



Where everyone matters and every day counts
Houghton Regis Primary School
Newsletter
Friday 28th September 2018

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We are delighted to welcome you all to the Autumn Term at Houghton Regis Primary School. We hope to maintain regular communications with you and provide you with updates about our school. We aim to achieve this by being present at the school gate every morning, inviting you to attend assemblies and events as they arise, sending out monthly newsletters and by keeping our school website up to date. You will also receive notifications and messages via ParentMail. If this has not been set up, please contact the School Office.

You will have received a Curriculum Newsletter from your child's Class Teacher about the learning that will take place this term, which is also available on the website. I have been fortunate enough to spend some time in the children's lessons this week and have observed some incredible teaching and learning, especially with the use of our new ICT equipment that we had installed over the summer holidays. We have received positive comments from parents and children about the fantastic changes that we have made to our school and we look forward to sharing their outcomes with you.

Following our parent questionnaire regarding newsletters, 83% of parents voted to receive a monthly newsletter with detailed information about each Key Stage and their learning. These will be available on the website on the last Friday of every month and paper copies can be accessed from the School Office.

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

Mrs B Waite
Headteacher

VALUE OF THE MONTH:

Positivity
Your positive action combined with positive thinking results in success.



Kidz Zone Club
Information

We are pleased to share that we have had a positive response from parents, carers and children who have attended our Kidz Zone Before & After School Club. If you would like further information, please visit our website or book on www.kidzzoneclub.com.

School Money

As of Monday 29th October 2018, we will be using a cashless system and all payments to the school will need to be made online.

A letter will be sent home explaining how to access this service.

Class Attendance
Winners (w.c 24/9/18)

EYFS/KS1: Green Class with 99.6%

KS2: Sapphire Class with 99.7%

Whole School Attendance: 97%

Housepoint Winners

EYFS/KS1: Kestrels with 127 points

KS2: Hawks with 207 points

Overall Winning House: Kestrels with 275 points

Our Learning

EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

The children in Silver class have settled in to the school routine very well. They have learnt about our Golden Rules, to help to keep us and our friends safe at school and to help us become good learners. In our Literacy session we have been sharing Nursery Rhymes and playing musical instruments to the beat. We have used number sacks and rhymes to develop our counting confidence in Maths, learning that numbers represent a group of objects. The children have really enjoyed exploring the activities and resources within Silver Class, making cakes in the sand tray, programming the Interactive toys and especially our Taste Tuesday session where the children have buttered their own toast, watched and listened to their Popcorn popping and mixed up their own Porridge.

Gold Class have had a super start to the year and the children have settled beautifully. They have quickly adapted to the routines and expectations of a new class and all the adults have been so impressed. We spent the first couple of weeks finding out all about them and their families through circle times and activities in the classroom. The children painted amazing self-portraits and they are now proudly displayed in the classroom. They looked carefully in the mirrors to look at the shapes and colours of their features and they then selected the appropriate paint. We have been enjoying daily phonics sessions and letter formation practise and the children have been trying very hard to write the letters in their names correctly too. Last week we began our first Julia Donaldson story 'A Squash and a Squeeze'. The children were amazing at retelling the story using the masks and they were able to recall the order of the animals and the exact words. We have also been counting the characters from the story and finding the correct numbers to match. In addition to all this everyone has been very excited to use our brand new iPads and our lovely outside learning area.

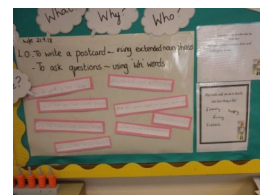
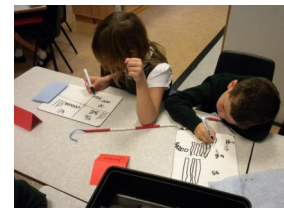


KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

Year 1 have made a fantastic start to the new academic year. Children have settled into the busy Year 1 routine with great enthusiasm. Our current theme of 'No Place Like Home' is coming to end this week. We have thoroughly enjoyed exploring this topic. We explored our local area on Google Maps using our brand new iPads and then drew our own maps. We also learnt about the Isle of Struay – where Katie Morag lives, we wove paper to design a tartan print inspired by Katie's kilt. This week we had a visit from Sunny the Meerkat, he came all the way from the Kalahari Desert! This week in maths we have been learning about more than, less than and equal to; children have learnt the symbols which represent these terms too. Last week in English, we wrote postcards, we were surprised when we received a postcard back from Katie Morag thanking us for writing to her.



In Year 2 we have begun our topic called 'No place like home'. We have begun to think about where we live and have talked about our houses and learned our address. We have talked about our route to school begun to look at maps of the UK and the wider world. In Science we have been thinking about 'Our bodies' and 'How we keep healthy?'. In our English lessons we have been focusing on describing different settings using adjectives. We have learned that if we combine two adjectives and a noun it is called an 'expanded noun phrase'. We read some of the Katie Morag stories, set on a Scottish Island. We are reading 'Meerkat Mail' which is set in Africa and has 'lift-the-flap' postcards inside. We have used this as a stimulus to write our own postcards including descriptions of the setting. We have described and contrasted the different settings and also linked this to vocabulary in our Geography (Topic) lessons. In our Maths lessons we have been exploring 'Place Value'. We have used lots of different practical resources to develop our knowledge of 2-digit numbers. We have begun to develop our 'Reasoning'. This is quite tricky as we need to be able to explain how we did something or explain how we know something is wrong or right. However we are getting much more confident with this skill and are beginning to use the correct vocabulary to do so.



