



Growing minds, shaping futures and inspiring lifelong learning

Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter

Friday 28th November 2025



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

Dear Parents, Carers & Children,

I would like to start by thanking the Friends of HRPS for organising an excellent disco last week. The children had a fabulous time, as did the staff! Congratulations to the boys in Years 5 and 6 who won the dance off - there were some creative dance moves!

This week, I have been delighted to hear the sounds of Christmas throughout the school, from nativity rehearsals to Christmas carol singing. Our nativities for Reception children are taking place next week - please see the 'Autumn Term Events' page further along for dates and times. If you have not done so already, please reserve your space for these performances via ClassDojo.

We regularly host teacher trainees from the Chiltern Training Group and this week, we welcomed ten trainees. They had the opportunity to observe our teachers and then take this practice forward to plan and deliver their own lessons. As always, the children were welcoming and receptive and their behaviour was impeccable - we are extremely proud of our children and our staff.

Miss Naisby and Mrs Jones held a meeting this week to share information about our upcoming year 5 residential visit. Thank you to all who were able to attend this meeting. If you were unable to attend, please feel free to speak to Miss Naisby for further information.

On Tuesday, we are hosting a coffee morning which will be delivered by the SNAP Parent Carer Forum. The details can be found on the poster further along in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there.

Next week, we will be hosting a boys' football tournament, where schools in the local area will be attending. We are looking forward to welcoming these schools and hoping we can make it through to the league finals!

Our school Christmas dinner and jumper day is being held on Wednesday 17th December. The menu options are available on School Grid and if your child will be having a school dinner on this day, we ask that you select your child's option at least 2 weeks in advance.

We have noticed that many children are bringing in uncut grapes as a snack or as part their packed lunch. A polite reminder that grapes must be cut in half lengthways to prevent choking. We thank you for your support with this matter.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. I look forward to seeing you on the gate on Monday morning.

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/KS1: Coral with 99%
KS2: Emerald with 97%
Whole School: 92%

Housepoint Winners

Brunel - 26 points
Bell - 25 points
Curie - 21 points
Johnson - 17 points

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children:

Early Years: Noah A, Aleena R, Reya S, Emily B

Years 1 & 2: Adam B, Hetty C, Arbur A, iosua U

Years 3 & 4: Crystal C, George T, Ayaan M, Olivia G

Years 5 & 6: Lilly-May G, Sophia D, Zara A



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

Is your child due to start school in September 2026?

If you have a child due to start Reception in September 2026, applications need to be made via the Central Bedfordshire School Admissions portal

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions/496/apply_for_a_new_lower_or_primary_school_place

The deadline for applications is **Thursday 15th January 2026** and you are encouraged to use all 3 preferences and name 3 different schools closest to your catchment. If you would like to book a visit to our school or if you require any support with the online application, please do come and speak to a member of our school admin team.

Bronze Awards - 100 Dojo Points



Our learning this week...

In the heart of the callous city there lived a girl who was as hard as the streets. All knew her as the meanest, cruellest and most devious girl around. With tattered clothes and a hardened expression she had mastered the art of pick pocketing, deception and survival.

adverbial
relative clause / simile
comma for a list
Subordinate clause
deceive
comma for a list

A girl
She
her

The young thief
street rat
homeless
youngster



English

Common Proper (start with a capital letter)

Verbs to be
am are is ← present (now)
was were ← past tense

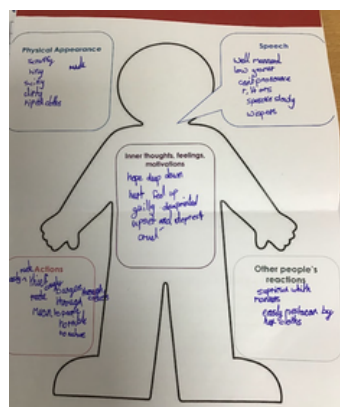
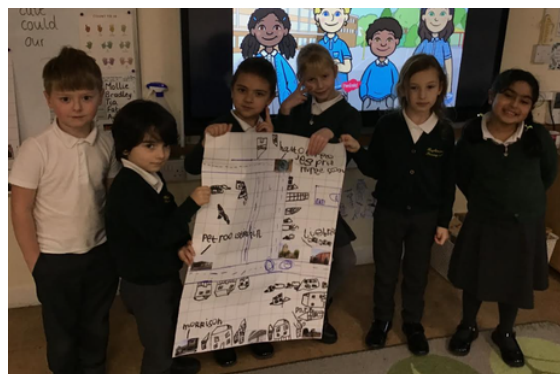
Nouns names of things, places and people

