

Where everyone matters and every day counts



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter **Friday 28th June 2019**

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had an exciting second Summer half-term and the children have continued to embed their skills and learning in all areas of the curriculum, ready for next year.

The children in Year 6 had an amazing time during their visit to Kingswood. They all participated in the activities and had a positive experience. Thank you to all the staff who attended the trip.

A huge thank you to the families who were able to attend our Sports Day and watch their children take part in a range of sporting events, as well as races. We were pleased that the weather held out for us and the children showed excellent teamwork skills. Congratulations to the winning team Hawks, who scored a total of 6575 points.

Well done to Gold Class for their wonderful assembly performance. We are very proud of how the children were able to perform with confidence and enthusiasm in front of an audience.

We would like to commend Year 5 for their end of year production, 'The King of Lions'. Throughout this year, the children have grown in confidence and this was demonstrated particularly well throughout the performance with their fantastic singing, acting and creative skills when preparing costumes and props. A huge thank you to all members of staff for their hard work and commitment during rehearsals. I would also like to thank all parents for supporting their children with learning their lines and songs, as well as providing costumes.

It is that time of year again where we have our annual Summer Fayre on:

Saturday 29th June 11am-3pm. We invite all of the parents and children in for fun and games including a bouncy castle, a play area for under 5s, hook a duck, various tombolas, face painting and henna designs. Hot and cold food will be available from the Kitchen and refreshments will be available around various locations on the school field and playground. Members of the PTA have kindly requested for parents to donate cakes on Saturday for the cake stall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Year 5 visited the SI5 Spy Missions in Milton Keynes today and had an excellent time. They worked extremely well within their teams to solve the puzzles in each room.

Today, we were very fortunate to be visited by Nicola Barke, a Taekwondo champion. She held martial arts sessions with children across the school, who thoroughly enjoyed their workshops.

Children's end of year reports will be sent home on Friday 5th July for children in Nursery to Year 5. The children in Year 6 will receive their reports on Thursday 11th July, which will include their SATs results.

As the weather is becoming warmer, please ensure your child is provided with a named sunhat and a refillable water bottle. Sun cream should also be applied before your child comes to school.

Have a lovely weekend and see you next week.

Mrs B Waite & Mrs R Parmar

VALUE OF THE MONTH: Compassion

Compassion is sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.

Kidz Zone Before and After School Club Information

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

Nursery—30 hours

We are now offering 30 hours in our Nursery. Please contact HMRC to check your eligibility. If you qualify, you will need to pass your validation code to Mrs Taylor in the School Office as soon as possible.

School Money

If you have not yet signed up to School Money, please speak to the Office Staff. We will be cashless from September.

Class Attendance Winners for June

**EYFS/KS1: Green Class
with 97.5%**

**KS2: Blue Class with
97.7%**

**Whole School
Attendance:
95.9%**

Housepoint Winners

**EYFS/KS1: Falcons with 135
points**

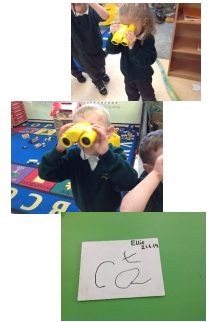
KS2: Falcons with 158 points

**Overall Winning House:
Falcons with 293 points**

Our Learning

EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

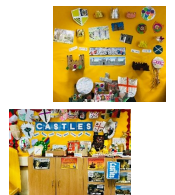
Our theme this month has been 'All Creatures Great and Small'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about all the animals in the jungle, zoo and farm. We painted jungle animals, made paper plate animals and had a safari role play area where we used recordable binoculars! We looked at two books 'Rumble in the Jungle' and 'Giraffes can't Dance'. Silver Class thought about an alternative ending to the story. They thought about how the other animals showed compassion to the giraffe and we discussed this as our value for June. The children are beginning to write initial sound or simple words for the animal they have drawn or painted. During our maths activities, we have been comparing two groups of animals and deciding if they contain the same amount of animals, then combining the two groups talking about how many altogether. The children have been using positional language such as the monkey is **on** the table and the monkey is **under** the chair. The children are learning that numbers can represent sets of objects and have been matching numbers to objects. We have also talked about how we can represent numbers in different ways such as with our fingers, drawing a certain amount of objects or writing the number. In our PE sessions we have been practising for our Sports Day. The children balanced the egg and spoon, kept the beanbag on their head, ran in the running race and the children's favourite jumping in the sack race! We talked about taking part was more important than winning. On the day the children were absolutely fantastic showing sportsmanship and perseverance! We were very proud of Silver Class and how well they behaved on the day. Thank you to all the parents that were able to come.



