

# Where everyone matters and every day counts



## Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter Friday 27th June 2025

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Our week started with a very busy and engaging workshop for parents in Nursery. There were a range of fun and interactive activities for the children and parents. Thank you to the staff for organising this workshop.



A reminder that some of our parent workshops are yet to take place. Please see below:

Date	Time	Year Group	Details— all workshops will take place in the hall
Tuesday 1st July	2:00-3:00pm	4	Art/Design & Technology
Wednesday 2nd July	2:00-3:00pm	2	Design & Technology
Thursday 3rd July	2:00-3:00pm	3	Science

On Tuesday evening we held our 'New to Reception' meeting, which was very well attended. We are looking forward to welcoming our existing and new families to our school in September, as the children start the next chapter of their educational journey. If you were unable to attend the meeting, please contact the school office and they will provide you with the relevant information.

On Wednesday, our children in year 2 visited Ashridge Bunkhouse. They had a fantastic time and they were commended for their excellent behaviour. The staff at the centre commented.. *"the children were exceptionally good and well-focused. They were polite, interested and enthusiastic. We all enjoyed working with them...and with the adults, all of whom helped the children to get the most out of the day."*



Our fun-packed week ended with a beautiful performance from our choir. They sang with enthusiasm and passion. Thank you to Mrs March for arranging this event.

Well done to our year 6 children for raising over £400 from their Enterprise Fair! They showed fantastic entrepreneurial skills and were confident in persuading people to purchase their products. Due to the success of this event, there will be another fair on Thursday 3rd July from 3:15-3:45pm. Thank you for your support with raising funds to contribute to the end of year 6 leavers' event.

Next week, we are expecting much hotter weather. We have the following measures in place:

- Fans are located in every classroom and are switched on early in the mornings
- The shaded areas and gazebos on the field are being used
- Children have the option to go to cooler rooms at lunchtime
- Children take their water bottles and sun hats outside with them

Please ensure all children come to school with a water bottle and sunhat. We recommend that sun cream is applied before the children come to school.

Friends of HRPS (formerly known as the PTA) will continue to sell ice pops after school.

Next week, we will begin our transition sessions to prepare children for the next phase of their education. A letter outlining key information and dates will be sent home on Monday.

Wishing you all a safe and wonderful weekend. I look forward to seeing you next week.

**Mrs R Parmar**

## VALUE OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE:

### Independence

the quality of being able to do things on your own without relying on others.



## 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](http://www.kidzzoneclub.com).

## Bikes and Scooters

A reminder that children must not be scooting or riding their bikes on the school premises before school and at the end of the day. Staff patrolling the playground will be reminding children to 'walk their wheels' in order to keep everyone safe by preventing any accidents from happening.



## School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is:

Nursery—£2.40

Years 3-6—£2.60

This can be paid via SchoolGrid.

## Studybugs QR Code



## Attendance Winners

EYFS/KS1: Gold with 98%

KS2: Amber with 97%

**Whole School Attendance:**  
**94.3%**

## Housepoint Winners

EYFS/KS1:

**Sandringham—35 points**

KS2:

**Balmoral—49 points**

**Overall Winning House:**

**Balmoral—76 points**



## *Tribute to Mrs Yvonne Riddell*

Earlier this week, we were saddened to hear the news that Mrs Riddell, one of our retired long serving members of staff, passed away.

Mrs Bonney, one of our retired teachers, has written a heartfelt piece about Mrs Riddell.

Yvonne began working at HRPS soon after the National Literacy Strategy was brought into schools in 1998. Initially, she joined as a Literacy Support Assistant, working in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 supporting pupils in developing their skills with Reading and Writing.



Her first love though, was the Early Years, and as a Nursery Nurse, she soon found herself working with our Nursery and Reception children, a role she devoted herself to, with dedication for over 20 years. Many members of our parent body will have fond memories of her kind, but no-nonsense approach to developing their independence and learning when they were themselves pupils at our school. Yvonne was creative, never happier than when supporting young minds to explore and express themselves through Art and Design, construction and sand and water play. Staff have fond memories of Yvonne and her trail of small children clutching trays of cookery, heading like ducklings, across the school on an adventure, to place their baking in the oven. The school, filled for the morning with the smell of bread, cakes and pastries which she had guided our youngest children to prepare.

She was passionate about helping our youngest pupils develop their learning as practically and as enjoyably as possible. She could often be found setting up engaging investigations with water, paint, fabric and modelling both in classrooms and in the Outdoor Environment.