Common noun: general (lots of)
Proper noun: specific (the one and only)

Verbs to have
has have ← present
had ← past

Regular action verbs
jumped kicked

Irregular verbs
see → saw can not use suffix -ed!
eat → ate
run → ran



10 Less	Number	10 more
4 6	5 6	6 6

Autumn Term Events

Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Tuesday 2 nd December	9:00-10:30am	All	SNAP Parent Carer Forum	Hall
Tuesday 2 nd December	2:15-3:00pm	Reception	Nativity - parents invited	Hall
Wednesday 3 rd December	1:30-2:30pm	Reception	Nativity Trail	School Grounds
Thursday 4 th December	9:15-10:00am	Reception	Nativity - parents invited	Hall
Monday 8 th December	2:00-3:00pm	Year 1	Nativity - parents invited	Hall
Tuesday 9 th December	9:15-10:00am	Year 1	Nativity - parents invited	Hall
Tuesday 16 th December	2:00-3:00pm	Year 2 & Choir	Christmas Carol Concert	All Saints Church
Wednesday 17 th December		All	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day— children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform	
Thursday 18 th December	9:15am	Nursery	Jingle & Mingle - parents invited	Hall
Thursday 18 th December	2:15pm	Nursery	Jingle & Mingle - parents invited	Hall
Friday 19 th December	2:00pm	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 & Key Stage 1 Leader
Lead Practitioner
Miss M Davidson



Deputy 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-Stavrinides at: 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 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





PINS is a national project that brings health professionals, educators, and experienced parent carers together to support primary schools.

Welcome from SNAP Parent Carer Forum!

We are inviting you to join our first PINS Coffee Event

Date: 2nd December 2025

From: 9.00am To: 10.30am

Place: Houghton Regis Primary

Each session will be themed and for our first session we will be introducing SNAP Parent Carer Forum, the PINS project, as well as the 6C's framework.

We are looking forward to meeting you and hearing about your parent carer experience, and that of your child.

The Goal

To help every child feel included, understood, and supported—especially those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

PINS is designed to:

- ✓ Help schools improve how they support children with SEND
- ✓ Offer early help to children who may be struggling - with or without a diagnosis
- ✓ Provide training for school staff to build skills and confidence
- ✓ Enhance communication and partnerships between schools and families

MORE INFORMATION



For more information please email
PINS@snappcf.org.uk and see our PINS webpage

Central
Bedfordshire
Libraries

Central
Bedfordshire

great
lifestyles

Christmas Storyteller

Houghton Regis Library

Saturday 29th November

10am-11am & 12pm-1pm

Come along to one of our two Christmas sessions hosted by Puppet Theatre Maker & Artist Charlotte Read!

Enjoy a hilarious story, Christmas arts & crafts and a lovely present to keep at the end.

Visit Houghton Regis library or call 0300 300 8058 to reserve a slot.

CHARLOTTE READ CREATIVE

Puppets. Theatre. Art.



Slots cost £1 and both sessions will be at Houghton Regis Library. Slots are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Please note this event is for children **ages 3+**, but accompanying parents and guardians don't need to pay for slots themselves.



Houghton Regis Primary School – Parent Governor Vacancy

Governor Position Available

Houghton Regis Primary School is seeking a committed individual to fill a vacancy for a Parent Governor. This position is ideal for someone with the skills and dedication needed to contribute to the school's effective governance and ongoing success.

Who are our School governors?

Given the nature of our school, our governors comprise a mixed parents, local authority members, staff members and other members of the community who work with the school's leadership team. See our page on the school website for a personal statement of each member.

What do School Governors do?

Governors are 'overseers' of the school and the employers in law of school staff. Whilst the day-to-day running of the school and operational decisions are the responsibility of the school's leadership team, the governors are responsible for the long-term strategic decisions regarding the school. In particular, governors have three core functions:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, striving to ensure that each child obtains the best education possible and ensure the safety and security of the child whilst at our school
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is spent most effectively to the benefit of our children.

The governing board also decides school policy and ensures that the school complies fully with statutory safeguarding procedures. The Governing body is often referred to as "a challenging friend" to the school leadership team.

