Nursery. Please contact HMRC to check your eligibility. If you qualify, you will need to pass your validation code to Mrs Peklivanas or Mrs Taylor in the School

### **Donations for STREETLIFE**

Any donations of the following would be greatly appreciated:

- Bottled water
- Men's socks
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Plus any items suitable for the homeless

If you wish to donate any items, they can be placed in the box that is located in the School Re-

### **Class Attendance** **Winners for March**

**EYFS/KS1: Green Class**  
**with 96.47%**

**KS2: Sapphire Class with**  
**97.49%**

**Whole School**  
**Attendance:**  
**94.77%**

**Housepoint Winners**  
**EYFS/KS1: Hawks with 109**  
**points**

**KS2: Kestrels with 151**  
**points**

**Overall Winning House:**  
**Kestrels with 225 points**

# Our Learning

## EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

Our theme this half term has been 'To Infinity and beyond!' The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the solar system, the Moon, the planets, Earth, astronauts, rockets and aliens. We looked in detail at non-fiction books to find out information and facts. Using chalks we drew planets and made up names for our own planets. Using blue and green hand prints we made the Earth. We had fun in our space station role play and made some terrific telescopes. For our mathematics we looked at 2D shapes and made rockets using these. We talked about shapes with curved or straight sides and the number of sides each shape has. We looked at the shape of planets and learnt that they are spheres. We also looked at a set number of moon rocks separated them and checked if we had the same number. In our PE sessions we have been using the apparatus to balance on and found out how many different ways to move along the benches before jumping off appropriately. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about space and have learnt some fantastic songs! The last week of term as a whole school we had a Cultural week. The country that Silver looked at was England. As a multicultural country we focused on our capital city. We asked parents to bring in dishes that they enjoy from their birth countries for all of us to taste and we had the traditional cucumber sandwiches, of course with the edges cut off and a scone with jam and cream, for typical English foods.



We have had a busy month in Gold Class, where we have been immersed in all things 'Space' related in our 'To Infinity and Beyond' topic. We have enjoyed learning some facts about our Solar System and all the planets. The children may have been singing our planet song to you at home, if not, you will have a lovely surprise at our class assembly coming up next month. We have been finding out information using the computer and lots of non-fiction books. We discovered that Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake are famous astronauts. We looked at how Astronauts live and eat in Space and we even did some of our own experiments and investigations like real Astronauts. One day, a very strange thing happened; some aliens had landed on the field! We wrote some letters to the aliens and we worked together to design and construct a new rocket to take them home again. We had great fun launching the rockets on the field! We have been amazed at the children's wonderful writing this half term. They are showing such independence and demonstrating that they are embedding their phonics learning. In Mathematics they have been working hard on space number problems including doubling and halving. They have also surprised us by using the correct mathematical vocabulary to name their two and three-dimensional shapes when creating rocket pictures and models. Finally, we have had a wonderful week exploring not just our main country of Poland but also other cultures in our classroom too. Thank you to all our parents who have helped us this week. We hope you enjoyed joining us today!



## KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

In **Key Stage One** we have had a busy half-term immersing ourselves in our topic of 'Mini-beasts'. We started our Minibeast topic by exploring the **Forest School** to find different creepy crawlies, we were surprised to find so many. We found millipedes, slugs, ants, beetles, worms, earwigs, spiders and woodlice. In **English**, the children have studied the work of Eric Carle and have written stories, information text and poems on Mini-beasts. This enabled us to use non-fiction books more effectively to explore Mini-beasts and habitats in Science and Geography. In **Science** the children have identified and classified mini-beasts. We also looked at the life cycles of mini-beasts and learned lovely long words like metamorphosis and proboscis (a butterfly's tongue). Purple Class have enjoyed watching their caterpillars change into butterflies. We then moved onto a topic about '**Plants**' and both Year groups have been developing their green fingers and investigating how plants grow. They have planted bulbs, looked at seeds and have on-going experiments with food waste and cress. Ask your child to tell you about them. In **Maths** we developed our understanding of **Statistics** doing tally charts and pictograms about Mini-beasts. We also asked and answered questions about our block charts, using mathematical vocabulary confidently. Moving onto **Position and Direction**, the children were able to guide each other to specific places where they might find Mini-beasts in the Forest School. We practised using positional and directional language in lots of fun ways. We practised lefts and rights by playing twister; we gave a partner directions on how to find treasure and set instructions for Bee-Bots to follow. The children have shown great confidence in using the vocabulary of position and direction.



During Cultural Week, **Orange Class learnt all about South Africa**. We thoroughly enjoyed learning facts, creating travel brochures, writing postcards and making African masks. We loved cooking and tasting delicious African treats. Thank you to all our parents who joined us for our cultural afternoon – we had a lovely time! **Green Class studied the country of Russia**. We learnt about the history, culture of the country and enjoyed some Russian cooking. The children learnt and performed a Russian dance. They also learnt how to count to ten in Russian plus other useful phrases. We also talked about all the other wonderful cultures in our class. Thank you to all our parents who have helped us this week. We hope you enjoyed the Russian cooking and the wonderful display of the children's work over the week. In **Purple Class we explored the country of South Korea**. We learned to count to ten in Korean and shared a Korean folk tale. We used a Korean theme to develop problem solving in Maths and created some nice Art work. Katie bought in some Korean objects and some story books so we could look at the differences between English and Korean writing.

