



Growing minds, shaping futures and inspiring lifelong learning

Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter

Friday 27th March 2026



Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Chair of Governors: Mrs D Pargeter

Dear Parents, Carers & Children,

As we come to the end of term, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our children, staff, parents, Friends of HRPS and governors. I am extremely grateful for the contributions and efforts from all members of our community.

Earlier this week, the children in year 3 took part in an exciting henna workshop, where they explored the origins and cultural significance of henna. The workshop was led by a professional henna artist, who guided the children through a range of traditional designs and techniques. The children had a fantastic time practising tracing and redrawing intricate henna patterns before creating their own unique designs. A highlight of the session was having their own hands decorated by the artist with beautiful henna artwork. The children were fully immersed in the experience and remained engaged throughout. Thank you to Mrs Zarrouq for organising this fantastic workshop for the children.

Yesterday, the children in the iRock band performed a fantastic concert to children and parents. The children have made excellent progress this term and we are thankful to the iRock team for all their support. Information about signing up for classes next term has been sent home. Thank you to Mrs White for making the necessary arrangements for this wonderful opportunity.

Please join me in extending a huge thank you to the Friends of HRPS. They worked extremely hard to arrange the Easter raffle and created some beautiful hampers that were handed out during the raffle draw yesterday. We look forward to planning more events for our families to participate in over the coming months.

Local residents have again raised concerns about parking and access around school during drop-off and pick-up times. A number of vehicles have been blocking driveways and have been parking across dropped kerbs. Residents have also noticed that drivers are causing damage to grassed areas by driving across these spaces. Please park considerately and respectfully, particularly around neighbouring properties and access points.

Next term, we have many events taking place. Please see the Summer Term Events page overleaf to check the dates of events that are relevant to your child, as we have made some changes to previous dates that were published.

We say goodbye to Mrs Rafael today. Please join me in thanking Mrs Rafael for all her hard work and contributions. We wish her well for her future endeavours.

Thank you, as always, for the support you give the school and your children's learning. I wish you all a restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back next term for more exciting opportunities and experiences.

We have a training day on Monday 13th April and school will be closed for all children.

I look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 14th April.

Thank you for your continued support.

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: Gold with 97%**
Reward - Have a fun afternoon
- KS1: Orange 95.2%**
Reward - Hot chocolate
- LKS2: Teal with 95.7%**
Reward - Choose a lesson of your choice
- UKS2: Emerald with 97.5%**
Reward - Popcorn/Treats
- Whole School: 95%**

Housepoint Winners

- Congratulations to all the houses for coming joint 1st!
- Bell - 21 points
 - Curie - 21 points
 - Johnson - 21 points
 - Brunel - 21 points

Happiness - Independence - Excellence - Respect - Ambition

Headteacher Awards

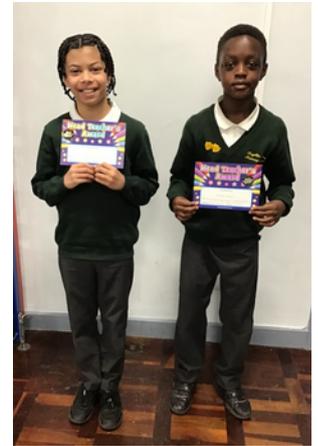
Congratulations to the following children:

Early Years: Eabha-Mae O'H, Atef B, Estrianna L, Polly S

Years 1 & 2: Sofia H, Aria P, Nikolas S, Freya C

Years 3 & 4: Crystal C, Kray H, Arfa C, Isla C

Years 5 & 6: Zaima Z, Yasmin L, Ellis L, Malachi B



Kidz Zone Before & After School Club Information

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

Walk your wheels

A reminder that children need to 'walk their wheels' on the school premises before school and at the end of the day. Staff patrolling the playground will be reminding children of these rules in order to keep everyone safe by preventing any accidents from happening.

Staff Values Champion of the Week

Congratulations to Mrs Hickles for... displaying the value of **Excellence** and always working so hard.



Bronze Awards - 100 Dojo Points



Silver Awards - 200 Dojo Points



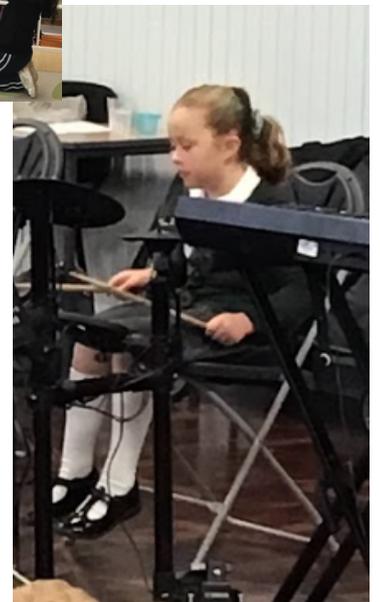
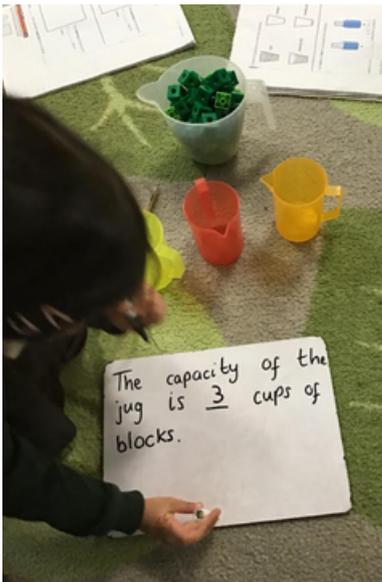
Gold Awards - 300 Dojo Points



Platinum Awards - 400 Dojo Points



Our learning this week...