The children came back to Gold Class after the holiday with bags of energy and enthusiasm for our new topic this half term. We have been learning about 'All Creatures Great and Small' beginning with Safari Animals. We used the computer and non-fiction books to find out some information about the animals. The children then did a fantastic job of creating their own fact files. Lots of fun has been had in the safari lookout and we have heard some super language and vocabulary being used. Everyone has been very busy in the creative area making animal masks, safari pictures, musical shakers and African jewellery. Last week we read a story called 'Handa's Surprise' which is set in Kenya. The children were fabulous at recalling which animals stole which fruit from her basket. We tasted all the fruits from the story including some that we do not often have, such as guava and passion fruit. The next day we created a graph of our favourite fruit from the story; the winner was pineapple! The children also collected their own information using a tally chart to record it; they found out their friends' favourite dinner, colours and toys! The highlight though has to be the two special events that we had last week. I am sure you will all agree how fantastic the children were in our class assembly. They have worked very hard and were very brave to perform in front of an audience at such a young age. We are so proud of them. They were also fantastic at our Sports Day too, supporting their teammates and cheering them on. It was lovely to see so many of you supporting these occasions and we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did. Well done Gold Class!

KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

In **Year One**, we have been learning about **Castles** long ago. We talked about what they were made of and how the first castles were made of wood but later they were made of stone. For **Homework**, we enjoyed making our own castles, swords, shields and crowns and finding out about famous castles. In our **English** lessons, we have used the story 'The Hawk of the Castle' to write about a day in the life of a Falconer's child. We had a creative day and some of us used the work of Paul Klee to create a picture based on his painting 'The Castle and the Sun'. Some of us made heraldic designs to embellish our own shields. We are looking forward to our final topic of the year which will be 'Toys and Games' studying toys of the past and discovering how they have changed or stayed the same up to the present day. We enjoyed **Sports Day** on Tuesday 18th June. Thank you to all our parents and carers who came to watch us take part on the first dry day for what seemed like a very long time!



In **Year Two**, we have been finding out about **Life in Medieval Castles**. We have learned about two different types of castles; motte and bailey and stone castles. We have talked about how they are similar and different. In our classrooms, we have fantastic displays of our **Homework** projects themed around making Castles, crowns and shields. For **English**, we have created an account of the day in the life of people living in a Medieval Castle, based on our study of the text 'The Hawk of the Castle'. We have also begun to use non-fiction text features to write information texts. During our creative day some of us made split pin knights and thought about their armour and their shields whilst some of us made a knight puppet wearing shiny armour. We are now looking forward to our final topic of the year. This will also be of a historical nature and will trace the development of 'Toys and Games' from the past to the present day. Thank you to all our parents and carers who came to support us during Sports Day on Tuesday 18th June. The weather was kind to us, with the sun coming out to shine on us and applaud our efforts. Well done to the **Hawks** for amassing the most points to win the KS1 Sports Day Cup.



Our Learning

LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

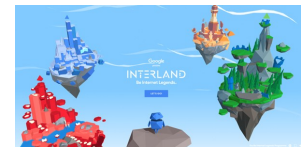
In Years 3 and 4, we have started reading our new book, Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone. We have all been very excited to read the story and find out more about the characters and the various genres it covers. So far, we have researched the characters, created our own witch or wizard character descriptions, received an invitation to attend Hogwarts and written instructions to get to Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ and beyond...

In Maths, we are applying the skills we have learnt over the year to solve problems in a variety of contexts. This will help us to consolidate our learning in Maths before moving up a year group in September.

