



Where everyone matters and every day counts
Houghton Regis Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 25th January 2019

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Happy New Year to all of our school community.

As always, we have had a very busy few weeks with lots of exciting learning happening across the school. We were very fortunate to welcome a special guest from the Houses of Parliament, MP Andrew Selous. He visited our school last week and was extremely impressed with the fantastic opportunities that the children were taking part in to develop their learning and deepen their knowledge. He commended the behaviour and attitude to learning that he saw across the school. Please see the school website for the letter from the House of Commons congratulating us on our excellent improvement in the Key Stage 2 SATs.

Earlier this week, the children enjoyed a Peter Pan pantomime, that was organised by the PTA as a special treat for the children in Years 1-6. This was a fun-filled and entertaining performance enjoyed by the children. Early Years were treated to a special performance from Robbie Rocket. A huge thank you to the members of our PTA. The school staff and children are very appreciative of your support.

Later this term, we will be holding English Curriculum sessions for parents across the school, where you will be invited to attend a session to join in with your child's learning in their classroom. The sessions will be held on Tuesday 5th February between 9-10am. Parents will need to sign up for these sessions through their child's class teacher.

A reminder that children will soon be receiving their Mid-Year Reports, which shares their current attainment and progress against their end of year targets. These will also have next steps targets on. The reports will be sent home on Friday 8th February.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all next week.


Mrs B Waite & Mrs R Parmar

VALUE OF THE MONTH:

Determination

Determination is a positive feeling that involves persevering towards a difficult goal in spite of obstacles.

Kidz Zone Holiday Club

Infor-  **mation**
Kidz Zone Club will be providing a holiday club from Monday 11th February to Wednesday 13th February.

More information can be found on our school website or on the following website

<http://kidzzoneclub.com/holiday-club/>

Class Attendance
Winners for w/c 21.1.19

EYFS/KS1:

Purple Class with 96.4%

KS2: Amber Class with 99.6%

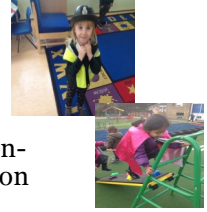
Whole School Attendance:

95.9%

Our Learning

EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

We have been very busy in Silver Class this term learning about Superheroes! During our carpet sessions we have been concentrating on listening skills, rhyming words, retelling stories and talking about the characters. We have enjoyed reading Supertato Superworm and finding out about the police, including a visit from a police officer. In number work, we have been counting in sequence and matching numbers to quantity. In the role play area, we have had a green-grocers and a police station. Silver Class are becoming more independent with putting their coats on and pouring their own drinks.

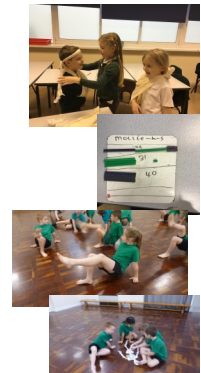


The children in Gold class have had such an exciting start to the new year. We have been enjoying our 'To the rescue' theme, learning about fictional superheroes and also real-life heroes. We read the story 'Supertato' and found out all about his adventures with the evil pea. We made our own 'Supertato's' and had lots of fun writing speech bubbles for the characters from the story. Next, we made up our own stories about our favourite superheroes. We used story dice and story bags and some sentence starters to help structure our stories. This week we began learning all about the police force and how they help us. The children are learning that we can find out information from non-fiction books and computers. We have had our own super police officers in our police station and also traffic officers keeping everyone safe outside. The highlight this week though was our visit from the Police Community Support Officers. The children listened attentively to find out more information and they were also able to ask some of their own questions that they had written the day before. In our mathematics sessions this month, we have been focussing on learning about shape, space and measure. We weighed the toys to help solve supergirls mission of finding the heaviest toy in the classroom. The children impressed us all by explaining that when an object is heavy, the scales go down and when it is light, the scales are up. The children were able to learn about capacity when making potions for Batman. We were also so lucky to have a visit from 'Robbie Rocket', courtesy of the PTA which was enjoyed by all! We are looking forward to our dress up day next week and finding out all about firefighters. A very busy and exciting month to get us through the cold January weather!



KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

This month in Year 1, we have been learning about Florence Nightingale. We have really enjoyed learning about this British heroine and found it bewildering to discover how dirty hospitals were during the Victorian times! We understood that Florence showed the value of determination by dedicating her life to improving the conditions in nursing and hospitals. We researched facts about Florence Nightingale and wrote fact files in English. We also linked Florence Nightingale to Science, where we learnt first aid skills and the safe uses of medication; we enjoyed role-playing nurses! We also investigated the human skeleton and learnt the names of some bones. In PE, we took in our handmade skeletons and compared them to our own bones to recognise which bones are used in physical activities. We learnt that aerobic exercise helps to keep the heart healthy and maintain strong bones. We practised forming different gymnastic shapes and rolls during indoor PE sessions and developed our skipping outside. In Maths, we learnt about place value up to 50. We used ten frames and diennes blocks to represent numbers in tens and ones. This week, we have been sharing numbers in equal groups and counting in steps. We enjoyed improving our counting in steps of 2s, 5s and 10s through number songs.



