

**Where everyone matters and every day counts**



## Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter Friday 29th November 2019

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had a very busy term and once again have thoroughly enjoyed inviting parents in to learn with their children. Thank you to all parents who were able to attend our Phonics and Grammar Curriculum workshops this week.

It was lovely to see many of you joining in the festive spirit this afternoon during our Christmas Fayre, enjoying mince pies, hot chocolate and fun-filled activities. The children worked extremely hard and creatively by preparing Christmas themed gifts for their stalls, which were very popular. The winners of the raffles were also announced, but do not worry if you missed this, as we will be contacting winners who were unable to stay to receive their prizes. Well done to the School Choir for their wonderful performance today—they sang beautifully and were a credit to us all. A huge thank you to all members of the PTA for their commitment and hard work.

Well done to the children and staff in Blue Class, who performed their Class Assembly yesterday, based on their topic of Romans. The children showed confidence and enthusiasm throughout the assembly and embraced their learning.

Due to the popularity of our after-school clubs, we will be continuing with these again in the Spring Term. You will receive letters about the clubs being offered and you will need to sign your children up for a club if they are interested in attending.

This is a polite reminder that parents and carers should collect their children promptly at the end of the school day. We have recently had children who have been collected late and they have had to wait with staff members. Our staff members have other commitments at the end of the school day, such as clubs and meetings, and are not always around to wait with children. We do offer a before and after school club—details can be found on our school website. We thank you for your support in this matter.

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

*Mrs B Waite & Mrs R Parmar*

### **VALUE OF THE MONTH: Respect**

Respect is a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.



### **Kidz Zone Before and After School Club Information**

A Holiday Club will be held on Monday 23rd December 2019.

If you would like further information on Kidz Zone, please visit our website or book on [www.kidzzoneclub.com](http://www.kidzzoneclub.com).

### **Christmas Postbox**

Our Christmas post box is now open for Christmas card deliveries.



### **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.

### **Class Attendance Winners for November**

**EYFS/KS1: Purple Class with 96%**

**KS2: Amber Class with 98%**

**Whole School Attendance: 96%**

### **Housepoint Winners**

**EYFS/KS1: Hawks with 129 points**

**KS2: Falcons with 388 points**

**Overall Winning House: Falcons with 481 points**

# Our Learning

## EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

This month the children in Silver Class have been learning about fireworks, The Elves and the Shoemaker, The Gingerbread Man, Elmer and Hanukah. Highlights of the month have been learning about 2D shapes and making them into rockets. The shoe shop in the role play area has been very popular! The children were very excited to try on all the various shoes, and use the cash registers. We made some smashing Gingerbread Men biscuits and the children decided to guard the kitchen door whilst they were cooking to ensure they wouldn't run away! They thoroughly enjoyed acting out the story too. Playdough was taken into the baker's role play area and they made cupcakes galore. They also enjoyed cutting out Gingerbread Men in the dough, using sultanas for eyes and buttons and using some of their counting skills. The children were intrigued with the Elmer stories about a patchwork elephant who likes to make people laugh. They were fully engrossed in learning about Hanukah and joining in with all the activities. We have also been practising the songs for our concert. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. Well done Silver Class for enthusiastically joining in all the topics. We are so proud of you all.



In Gold Class this month we have enjoyed learning about festivals and also reading traditional tales. We began learning about Diwali and heard the story of Rama and Sita. We enjoyed making diya lamps and learning how the festival is celebrated. We then had a fantastic firework week! We thought about the senses that we use when we watch fireworks and created some amazing pictures too. We loved hearing the story of 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. We retold the story using props and then had a go at writing some words to match the pictures. We even had our own shoe shop in the classroom where we explored handling money, recognising coins and counting pennies. Our next story was 'The Gingerbread Man'. We joined in with the repeated phrases and remembered all of the animals in the story. The best bit was baking some gingerbread men and eating them! We used scales to measure the ingredients and we weighed lots of other objects too, using the words heavy, heavier, light and lighter. We also learned about capacity during this week looking to see if the containers were empty, full or half full. It has been a busy few weeks and our Christmas Play preparations are well underway; we look forward to seeing you all then. Thank you to those of you who joined us for phonics this week too; we hoped you found it useful in supporting your children at home.



## KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

In Key Stage One we have started our new topic entitled 'All about me'. We have talked about where we live and compared our Local Area to a contrasting location. We have chosen Africa as this links to one of the stories we have been reading in our English lessons.