Her Northern humour and phrasing lead many a parent to affectionately remark upon how their child came home talking about a 'bath' or a 'path' using an 'a' not an 'ar' phoneme. Many pupils will remember Mrs Riddell wearing her glasses on a chain around her neck, often having to help her look for them when, in an absent-minded moment, she had put them down. Much fun and merriment could often be heard from her corner of the Early Years rooms.

Towards the end of her time at HRPS, Yvonne moved to support pupils within Key Stage 1. Her experience with younger children proving invaluable to support those learners who were more vulnerable and needed to revisit and secure Foundation Stage objectives within the Key Stage 1 curriculum.

Yvonne gave much of her own time to the wider curriculum of the school. For many years she spent time providing and delivering after school Gardening and Art Clubs to children from Early Years to Year 6. She was an avid supporter of School Fayres and events, often bringing along her older grandchildren to help with the stalls and support with fund raising. If there was an opportunity to dress up for discos, picnics or World Book Day, then Yvonne embraced this whole heartedly, entertaining the Early Years children with a plethora of costumes, songs and games.

Once Yvonne decided to retire, she did not leave our local community. Many past and present pupils were thrilled to see her several times a week volunteering at Houghton Hall Park in both the Kitchen Gardens and at the many events within the park aimed at children, which enabled her to extend that interaction with the young people that she had devoted her career to.

*Please join me in sending condolences to the family from all of us at Houghton Regis Primary School and from the local community. Mrs Riddell will be missed by us all.*

## ***Meet our Leadership Team***



**Interim  
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**  
**Miss M Davidson**



**Upper Key Stage 2  
Leader**  
**Miss E Naisby**



## EARLY YEARS

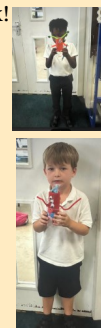
### Nursery

This week, we have been getting involved in all things summer, from learning about sea life and how to protect our oceans to discussions about trips to the beach. The children have been enjoying creating ice-creams using shaving foam, food colouring and adding their own toppings. Sensory role play is crucial in Early Years as it fosters a wide range of developmental skills. It allows children to explore materials, texture and movements, building fine and gross motor skills, confidence and creativity.



### Reception

We had lots of fun reading 'Aliens Love Underpants' this week! The children loved joining in with the story and exploring all the silly surprises in the illustrations. In maths, we have been practising subtraction by using practical objects and playing simple games to help us understand "taking away" and "how many are left." During PE, we have been learning how to play games with rules, developing our listening skills, teamwork, and turn-taking — important skills for both play and learning. In our Jigsaw PSHE sessions, we have been talking about feelings and how we might feel when moving to a new class. We have shared our thoughts, represented our feelings, and talked about ways to help ourselves and each other feel confident about change. As always, thank you for your continued support!



## KEY STAGE 1

### Year 1

This week, we have been learning about what a persuasive advert is. The text we will be looking at is called 'Join Our Jungle Crew' and we have linked this with the book called 'The Proudest Blue'. We found lots of features from a persuasive advert text such as deals and bargains, direct address, alliteration, repetition, lists, facts and statistics, exaggerated language and rhetorical questions.



### Year 2

On Wednesday, we went on a fantastic school trip to Ashridge Bunkhouse. We were able to use our scientific knowledge about habitats and apply this in a woodland environment. We were so clever and well-behaved that the ladies in charge sent an email to thank us for all being so good.



## LOWER KEY STAGE 2

### Year 3

This week, we have really enjoyed our geography lessons. We have been looking closely at our European neighbours. The children have enjoyed identifying the countries, flags, currencies and languages. Many of our children were able to share information about their own countries. These moments are invaluable for children and it is wonderful that the teachers can learn something new too.



### Year 4

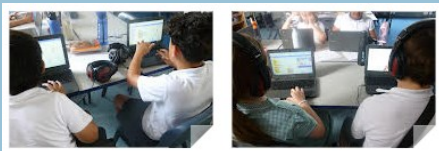
In Science, we have been exploring how to identify and classify living things. The children investigated a variety of characteristics, including feathers, fur, scales, leaves, and flowers. They also learned how to distinguish between vertebrates (animals with backbones) and invertebrates (animals without backbones). Using their research, they further grouped living things into key categories: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and plants. To show their understanding, the pupils created their classification flow charts—an excellent way to visually represent how living things are sorted based on their features. The children also received their results from the MTC check taken in May. The results were fantastic, and Miss Rogers and Mrs Jenkins are extremely proud of the effort and commitment the children showed.



## UPPER KEY STAGE 2

### Year 5

This week, year 5 children have been completing mock SATs papers for English and maths. They have worked extremely hard (even with the warm weather!) and we are hoping that this prepares them for their transition into year 6. In computing, the children have been using the Scratch programme to design quiz questions creating a variety of answers including sounds. They have also learnt the vocabulary for spring and summer months/seasons in Spanish - they should be able to share these words with you!