Expectations of an Effective Parent Governor

As an effective Parent governor, you will be expected to:

- Support the aims and ethos of the school
- Visit the school regularly to become familiar with its environment and operations
- Work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team, and fellow governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
- Prepare thoroughly for meetings by reading relevant papers in advance
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development, including attending governor training sessions
- Attend all full governing board and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for their full duration
- Stay informed by reading briefings and newsletters for governors
- Support and remain loyal to decisions made by the governing board
- Respect the confidentiality of governing board discussions and affairs
- Declare any interests and withdraw from meetings where you, a partner, close relative, or associate could benefit or where impartiality could be compromised
- Uphold the broader responsibilities of a governor in a public institution, including promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing board.

The role of a Parent Governor is distinct to your role as a Parent with a child at the school and it is important to distinguish between those two different roles.

Support and Training

Appropriate support, free training, and resources are available for all members of governing boards. This includes:

- Induction training, which all governors are expected to complete within the first six months of their appointment
- Access to a comprehensive, high-quality training and development programme designed to support improvements in leadership, management, and governance

Our existing governing body members are generally allocated to particular area of oversight including Accommodation, Early Years, Finance, Health & Safety, Pay, Safeguarding and School Development Plan. Whilst we try to ensure all areas are covered effectively we also seek to match the interest of any Governors to one of these areas of oversight wherever possible.

Time Commitment

Governors are expected to attend all full governing board meetings as well as committee meetings, as appropriate. There are approximately six meetings per calendar year. In addition to meetings, governors are expected to visit the school during the school day to monitor and evaluate practice—an essential part of the role. Governors are also often invited to attend school events, such as assemblies and sports days.

Time Off from Work

Under employment law, employers must provide employees who serve as school governors with reasonable time off to fulfil their duties. The amount of time off is agreed upon by the employee and employer, and in most cases, employers grant this time off with pay.

Following a recent audit of the governing board skills any one of the following experiences would be desirable for us although not essential:

- Links with local businesses
- Experience of Human Resources
- Experience of premises maintenance and facilities management

Increasing diversity is important for us to enable us to maintain good critical thinking. We would be delighted to hear from people with views and experiences that enable us to better represent children from different backgrounds. We would particularly encourage applicants from anyone who can represent the following groups which are currently not represented on our board and are under-represented.

- Asian / Asian British
- Black / Black British / Caribbean / African
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

What can we offer?

- A chance to develop skills in strategic leadership
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors, headteacher and senior leaders in driving school improvement
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school matters and governance roles
- A sense of achievement in making a difference and supporting children in our school
- Becoming part of the biggest volunteer workforce in the UK
- Chance to visit the school, meet teachers, hold discussions with subject leaders etc...
- Induction training and support
- Inclusion in a friendly team of professionals

Our vision:

When pupils leave Houghton Regis Primary School, they will be confident, independent and resilient citizens of the world who are open minded and ready to embrace their future.

Our values:

Happiness, Independence, Excellence, Respect, Ambition

Our ethos:

At Houghton Regis Primary School, we believe that every child has the right to a high-quality education in a safe and nurturing environment and our children have the potential to be worthy citizens of the world.

We believe that every child is capable of achieving their full potential and maximising their learning opportunities to excel in all that they do.

Our learning approach embraces our diverse community, reflecting our commitment as an inclusive school.

We expect our children to be ready, respectful and safe.

We are ambitious in promoting positive relationships with parents, carers and professionals so we can achieve the best outcomes for our pupils.

Wellbeing for our pupils, staff, parents and carers is at the heart of everything we do.

If you would just like to find out more, please contact:

Mr Tom Muldownie, Chair of governors, at governingbody@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

Mrs Rajneet Parmar, Headteacher, at office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

or chat in the playground to any of our parents who are already governors at Houghton Regis:

Mrs Sam O'Connell, Mrs Amy Knights-Allen

CHRISTMAS LUNCH DEC _____

MAIN MENU

Sliced Turkey Breast
with Chipolata Sausage
& Sage & Onion Stuffing
& Gravy

or

Roast Quorn Fillet
with Plant Sausage
& Sage & Onion Stuffing
& Gravy (Ve)

or

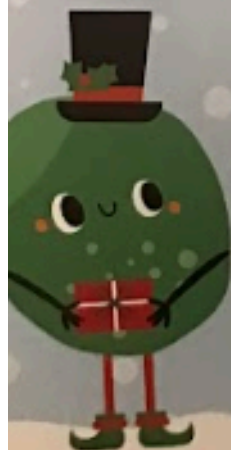
Plant Sausage & Gravy (Free From*) (Ve)

SERVED WITH

Roast Potatoes
with a Choice of Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT

Choice of Christmas Dessert



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