Summer Term Events

Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Monday 13 th April		All	INSET day - school closed for all children	
Tuesday 14 th April		All	Children return to school	
Tuesday 14 th April	8:15am	Year 6	SATs Parent Meeting	Red Class
Tuesday 14 th April	4:30pm	Year 6	SATs Parent Meeting	Red Class
Thursday 23 rd April		Year 2	Trip to Ashridge	
Thursday 23 rd April	2:45pm	Year 1 - Purple Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Thursday 30 th April	2:45pm	Year 1 - Coral Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Monday 4 th May		All	Early May Bank Holiday - school closed	
Thursday 7 th May	2:45pm	Reception - Platinum Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Monday 11 th May		Year 6	Key Stage 2 SATs - English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Papers 1 and 2	
Tuesday 12 th May		Year 6	Key Stage 2 SATs - English Reading	
Wednesday 13 th May		Year 6	Mathematics Papers 1 and 2	
Thursday 14 th May		Year 6	Mathematics Paper 3	
Thursday 14 th May	2:45pm	Reception - Gold Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Thursday 21 st May	2:45pm	Nursery - Silver & Ruby Classes	Workshop - parents invited	Hall
Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th May		All	Half-Term	
Monday 1 st June		All	Children return to school	
Saturday 6 th June		All	Summer Fayre - organised by Friends of HRPS	

Summer Term Events

Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Monday 8 th June		All	School photographs for class groups and siblings. Please ensure children have their full uniform in school for their photograph.	
Monday 8 th - Friday 12 th June		Year 1	Phonics Screening Week	
Thursday 11 th June	2:45pm	Year 5 - Amber Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Monday 15 th June		Year 2	SATs Week - English	
Tuesday 16 th June	9:30-11:00am	Years 1 and 2	Sports Day	Field
Tuesday 16 th June	1:30-3:00pm	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	Sports Day	Field
Wednesday 17 th June	9:30-10:30am	Nursery and Reception	Sports Day	Field
Wednesday 17 th June	1:30-2:30pm	Nursery (afternoon children)	Sports Day	Field
Thursday 18 th June	2:45pm	Year 5 - Emerald Class	Class Assembly - parents invited	Hall
Monday 22 nd June		Year 2	SATs Week - Maths	
Monday 22 nd June	2:15-3:00pm	Reception	Reception Graduation Day	
Wednesday 24 th June	1:30-2:30pm	Reception	Visit to the library	
Friday 26 th June	10:00-11:30am 1:30-2:30pm	Year 2 Year 1	Visit to the library	
Monday 6 th July	2:15-3:00pm	Nursery	Nursery Graduation Day	
Friday 17 th July		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 Leader
Lead Practitioner
Miss M Davidson



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-Stavriniades at: ptahrps@gmail.com if you would like to find out more information.

JOIN AN iROCK BAND TODAY

iRock

There are spaces in bands at your school
secure a spot and join the fun!

At iRock, children experience the thrill of being in a band! Led by our passionate and professional Band Coaches, our weekly 30-minute in-school band lessons are designed for pupils from from age 4 to 11.

Music for all!

Through our partnership with RSL Awards (Ofqual-regulated), a global provider of creative and performing arts qualifications, iRock offers exam-free music qualifications as part of our curriculum. Each week, children build their musical skills, confidence, and teamwork as they progress through iRock lessons, all within a welcoming and inclusive environment where every child feels they belong.

Feel like a rockstar!

The excitement culminates every term in a live concert, where children perform as a band for their families and peers. These performances sit at the heart of the iRock curriculum, bringing together the skills children have developed in lessons while offering more than just a showcase; they provide an opportunity to build self-esteem, strengthen confidence, and experience the joy of accomplishment.

Choose your instrument...



VOCALS



GUITAR



DRUMS



KEYS



Hassle-free, rolling **monthly subscription***



No experience needed and all instruments are provided



Every lesson supports progress towards music qualifications with **RSL Awards**



Parents/guardians can access our **online portal** for updates, pictures and videos



First lesson money-back guarantee (and you can cancel at anytime)



Start your child's
iRock journey!

ENROL NOW

> www.irockschool.com/enrol

📞 0330 174 2655

✉ info@irockschool.com

*Monthly cost shown after selecting your child's school (before enrolment is confirmed).



Central
Bedfordshire
Libraries

Eggs-travaganza

Houghton Regis Library

Tuesday 7 April

10am to 2pm



Easter Scavenger Hunt
around Bedford Square

Make a Bunny Mask

Sponsored by: Cllr Susan Goodchild & Cllr Chloe Alderman

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





FREE online talk by
Jane Keyworth

FACE family Advice Lead Facilitator

Decreasing Depression

23rd April 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Parents - Live Talks page

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.