### Year 6

This week, we set up our own businesses. The children had to come up with a business plan which included the name of their business, the products they planned to sell and set the prices. The children have been very creative and enjoyed making and putting together their products to sell. Yesterday, they sold their products to the rest of the school. They all had the confidence to sell their products. Well done- we are very proud of you all!



## HEADTEACHER AWARDS



### **Congratulations to the following children:**

<i>Early Years</i>	<i>Elizabeth U, Riley T, Myra A, Elvin S, Aria P, Saoirse H</i>
<i>Years 1 &amp; 2</i>	<i>Ethan H, Honey-Beau Y, Jake L, George T</i>
<i>Years 3 &amp; 4</i>	<i>Lilly S, Mia C-T, Ellie S, Connor D</i>
<i>Years 5 &amp; 6</i>	<i>Alisia C, Sadiq M-E, Cristian M, Kimberley F</i>



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Office:**

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### **Nursery:**

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### **Reception and Key Stage 1:**

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### **SENDCo:**

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### **Family Support Worker:**

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### **Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2:**

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william@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

charles@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

## *Upcoming Events:*

Day	Date	Time	Year Group	Event
Monday	23 June		Year 2	Key Stage 1 SATs—Reading, Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling
Monday	23 June	2:15-3:00pm	Nursery	Parent workshop—Maths
Tuesday	24 June		Year 2	Key Stage 1 SATs—Reading, Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling
Tuesday	24 June	5:00-6:00pm	Nursery	New to Reception Meeting
Thursday	26 June	3:00-4:00pm	Year 6	Year 6 Enterprise Fair—held on the playground. There will be various items to purchase, ranging from 50p—£2.
Wednesday	25 June		Year 2	Trip to Ashridge
Friday	27 June	2:45pm	Choir	Performance to parents
Tuesday	1 July	2:00-3:00pm	Year 4	Parent workshop—Art/Design & Technology
Wednesday	2 July		Year 2	Key Stage 1 SATs —Maths
Wednesday	2 July	2:00-3:00pm	Year 2	Parent workshop—Design & Technology
Thursday	3 July		Year 2	Key Stage 1 SATs —Maths
Thursday	3 July	2:00-3:00pm	Year 3	Parent workshop—Science
Thursday	3 July	3:15-3:45pm	Year 3	Year 6 Enterprise Fair
Tuesday	8 July		Year 6	Key Stage 2 SATs results
Tuesday	8 July	5:00-6:00pm	Year 6	End of year production
Wednesday	9 July	9:30-10:30am	Year 6	End of year production
Thursday	10 July	2:00-3:00pm	Year 6	End of year production
Monday	21 July	9:15-10:00am	Year 6	Leavers' Assembly
Monday	21 July	4:30-6:00pm	Year 6	Leavers' Party
Tuesday	22 July		All children	Last day of term—school closes at 2pm

FACE delivers online support via zoom for parents across the UK  
Talks are 90 minutes long, £24 each or FREE with a school membership code  
Book Online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk) on the PARENTS page



Schools can purchase a  
**FACE School Annual Membership**  
which means **ALL parents** and **ALL staff**  
get unlimited **FREE access** to **ALL 16** parent talks

Thursday  
31<sup>st</sup> July  
19:00 - 20:00  
**FREE**



### Supporting Healthy Screen Use

Screens are here to stay.  
Identifying the issues and step by step guide  
to reduce the negative impact.

Monday  
21<sup>st</sup> July

10:00 - 11:30

£24

recording available



### Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes and giving  
practical interventions. Clear explanation of  
the condition in all its forms and extremely  
useful advice.

Monday  
28<sup>th</sup> July

10:00 - 11:30

£24

recording available



### Facing Defiance

Specific strategy to help parents manage  
defiant and challenging behaviour,  
especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA  
conditions, 5 to 12 years old.

Tuesday  
29<sup>th</sup> July

10:00 - 11:30

£24

recording available



### Anxiety Based School Avoidance

Understanding and supporting children  
who are anxious about school.  
Steps you can take to help them back  
into the classroom.



# July Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long  
Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](https://facefamilyadvice.co.uk) Recordings available for 48 hours

Understanding Anger	1 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	1 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 July 10am
Anxiety Explained	8 July 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	14 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	14 July 7pm
Decreasing Depression	15 July 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	15 July 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	21 July 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	21 July 7pm
Autism Improving Communication	22 July 10am
Improving Family Communication	22 July 7pm
Facing Defiance	28 July 10am



# ***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](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/missing-school)