Our Learning

LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

This month in Year 3 we have started to read our book called 'Giant'. It is about a little boy called Anzo who is unusually short for his age. The rest of his family are extremely tall and this upsets him. We have been thinking about how we could help Anzo by writing letters to him and sitting in a 'hot seat' to understand how it feels to be him. Giant links to our science topic, 'Animals including Humans'. We have discussed the nutrients a human will need in order to maintain a healthy body. We have compared this with the diet of different animals including dogs and cats. We found out that dogs need to eat more carbohydrates in their diet than humans to provide energy. In PSHCE we have been focussing on friendship and what it takes to be a good friend. We have also looked at the different qualities we all have and how we are all unique and special. In maths we have been focusing on place value. We have practised counting forward and backwards in a range of multiples such as 4, 8, 50 and 100. We have carefully drawn number lines to help us show our workings out. We also use the iPads in maths to complete online activities relating to our work for the day. We love the iPads!

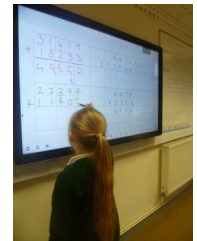


This month in Year 4 we started our Topic - The Stone Age. We have been looking at when the Stone Age started and how their living conditions were very different to ours today. This also blends in with our project homework for this half term. In literacy we are in full swing with our book "Giant". It's about a young boy who is particularly small compare to his extremely tall family. We have been writing about his life and how he deals with everyday situations with letters, diary entries and characters profiles. Our book also connects with our science unit - Animals including humans where we have been looking at the right nutrients we need as humans as well as cats and dogs. The children have worked extremely hard in maths and have been flying through our new CGP books. This has been a new way of learning for them and they have shown they can work independently and maturely with the chrome books. We have also had great feedback from Yellow class who have been enjoying their swimming lessons on Tuesday afternoons.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE CLASSES

In Year 5, in Maths, we have been learning about place value, addition and subtraction, Roman numerals and negative numbers. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been solving problems and using reasoning skills to consolidate our knowledge. In English, the book we have been reading, 'Space School' by Tom and Tony Bradman, has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres; for example explanation texts, instructions, delivering presentations and analysing products. Our guided reading book, 'The Jamie Drake Equation' follows the genre of science-fiction, where children have been able to use their comprehension skills using inference and deduction. We had a fantastic visit to The National Space Museum on 27th September and in preparation for this, we have been learning about Earth and Space in Science. We have learnt about the earth being spherical, the planets in our solar system and why day and night occur. So far this term we have been learning about the Ancient Maya. The children have produced information leaflets on Ancient Maya cities; they have created their own Maya stories based on some of the Gods and created posters explaining how the Maya system works. The children have been thoroughly enjoying guitar lessons on Wednesday afternoons, where some of them have been learning to play for the first time. This is an exciting opportunity to build on their skills over the year.



In Year 6, in Maths, we have been learning about place value, negative numbers, addition and subtraction. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been solving problems and using reasoning skills to consolidate our knowledge. In English, the book we have been reading, 'The Boy in the Girl's Bathroom' by Lois Sachar, has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres; for example: diary entry, persuasive letter and a balanced argument. As part of our English lesson we were looking at our Forest School using our senses to help with our stories. It has also been used as a medium for our guided reading – where children have been able to use their comprehension skills using inference and deduction. Our Science topic, Living things and their Habitats, is where the children learnt about Carl Linnaeus, who invented the classification codes for classifying animals back in the 1700's. They have been able to classify animals according to the similarities and differences as well as classification according to their characteristics. We are very excited about visiting the Rainforest on 11th October and in preparation for this we have been learning about the different countries in North and South America. We have learnt how the lines of latitude affect the climate. We have started looking at the difference between weather and climate and how our town can differ in weather compared to a town in Alaska. Before we go on our visit we will be researching parts of the Americas where the Rainforest is located.



Upcoming Events:

Please see the dates below for events taking place next month

Phonics Workshop

Tuesday 2nd October 2018—2:00pm-3:00pm & 5:30pm-6:30pm

Grandparents' Visit in Early Years

Monday 8th October 2018

Silver Class—9:00-10:00am & 2:00-3:00pm

Gold Class—2:00-3:00pm

Year 1 Visit to College Lakes

Monday 8th October

Year 2 Visit to College Lakes

Wednesday 3rd October

Year 6 Visit to The Living Rainforest

Thursday 11th October 2018

Parents' Consultation Evenings

Tuesday 16th October 2018—3:30-6:00pm

Thursday 18th October 2018—4:30-7:00pm

Curriculum Days for Parents in Class

This year, we have introduced a new initiative that will involve parents coming in to their child's classroom once a term to participate in their learning. For the Autumn Term our focus will be Maths and the dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday 30th October 2018—9:00-10:00am & 2:00-3:00pm

Key Stage 2—Blue, Yellow, Red, Amber, Emerald, Sapphire

Thursday 1st November 2018—9:00-10:00am & 2:00-3:00pm

Key Stage 1—Orange, Green, Purple

For safety and safeguarding reasons we can only accommodate 15 parents per class per session. The sessions are repeated so you only need to attend one of these. There will be a sign up sheet in your child's class from the w/c 15th October.

Please note, homework is currently being reviewed and we will feedback during Parents' Evenings.