

Where everyone matters and every day counts



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter
Friday 28th February 2020

Acting Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Chair of Governors: Mrs J Mew

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back to the second half of Spring Term. We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing half-term. The children, as always, have been keen and eager to continue their learning in all areas of the curriculum.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all families who donated money towards our events that we held before half-term to raise money for different charities. We are pleased to announce that we raised £311.65 for the Australian Bush Fires and £946 for NSPCC during our Number Day. We are extremely grateful for your contributions and appreciate your continued support.

Our Valentine's Disco organised by the PTA was a huge success and we would like to thank all members of the PTA for their dedication and support with this event. The children and staff had a fantastic time and we look forward to the exciting upcoming events that the PTA committee has planned for this academic year.

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend our History Curriculum Workshop—there were many creative and fun activities planned and it was lovely to see parents getting involved in the workshops, that involved using clay and paint to explore historical topics. Our next Parent Workshop will be held during Science Week on Tuesday **10th March 9-10am**. We look forward to seeing you there.

Next week, we will be holding a Storytelling Themed Week to link in with World Book Week. The children will be taking part in a range of activities to enhance their literacy skills and experiences. There will also be several competitions being held in classes and the winners will be able to celebrate their work in assembly. Children are invited to dress up as a storybook character on Thursday 5th March, which is World Book Day.

Later this term, we will be holding Parents' Consultation Evenings. These will be on the following days:

Monday 16th March 2020: 4pm-7pm

Tuesday 17th March 2020: 3:30pm-6pm

You will be able to sign up for appointment times with your Class Teacher from next week.

The cost of school dinners is currently £2.25 and after Easter, this will be increasing to £2.30, effective from 21st April 2020. School dinners can be paid by cash or cheque (made payable to Luton Borough Catering) to Jackie Cook in the School Kitchen. We thank you for your support.

Unfortunately, we say goodbye to Mrs Gosling, our Teaching Assistant in Early Years, who has worked with us for the last few years. She will be leaving us next Wednesday. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the school and she will be greatly missed.


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

Mrs R Parmar

VALUE OF THE MONTH :

Enthusiasm

A feeling of energetic interest in a particular subject or activity and an eagerness to be involved in it.

Kidz Zone  Before and After School Club Information

A Holiday Club will be held on Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th February 2020. If you would like further information on Kidz Zone, please visit our website or book on www.kidzzoneclub.com.

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is £2.25. This can be paid by cash or cheque (made payable to Luton Borough Catering) to Jackie Cook in the School Kitchen. This will be increasing to £2.30 from 21st April 2020.

Class Attendance Winners for February 2020

EYFS/KS1: Gold Class 1 with 98.81%

KS2: Amber Class with 98.35%

Whole School Attendance: 95.31%

Housepoint Winners
EYFS/KS1: Kestrels with 79 points

KS2: Kestrels with 77 points

Overall Winning House: Kestrels with 156 points

Our Learning

EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

The children have been learning about Loud and Quiet and Night and Day during our Opposites topic. We made a bedroom in the role play area which the children particularly enjoyed and they read bedtime stories to each other and acted out the story 'Peace at Last', when Mr. Bear couldn't get to sleep. The children were fascinated by the story 'Owl Babies' and we had lots of discussions about which animals come out at night and they are beginning to remember the word nocturnal.

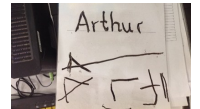
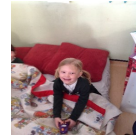
In Music, we have been singing Brown Bears hibernating and waking up song! They have thoroughly enjoyed stomping about like a bear who has just woken up and we have had lots of requests for repeating the song several times! We are very pleased with the way the children are enthusiastically beginning to write their names and we love seeing the sense of achievement on their faces as their writing improves. We had a History parent workshop where we looked at Now and Then. The children and staff brought in their baby photos and had great fun identifying who was who! Many thanks to the parents who were able to come and for joining in with the activities.