During January, Year 2 have been finding out all about 'Florence Nightingale'. In History, we found out who she was and why she was famous. We also learned how the changes she made to nursing and hospitals improved things immensely. In Geography, we plotted her journey across Europe from England to Scutari in Turkey. We compared her journey to that of another nurse who travelled to help in the Crimean War. Mary Seacole crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Jamaica on a much longer journey. As part of our Science lessons, we developed our previous knowledge on parts of the body, including work on our skeleton. We discussed how to keep ourselves healthy and explored our five senses. We really enjoyed using the Red Cross website and learning some simple First Aid, especially practising with slings, bandages and forehead thermometers. In PE, our indoor lessons have been developing our skills in Gymnastics. We have practised balancing on different numbers of body parts, travelling and jumping. We have enjoyed challenging ourselves to climb in different ways on our new wall-bars in the Hall. In Maths, we have worked hard on our Times Tables. Lots of us have achieved well in our weekly tests and have moved up groups. This has set us in good stead for our current unit of work. We have spent 4 weeks studying Multiplication and Division. We are able to solve calculations, tackle word problems and make links between multiplication and division facts. We have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about the life of Roald Dahl and listening to his stories in preparation for our School Trip to the Roald Dahl Gallery next month.



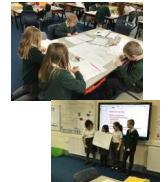
Our Learning

LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

Throughout January we have been exploring different types of non-fiction texts. We have written both chronological and non-chronological reports, fact files and postcards. We gathered our research about a range of animals using books from the library, iPads and Chrome-books. We wrote reports including interesting facts from our research. In Maths, we have been focusing on measurement. We have looked at length, mass, capacity and perimeter. We used our new skills to measure a range of objects around our classroom. In topic lessons we have started our new topic called Water. We have explored how the water cycle works and have drawn diagrams to explain the process. We have also looked at how clouds are formed and had a go at creating our own clouds. We now know that clouds are made from water vapour that condense into water droplets. We were able to see these water droplets in our cloud making experiment.



In English this term, we have been planning and writing a range of non-fiction texts including; newspaper reports, non-chronological reports, fact files and letters. We have also been covering Year 4 grammar in detail, in line with the new curriculum expectations. Our first book of the term is called Amazing Animals of the Sea, which is a non-fiction book. We have enjoyed researching and planning work around sea creatures and learning fantastic facts along the way! In Maths, our learning this term has covered measurement (length, mass and capacity), perimeter, time, 2D and 3D shapes and angles. We have been applying our knowledge to different types of questions in order to improve our reasoning skills. We have also been spending a lot of time solving word problems linked to our learning and improving our times table knowledge through our weekly times tables test, and through games, such as The Times Tables Train and Around the World (our favourites!). In our Topic lessons, we have been looking at Water, including; the 3 states of water, the water cycle and how rain and clouds are formed. We have really enjoyed learning key terminology, such as evaporation, condensation and precipitation, and understanding why water is vital for all life on Earth. In our Science lessons, we have been studying plants and their functions. We are currently undertaking an experiment to find out what plants need to survive (some of us are leaving plants in the dark, some are not feeding the plant water and others are over-feeding the plant water). We are excited to find out and analyse the results of our investigation and present them using the scientific language learnt along the way. We are currently enjoying our swimming lessons where we are learning key skills and practising swimming lengths using different strokes. We are also learning gymnastics where we are putting together routines which involve a range of balances and shapes, as well as learning to use all parts of our bodies when travelling in different ways.

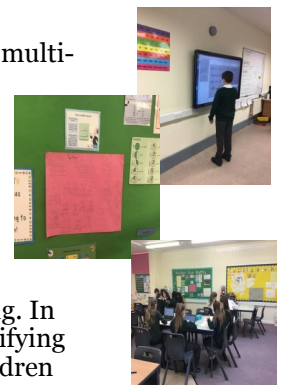


UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE

In Year 5, in Maths, we have been looking at angles and 3D shapes. 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 reading 'Goodnight Mister Tom' by Michelle Magorian, which has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres; for example non-chronological reports, narrative writing, setting and character descriptions and explanation texts. The children have enjoyed taking part in debates as well as producing their own news reports based on evacuation in World War 2. This term our topic in Science is Forces where the children have been experimenting to find out if the mass of an object affects the force of gravity. We have immersed ourselves into the topic of World War 2, which the children have shown great enthusiasm for. We started off by creating timelines of the main events leading up to WW2 and we then wrote our own letters home as if we had been evacuated. In PE, the children have been learning about Bollywood music through dance. They have learnt the basics and are now beginning to create their own routines. The children have been thoroughly enjoying guitar lessons on Wednesday afternoons. This is an exciting opportunity to build on their skills over the year.



In Year 6, in Maths, we have been learning about fractions – equivalent, addition, subtraction, multiplying and we will be studying division in fractions. 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, 'The Eye of the Wolf' by Daniel Pennac, has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres; for example: a diary entry, a character study and a non-chronological report. Guided Reading this term has been more SATs focussed, looking at different question types and how they are answered. In Science, the topic we are studying is Animals and Humans; we have been learning how the circulatory system works in our bodies. We have looked at the ways in which our heart, lungs, veins, capillaries and arteries work in unison to keep our bodies working. In topic we have been learning about the UK and its settlements. We began our research by, identifying the major structures within the UK, identifying what they are and where they are situated. Children also had to draw their own map of the UK.



Upcoming Events:

Please see the dates below for events taking place this term

Yellow Class Assembly

Thursday 31st January at 9:00am

Roald Dahl Museum Trip for Year 2

Monday 4th February

English Curriculum Sessions for Parents

Tuesday 5th February –9:00-10:00am

Royal Air Force Museum Trip for Year 5

Thursday 7th February

Mid-Term Reports to be sent home

Friday 8th February

Half-Term Week

Monday 11th February to Friday 15th February

Children due back to school

Monday 18th February

Purple Class Assembly

Thursday 21st February at 9:00am

Internet Safety Workshop for Parents

Tuesday 26th February at 9:00am

Roald Dahl Museum Trip for Year 1

Wednesday 27th February

Author Visit for Years 3,4,5 and 6

Wednesday 27th February

Green Class Assembly

Thursday 28th February at 9:00am