

Where everyone matters and every day counts



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter Friday 27th September 2019

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

A very warm welcome back to all our returning families as well as those coming to our school for the first time. Many of the children have been excited about sharing their holiday news and it sounds like you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer. We are looking forward to a new academic year with many exciting events already planned for the Autumn Term.

It has been lovely to see the children settle well into their new classes with their teachers and teaching assistants. All staff and children have been keen and enthusiastic to continue with the fantastic learning that we have here at Houghton Regis Primary School.

For those of you who are new to the school, we send out a newsletter on the last Friday of every month, which can be downloaded from our school website. If you would prefer a paper copy, please ask at the School Office.

You may have noticed that Mrs Waite has not been in school. She had an operation on her foot over the summer holidays and is recovering well. She will be back at school next week and we are all looking forward to her return.

A huge thank you to everyone that contributed so generously towards our Harvest festival. These donations have now been shared within the local community to help support families in need.

The Wildlife Trust visited our school this week to work with children in Years 3-6. They took part in a workshop and used our Forest School area to discuss food chains and habitats in the local area.

We were very pleased to welcome Councillors Susan Goodchild and Clare Coppleston to our school this week. They met with our School Parliament to discuss new initiatives that are being introduced in the local town.

Thank you to all the families who donated cakes towards MacMillan Coffee Morning today and an even bigger thank you to those of you who were able to attend.

We have been receiving many Team GB stickers from Aldi. Please keep them coming in!

A reminder that children must be collected promptly at the end of the school day, which is at 3:10pm.

Have a lovely weekend and see you next week.

Mrs R Parmar

VALUE OF THE MONTH: Mindfulness

Mindfulness is the process of bringing one's attention to experiences occurring at the present moment.



Kidz Zone Before and After School Club Information

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

Parent Mail

As we start the new academic year, please can all parents reconnect with ParentMail to approve any changes and keep your details up to date.

Absence Procedures

If your child is absent, please ensure you contact the School Office to notify us and leave a message if we are unable to answer your call.

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is £2.25 payable by cash or cheque to Jackie Cook in the School Kitchen.

Class Attendance Winners for June

EYFS/KS1: Green Class with 97.1%

KS2: Red Class with 96%

Whole School Attendance: 92%

Housepoint Winners

EYFS/KS1: Hawks with 58 points

KS2: Eagles with 203 points

Overall Winning House: Eagles with 242 points

Our Learning

EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

We are so proud of the way the children in Silver Class have settled in! They have come into school full of confidence and happiness. It has been an exciting few weeks, where the children have been learning about the routines and expectations during the session. Thank you for allowing the children to come into nursery independently and with book bags!

The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about ladybirds. We have been singing songs, painting drawing and printing ladybirds, counting ladybird spots, enjoying stories and even making ladybird biscuits.

The children have been fascinated by the cocoons as we have also been learning all about the lifecycle of the butterfly. They have enjoyed tasting all the fruit from 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' story, and making caterpillars and butterflies. They have had a very exciting few weeks!

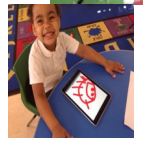
The children have settled beautifully into Gold Class and they are coping well with the new routines and structure in Reception. They come into school in the morning so sensibly and they are showing independence in hanging up their coats, putting their bags away and then settling onto the carpet for our morning challenge. We spent the first couple of weeks settling in and finding out about the children and their families. They have painted some fantastic self-portraits which are proudly displayed in the classroom. We have begun our phonics sessions focussing on a sound a day and the children are developing some good blending and segmenting skills already. We have been working on holding our whiteboard pens correctly to form letters and write our names.

The children have enjoyed a variety of role-play and creative opportunities both inside and outside and we have been making the most of the lovely sunny weather.

Our P.E lessons have begun and the children are working very hard on being able to undress and dress themselves independently.

Last week we were very excited to begin our topic for this half term which is 'It's a Bug's Life' where we are exploring all things creepy crawlly. We began learning about ladybirds and we have been counting lots of spots and finding the matching number. We even went to the forest school area to see if we could find any! This week we began exploring caterpillars; we have our very own ones in the classroom. Each day we have been observing the changes that are happening and we are so excited for the day when they become butterflies.

We are so proud of the children and all they have achieved in just a few weeks; well done Gold Class!



KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

Year One children have all settled into Key Stage One and have been enjoying joining in with routines such as playtimes, lunchtimes and P.E. The new trim trail has been a particular success with lots of children proudly demonstrating their independence. The Year 2 children have come back with increased maturity and are enjoying the responsibility of their new roles. Our current topic is 'Predators'. We have learned lots of scientific vocabulary such as: prey, predator, carnivore, herbivore and omnivore. We have begun to learn about life cycles and food chains. We have linked our learning to English where our weekly texts have explored owls and dinosaurs. In 'Owl Babies' we explored using adjectives to describe a character. Whilst reading 'The owl who was afraid of the dark' we practised sequencing the story and created a new chapter. Now we have moved on to looking at predators from long ago, which of course means 'Dinosaurs', which is proving very popular. We are reading 'Tyrannosaurus Drip' by Julia Donaldson and continuing to use adjectives, this time to describe the settings that the two different sorts of dinosaurs live in. We are looking forward to learning more about dinosaurs through our History and Science lessons over the next few weeks.



Green Class have enjoyed exploring Forest School. We collected natural materials which we used to create artwork linked to our story 'The owl who was afraid of the dark.' The children were engrossed in the task and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to take their learning outside. Orange Class have really enjoyed learning our Harvest Festival songs, including one of Mrs Skelton's ultimate favourites, 'Cauliflowers fluffy'. The children's beautiful, enthusiastic singing contributed to a successful whole school Harvest assembly. Purple Class have been enjoying PE. We have been using the wall bars in the Hall each week and we are proud to say we can now get them out without any adult help. We have also been using the hockey equipment outside and exploring the difference between controlling and passing the ball on the different surfaces of the playground and the field. All the children in Years 1 and 2 have made a fantastic start to the new school year and the staff are all very proud of them.

Keep up the great work in Key Stage One.

Our Learning

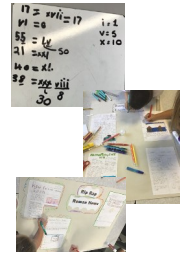
LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

Throughout September, Years 3 and 4 have been learning about place value and partitioning our numbers to support us in our understanding of number. We have also moved on to reading and writing in roman numerals. Red class were fabulous at cracking the Roman codes!

Our English lessons have been lots of fun, writing in different non-fiction contexts such as: fact files, chronological reports and creating news boards. We have then transformed our news boards to create a drama piece, presenting the news to the rest of our class. Yellow class have created fantastic news boards and thoroughly enjoyed performing these to the rest of their class.

During our Science lessons, we have been learning about forces. This has led to various experiments to find out how forces work. We have held discussions about the force of gravity and investigated which surfaces can cause friction during our push and pull lessons. We have even measured in newtons using our force meters.

We had the opportunity to be part of a new outreach program from The Wildlife Trust. They came in and delivered a “Living in the Landscape” activity session which was enjoyed by all the children. A giant illustrated map was unveiled of the Chiltern Hills showing Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis, man-made features such as roads and railways and natural features such as rivers and chalk grassland nature reserves. The children located their school on the map and the WT nature reserves show how they are all part of this living landscape. Blue class enjoyed this experience and taking part in the Plant Patrol and Bug Hunt in the Forest School.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE

In Year 5 and 6, in Maths, we have been covering place value and number. 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 ‘The Explorer’ by Katherine Rundell, which has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres, for example non-chronological reports, narrative writing, diary entry and newspaper reports. The children really enjoyed being able to create their own survival kits based on what they thought they needed to survive in the Amazon Rainforest.

This term our topic in Science is Living Things and Their Habitats, where the children have been classifying animals based on their similarities and differences. We also had a visit from the Wildlife Trust, where we learnt about local animals and their habitats.

We have immersed ourselves into the topic of The Americas, which the children have shown great enthusiasm for. We started off by locating countries and cities in The Americas on a map and then we described the climates and biomes for specific areas.

Amber Class have enjoyed learning how to use spreadsheets in Computing. They have learnt how to use a formula to help them work out calculations.

Sapphire Class have been able to develop their football skills in their outdoor PE sessions. They have been working in teams and have been learning to work together.

Emerald Class have enjoyed expressing themselves through Street Dance in their indoor PE lessons. They have been learning different street dance moves as well as devising poses of their own, and exploring how to integrate them all into a dance sequence.



Upcoming Events:

Phonics Workshop

Thursday 3rd October at 5:00pm

Maths Curriculum Workshop for parents in class

Tuesday 8th October

Kingswood Parent Meeting

Thursday 10th October at 8:15am or 5:00pm

Birds of Prey Visit for Years 1 & 2

Friday 11th October

Parents' Consultation Evenings

Tuesday 15th October 3:30pm-6:00pm

Thursday 17th October 4:00-7:00pm

Half-Term Week

Monday 21st October—Friday 25th October

Red Class Assembly

Thursday 31st October at 9:00am