Our new topic since half term has been Are You Sitting Comfortably? We learnt about the author Julia Donaldson and enjoyed the book 'Room on a Broom.' The children have made potions and continued to learn about rhyming words. They love acting out the characters in PE. We also made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday talking about where the ingredients came from, how they changed when we combined them together and what the batter looked like as it cooked in the frying pan. They loved sampling the pancakes - well done Silver Class!

Gold Class have had a busy few weeks continuing our 'Opposites' theme. We heard the story of 'The Smartest Giant in Town' when learning about big and small. We sorted objects by size and thought about different words that mean big and small. We came up with 'huge, gigantic, enormous, and teeny tiny'. When learning about loud and quiet we read 'Peace at Last' and recalled all the noises that kept Mr Bear awake. We had a lovely Science afternoon exploring sound. We especially enjoyed using the sound cups and going for a listening walk.

We enjoyed the story 'Day Monkey, Night Monkey' when learning about night and day. We made lists of the things that we do during the day and at night and we learnt about some nocturnal animals. We hope you enjoyed joining us in our History session thinking about then and now. The children are learning how they and the world change over time. They enjoyed looking at their baby photos and exploring some toys from the past.

The children are surprising us daily with their reading and writing. We are so proud of how they are using their phonic skills to read and write words and sentences. They have been writing rhyming words, lists and speech bubbles and we are encouraging them to write about things that interest and excite them. In Mathematics sessions, we have been exploring pattern, estimation and subtraction. Keep up the fantastic work Gold Class!



KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

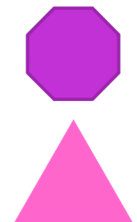
In Key Stage 1, we finished our 'Out of this World' topic by making a lunar vehicle. We designed, created and evaluated our moon buggies as a project to finish the term. We used recycled materials, straws and cardboard wheels which we assembled using different techniques including the use of a hot glue gun. In English, we learned how to write an instructional text. We began this activity by following instructions to make a Roly-poly Alien. This was a great success because we used our listening skills to follow the instructions accordingly. This was a fun way to explore how axles worked before we began to make our vehicles. We continued our alien theme by writing our own alien poems based on the poem '10 Thing found in an Alien's pocket'. We brainstormed ideas with our friends using our cooperative learning strategies and decided on the items to include in our poem. These included things such as comets, meteors and rockets.

In Maths, we have begun to explore Geometry including naming the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We have learned that the mathematical name for corners is 'vertices'. The children have enjoyed sorting the shapes into different categories such as 'number of faces'. We worked hard to complete word problems such as 'if I took the number of vertices on a triangle away from the number of vertices on an octagon, what number will I end up with?'

Green Class enjoyed decorating the main bodies of our moon buggies before assembling them. We used a range of art materials such as paper and tissue paper to add detail and texture.

Orange Class really enjoyed History Week. The children particularly liked creating cave paintings as a form of early communication.

Purple Class were really proud to perform our assembly about the moon landing to our classmates and our families. We loved learning the facts and the songs.



Our Learning

LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

During Maths, we have covered fractions and learnt how to convert these into decimals, which led on to our learning of measuring, including decimal units. We have practically used various measuring tools to support our understanding of this concept, looking at perimeters and areas of shapes. The children in Year 4 included compound shapes in this activity.

During English, we continued with our Charlie and the Chocolate Factory story and planned for and hosted a debate in our classrooms. The debate was based on whether Mr Willy Wonka was right or wrong for firing the workers and hiring Oompa Loompas instead. From our practical debate and hearing both sides of the argument we were then able to write a balanced argument.



In Science, we continued with our topic of States of Matter and used our scientific knowledge of melting to form our own chocolate sweets. We also investigated other materials to see how they would react to being left at room temperatures. We had a clear focus during this investigation to make it a fair test. We are excited about continuing our topic to complete our own investigations that we have researched for our homework.