Finally, a huge congratulations to all of Orange Class for their fantastic performance of **The Selfish Ladybird** on Thursday.

# Our Learning

## LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

This month in Years 3 and 4, we have been learning about and reading various myths and legends. We have read and completed work for Romulus and Remus as well as Beowulf. We have re-created these myths with detailed character descriptions and produced our own mythical creatures. We also completed persuasive writing to try and convince an audience to apply to King Hrothgar's hero advert to slay the hideous and ferocious Grendel and his mother. In Maths, we have had great fun collecting data and learning how to present these using bar graphs, pictograms and time/line graphs. We have all challenged ourselves to work with different scales and by creating questions about our graphs that our peers have answered. During our Science lessons, we have been exploring sound and how it travels. We have understood that sound travels through soundwaves and creates vibrations which we detect with our ears. We have also learned how to represent such vibrations and noise on soundwave scales. The most exciting part of this month has been our Cultural Week. Each class selected a country to explore and learn about. In Blue Class, we have been looking at the culture in China. We have practised writing in Mandarin, researched the country's cuisine, culture and money and played ping pong. We have also created pieces of art using rice and recycling. We have really enjoyed this week! In Yellow Class, we have explored the culture from Portugal. We put together a 3 course menu after researching Portuguese foods, collected data from the country's temperatures and weather to its population growth, replicated pieces of Amadeo de souza Cardoso art; we even created our own mini holiday brochure to persuade more people to visit this wonderful country. We also had great fun during PE playing futsal and handball. In Red Class, we have explored The Philippines; researching into their culture, cuisine and geography. We have created landscape images using watercolours, inspired by pictures of the beautiful beaches and mountains in The Philippines. We have also had fun tasting food from the country, as well as studying the volcanic landscape and the climate. We have also made persuasive travel brochures which showcase all the interesting facts that we have learnt over the week!



## UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE

In Year 5, in Maths, we have been looking at rounding whole and decimal numbers. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been solving problems and using reasoning skills to consolidate our knowledge. In English, we have been looking at poetry which has been linked to our topic of Magnificent Mountains. This term, we looked at figurative language and wrote and performed our own poetry. In our Science lessons, we dissected flowers to identify the different parts and their features. We then took cuttings to try and regrow mint, carrots and spring onions. Over the past few weeks the children have been taking observations to check the progress of their cuttings. This week during Cultural Week, Year 5 have immersed themselves within the cultures of Bangladesh and India. The children have been able to compare England with Bangladesh and India as well as planning a holiday to these countries. Within their PE lessons, they learnt and created their own Bollywood dances as well as playing cricket (a popular sport within these countries). This has enabled the children to have a wider understanding of different cultures and their beliefs.



In Year 6, **in Maths**, we have been busy revising for our SATs. This has included ratio and proportion and long division as well as any other areas that the children felt they required. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been solving problems and using reasoning skills to consolidate our knowledge. **In English**, the book we have been reading, 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo, has given the children the chance to write about the day in soldier's life whilst in the trench. They have also written a persuasive letter, which was written either to a German Captain or from the German Captain – trying to persuade either to leave Joey (the main character) on the farm or reasons why Joey should be taken to war. As we have now completed our book the children have had the opportunity to watch the film and make comparisons of both. **In Science**, the topic we studied was light; the children have had the opportunity to investigate the constructs of the eye and how it functions. They had to label parts of the eye and write a description of how it works. As an extension of this they then investigated their 'Blind Spot' – showing their understanding about how the brain compensates for the parts that the eye does not see. **In Topic**, we continue to learn about World War 1. Children created a menu from the rations that people were allocated. Once they had constructed their menu, they totalled the amounts. Initially they thought that it was very cheap, however, once we had looked at how much an average wage was, they soon realised the hardship that people endured during this time period. **In Cultural Week** the children were studying Greece. We have been very lucky to have a grandparent visit; who was mesmerising with his information – the children were fully engaged in what he was telling them – thank you! The children have learnt a lot this week about the country – they created a holiday brochure, planned a holiday, made structures and information leaflets, used Pythagoras' theorem to find the length of the hypotenuse. It was great seeing so many parents on Thursday – thank you.



## **Upcoming Events:**

*Please see the dates below for events taking place this term*

### **Half-Term Week**

*Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May*

### **INSET Day**

*Monday 3rd June*

### **Children return to school**

*Tuesday 4th June*

### **Year 6 Kingswood Residential Trip**

*Wednesday 5th June—Friday 7th June*

### **Internet Safety Assembly for Years 3-6**

*Monday 10th June*

### **Phonics Screening Testing**

*w/c Monday 10th June*

### **Non-Uniform Day—Pupil Wellbeing**

*Friday 14th June*

### **Sports Day**

*Tuesday 18th June*

### **Gold Class Assembly**

*Thursday 20th June*

### **PTA Mufti Monday**

*Monday 24th June*

### **Year 6 visit to All Saints for Summer Concert**

*Wednesday 26th June*

### **Year 5 Summer Production**

*Thursday 27th June 2:00pm and 6:00pm*

### **Year 5 Trip to SL5 Mission**

*Friday 28th June*

### **PTA Summer Fayre**

*Saturday 29th June*