Our Science topic this term is Light and already we have searched our school to find various light sources, investigated how light can be reflected and which colours can still be seen in the dark. We are now going to investigate how shadows are formed, as well as create our own light and shadow puppet theatres.

In Topic, we have been learning about Invaders and Settlers. So far, we have found out where Vikings came from, who they were, why they came here and how King Alfred the Great and King Athleston stood up to them to regain some of Britain.

Everyone in Year 3 and 4 participated well during our Sports Day, competing across many different activities and even learning a new game of Kwik Cricket, which was great fun. Everyone tried their best and scored lots of points for their house; Hawks being the overall winners. Our Sports Day has inspired us to keep active, ready for our visit from Olympic athlete Nicola Barke on Friday 28th June 2019. We are trying hard to fund raise for the event which will help us buy sports equipment for our school. We were also lucky enough to be part of the internet safety assembly, hosted by Parent zone, where we learned how to be Internet Legends! Many of us have already been online to have a go at being legends across the different internet lands. https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk



UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE

In Year 5, in Maths, we have been looking at fractions, decimals and percentages. 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 linked our learning to our book Stormbreaker. This term, we have written and performed news reports, as well as analysing a character and writing a persuasive letter. This month, we have immersed ourselves in practising for our end of year production. The children have shown great enthusiasm and determination in learning their lines and parts for it. They have been busy creating props, as well as designing their own tickets and programmes. Year 5 have worked really hard and we are very proud of their efforts and achievements. To finish off a busy month, we enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Spy Missions Centre in Milton Keynes. The children thoroughly enjoyed being spies for the day; solving problems and clues. They worked collaboratively and developed their cooperation skills to be able to complete their missions.

Kingswood: In the first few days of this term, most of the children were very fortunate to visit Kingswood in the Isle of Wight. We arrived very excited and eager to know how our days would be filled. We were shown to our dorms – which was a bit like a rabbit warren – and then on to our first activity. The weather was beautiful and the activities were fun and well run. They all had an amazing time experiencing things such as: body boarding and the infamous 3G swing! It was fantastic to witness the joy and pleasure on their faces. **In Maths**, we have been busy consolidating Maths topics for Secondary School. This has included Algebra, Long division and Long Multiplication as well as any other areas such as Statistics. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been solving problems and using reasoning skills to consolidate our knowledge. **In English**, we wrote about an air balloon ride – using diary entries as a mode of writing. More recently we began a new book called, 'Black Ops' by Tom Palmer. The children have engaged with the spy story as they can relate to it – it is about 5 children who are undercover spies, who have been asked to undertake a mission posing as footballers. They have produced some fabulous recounts and also a persuasive letter. **In Topic**, we are studying the Tudors – a fascinating time period. They have had the opportunity to learn about The War of the Roses and how it came to an end through the Battle of Bosworth. As King Henry V111 was a large part of this era, the children have learnt of him and his 6 wives – researching their lives and their deaths. They have learnt about Bloody Mary and many of the other members of the royal family in this period of time. As well as this, they have learnt about how the Hierarchy in these times was so much different to how we live nowadays – only male Heirs could become Kings.



Upcoming Events:

PTA Summer Fayre

Saturday 29th June 11am-3pm

Transition Days at High School for Year 6 children

Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd July

Whole School Transition

Wednesday 3rd July 9-10am

Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th July

End of Year Reports sent home for Nursery to Year 5

Friday 5th July

Optional Parent Consultation Week following reports—please see your child's class teacher to arrange an appointment

w/c Monday 8th July

Year 3 Trip to Affinity Water

Monday 8th July

Year 6 Fun Day

Tuesday 9th July

Summer Reading Assembly

Wednesday 10th July

End of Year Reports sent home for Year 6 with SATs results

Thursday 11th July

Gold Class Trip to Willows Activity Farm

Thursday 11th July

Year 4 Trip to Affinity Water

Friday 12th July

Silver parents and children to stay for lunch

Friday 12th July

Eco-Week

w/c Monday 15th July

Years 1 & 2 Medieval Workshop

Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th July

Year 6 Leavers' Celebratory Production

Wednesday 17th July 9am and 6pm

Last day of term

Friday 19th July