During the last week of term, we had great fun completing our 'History Alive' week. We were lucky enough to have our parents and carers attend a lesson with us, where we chose a King or Queen to research. We then used this information to create a booklet about them. We used portrait style photos of these Kings and Queens to then transfer headshots of ourselves into Royal portraits from the past.

We still included our English and Maths skills in our learning during the week. In Maths, we were assigned to a Tudor person (a labourer, a parson or a merchant) and then given a budget to which we needed to plan a Tudor Banquet. We used our addition, subtraction, multiplication and money knowledge to solve and plan this. This information then transferred across to our English lessons, whereby we then needed to write up our menus. Towards the end of the week we wrote letters to the Queen, explaining what we had done during our 'History Alive' week and shared our learning.

We have begun our new topic, The UK, where we'll have the opportunity to explore the main countries of the UK (as well as their major cities), famous landmarks around the UK, the key rivers, seas and mountains, and the development and expansion of London. We have also begun our rehearsals for our production of 'Charlie and The Chocolate Factory'.

UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE

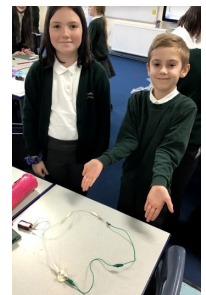
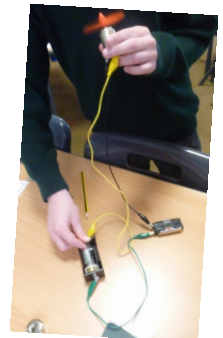
In Key Stage 2, we thoroughly enjoyed finishing our Ancient Egyptian topic during History week. We created canopic jars during our parent session, where the children chose one of the Egyptian gods to recreate using clay and add their own hieroglyphics. We also created a fact file about an Egyptian god, marked important landmarks in Egypt on a map, wrote a diary entry as a pyramid worker, created a travel brochure for Egypt, used drama to create an Egyptian story, used the Egyptian number system in Maths to solve number problems, made Egyptian games and created our own Egyptian dances.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of imperial and metric measurements. We are now beginning to look at area and perimeter of shapes. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been using our reasoning and problem solving skills to deepen our understanding.

In English, we are enjoying our new book; War Horse by Michael Morpurgo. We've already started analysing the characters from the first few chapters and we're now beginning to plan a balanced argument, debating over the treatment of the horse. We're also looking forward to World Book Day where we will be putting Goldilocks on trial and finding reasons as to why she is either guilty or innocent of her crimes against the Three Bears. We will need to convince a jury with our arguments, so we'll be making sure to use lots of persuasive and emotive language.

In Science, we have started our new topic of Electricity, where we've been using our current understanding of circuits and electrical concepts. We have enjoyed finding out how to make the bulb brighter, as well as discovering the impact of what happens when too many lightbulbs are added to a circuit with only one battery.

In Topic, we have started our topic of Leisure and Entertainment, where the children have learnt about how the cinema has changed since 1914 and the impact that TV at home has had on the cinema. Next we will be looking at how football changed over the 20th century and how people used to spend their leisure time through creating a sixties party.



Upcoming Events:

World Book Day—children are invited to dress up as a storybook character

Thursday 5th March

British Science Week—Our Diverse Planet

w/c Monday 9th March

Science Curriculum Workshop for parents in class

Tuesday 10th March 9-10am

Emerald Class Assembly

Thursday 12th March at 9am

Sports Relief Day

Friday 13th March

Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting for Parents

Friday 13th March at 8:30am and 5pm

Parents' Consultation Evenings

Monday 16th March 4pm-7pm

Tuesday 17th March 3:30pm-6pm

Voice In A Million Concert

Thursday 19th March

Years 3 & 4 Easter Production

Thursday 26th March 2pm and 6pm

Last Day of Term

Friday 3rd April

Easter Holidays

Monday 6th April—Friday 17th April

INSET Day

Monday 20th April

Children return to school

Tuesday 21st April