In our Science lessons we have talked about our bodies. We have labelled different parts, talked about skeletons, measured our heights and different body parts and talked about how we keep our bodies healthy.



In English we have spent time planning, drafting and writing stories in detail. We enjoyed creating a story set in school based on the 'Funnybones' skeleton stories. We have been reading 'Mufaro's beautiful daughters' which is an African version of the Cinderella story. We have written letters based up on this and begun to explore how this story and Cinderella are similar and different.

Year 1 children have spent their Maths lessons developing their knowledge of Place Value to 50, using a variety of different concrete and pictorial methods to secure our understanding. We are becoming much more confident with recognising and recalling numbers and we are able to apply this when adding and subtracting.



Year 2 children have developed adding and subtracting by working with two 2-digit numbers in calculations and practically with money. We are now developing our knowledge of Place Value to 3-digits. We have recently begun to look at Multiplication. We have done lots of work on recognising equal groups and changing repeated addition calculations into multiplication number sentences. We are beginning to use arrays and number lines to solve multiplication calculations.

Our Value this month has been Respect and we talked about ways of showing this during our topic work on Remembrance Day.

# Our Learning

## LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

In Maths this month, Years 3 and 4 have been learning about multiplication and division. We have been using our times table knowledge to support us. In Year 3, we have practised multiplying two-digit numbers with one-digit numbers. We first learnt mental strategies and then progressed to using formal written methods of short division and multiplication. We then took this learning further by solving word problems and missing number problems. We have also used bar modelling to support our understanding.



In Year 4, we have been recalling multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12x12. We used mental strategies to support us in multiplying three numbers together. We then progressed to using formal written methods to multiply three-digit numbers by a one-digit number. We applied this knowledge to solve reasoning and problem solving tasks.



In Blue Class, we have been exploring Electricity. The children have identified items that run on electricity such as laptops, mobile phones, televisions etc. They have constructed a simple series circuit and named its basic parts, involving cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. The children can recognise some common conductors and insulators and associate metals with being good conductors. They also found out about static electricity and what causes it. It was enough to make their hair stand on end!



Blue Class performed their class assembly, which was all about our topic of Romans. They sang two very catchy songs Hey Romans! and Just like a Roman. The archaeologists dug up a Roman sponge on a stick and discovered what it was actually used for.

## UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE

In Year 5 and 6, in Maths, we have been covering fractions and decimals. The children have been learning to add, subtract, multiply, divide and simplify fractions, as well as convert between decimals and fractions. 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 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, which has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres; for example a non-chronological report, an explanation text and recounts from another character's perspective. The children thoroughly enjoyed using drama to convey characters' feelings and emotions.

Our topic in Science has been Light, where the children have been looking at how light travels and how it can be used to help us see. They have really enjoyed creating periscopes using cereal boxes and mirrors. We have immersed ourselves into the topic of The Shang Dynasty, which the children have shown great enthusiasm for. We have looked at their history, hierarchy and their traditions. The children enjoyed creating a persuasive advert to convince people to use oracle bones.

The children in Year 6 had an amazing experience at Kingswood, where they were able to step out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves through a range of activities (such as 3G Swing, Leap of Faith and Night Line). This was a great chance for them to develop independence and team working skills. They were then able to share their experiences with the rest of the school in an assembly which showcased their time at Kingswood. For the PTA Christmas Fayre, the children were excited to set up their stalls where they sold a range of products and activities, such as, design-your-own tree decoration, spiced orange pomanders and Christmas games.



## **Upcoming Events:**

### **Gold Class Nativity**

**Thursday 5th December 2019**

### **Christmas Dinner Day**

**Wednesday 11th December 2019**

**Children can wear their Christmas jumpers to school. The menu will consist of:**

**Roast Turkey, Mini Sausage, Sage & Onion stuffing**

**OR**

**Quorn Roast, Vegetarian Sausage, Sage & Onion Stuffing**

**All served with: Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Gravy**

**Desserts: Rudolph Cupcakes OR Christmas Biscuits**

### **Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production**

**Thursday 12th December 2019 at 9am and 2pm**

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

**Friday 13th December 2019**

### **Silver Class Christmas Concert**

**Friday 13th December 2019 at 9:30am**

### **Last Day of Term**

**Friday 20th December 2019**

### **Children return to school**

**Monday 6th January 2020**