

Houghton Regis

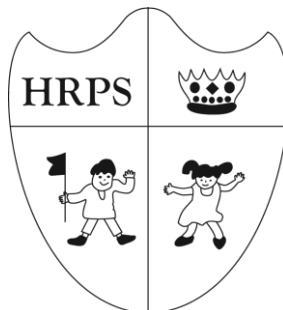
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Primary School

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3 November 2023

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

Cultural Week, 31 October - 3 November

Since returning to school the children have immersed themselves in learning about cultures around the globe. They have enjoyed seeing a variety of activities whilst supporting the children's understanding of different countries by food tasting, dancing, learning new languages as well as creative ways to present a lot of information. Family members came into school to visit and the children attended the local Nepalese restaurant.

As a reminder these were the countries that the children studied this week:

Class	Country
Nursery (Silver & Jubilee)	UK
Gold	Turkey
Platinum	India
Orange	Portugal
Indigo	Romania
Purple	Republic of Ireland
Green	Poland
Yellow	Jamaica
Blue	Pakistan
Charlotte	Nepal
Red	Italy
Elizabeth	Bangladesh
Amber	Nigeria
Emerald	Latvia
Sapphire	Moldova

Silver and Platinum Jubilee Nursery Classes

Celebrating cultural week, the children learnt about United Kingdom this week, focusing on which countries make up the United Kingdom. They had a go at painting the Union Jack and learnt the national flowers for each country – rose for England, daffodil for Wales, thistle for Scotland and the shamrock for Ireland.

They also learnt Maypole Dancing and making and decorating cakes in red, white and blue. Each child was given the opportunity to invite a special person today to watch the Maypole Dancing and enjoy some cake.

Gold Reception and Platinum Reception Classes

Merhaba from Gold Class!

The children in Gold Class have been busy learning about Turkey. The children made their own flags, tried some traditional Turkish food (sucuk and sigara boregi) and learnt the Halay dance which is the National dance of Turkey. They were also lucky enough to have talks about Turkey from Mrs Gosling and some of our family members which allowed them to put their learning of new words and phrases into practise!

The children in Platinum Class have been super busy learning about India. They learnt about the festival Diwali and made their own diva lamps out of clay. Platinum Class also tried some Indian dancing, choosing a range of their own dance moves. The children also learnt some words in Hindi and recreated their own Mehndi patterns.

Indigo Class (Year 1)

The children spent the week looking at Romania for cultural week. The children quickly learned some phrases and can now say hello and goodbye in Romanian. This week brought a variety of fun activities including creating their own art in the style of Romanian artist, Ramona Pintea, as well as using Google maps and making flags to view the country – they even saw Sameer's house.

Orange Class (Year 1)

In Orange Class, the children have been learning about Portugal. They have learnt how to say useful phrases in Portuguese, such as "Good morning", "Goodnight" and "See you later". They decorated a Portuguese flag using red and green tissue paper and coloured the crest using the correct colours. In Geography, the children created a picture fact file about Portugal. They learnt about the traditional clothes that are worn, the food that is eaten, the animals that live in Portugal and how many people live there. They then played some traditional Portuguese games outside. The children had a really great week and enjoyed learning about Portugal.

Green Class (Year 2)

Green Class looked at the Polish Flag and learnt about the meaning of the colours. They also learnt to say their name and age in Polish. Green Class also looked at traditional Polish Dancing and practices the Polonaise dance. Lastly, Green Class tasted Polish food which was "Racuchy z jablkami" (polish apple pancakes), "Faworki" (angel wings) and "kompot" (fruit juice).



Purple Class (Year 2)

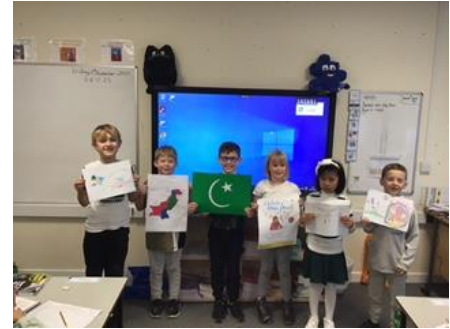
Purple Class spent the week learning about Ireland. The children learnt about the Irish flag, shamrocks and tried out Irish Dancing!



Blue Class (Year 3)

The children in Blue Class have been learning about Pakistan. In English they have been learning about the educational activist, Malala Yousafzai and her inspirational book "Malala's Magic Pencil".

In Art the children have created some beautiful pictures to represent religious festivals. In science the children have been exploring various rocks and researched fossils that have been found in Pakistan.



Yellow Class (Year 3)

This week in Yellow class, the children have been learning about Jamaica. At the start of the week, the children completed research about Jamaica before that they learnt about a famous Jamaican poet called Benjamin Zephaniah. In English, Yellow Class read Zephaniah's poems and they also practised performing them to each other in groups. Finally the children learnt the song "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley and the Wailers.

Charlotte Class (Year 4)

This week Charlotte Class have been celebrating Nepal for cultural week. The children have learnt some interesting facts about Nepal. The class also painted a large landscape picture which included one of the tallest mountains in the world, Mount Everest. The children also learnt while making flags that Nepal is the only country without a rectangular flag. The flag represents the people, the flag has symbols of the moon and the sun, and the Nepalese believe that so long as the moon and sun are there, people of Nepal will always be around. Some of the children also made bunting and the national bird called Anthingas – otherwise known as the 'snake-bird'.



Charlotte Class children also had a talk from a parent. Mrs Gurung wore a traditional Nepalese outfit, prepared and shared some traditional Nepalese food and answered questions about life in Nepal and Nepalese cuisine and culture. The children particularly enjoyed sampling the chicken dumplings. A big thank you to Mrs Gurung for coming into school and all the hard work preparing the food.

This afternoon Charlotte Class went on an exciting trip to Himalaya Tandoori Restaurant in Bletchley. The children had an absolutely wonderful time and they all ate very well. They sampled a range of Nepalese dishes as part of their feast! The meal was finished with ice cream and Gulab jamun as a special treat. The staff were warm and welcoming and the children had a wonderful experience.



Charlotte Class Continued

Charlotte Class would recommend Himalya Tandoori Restaurant to families at our school.



Red Class (Year 4)

During cultural week Red Class has been learning about Italy. The children located Italy on a map and created a fact file about Venice. They also discussed and researched the Venice Carnival and created Venetian masks. The children created an Italian menu while listening to Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Finally, they learned about the artist Leonardo Da Vinci and drew the Mona Lisa.



Elizabeth Class (Year 5)

Elizabeth class loved learning about Bangladesh. They had great fun cooking samosas, writing their names in Bengali and having henna painted on their hands. They also learnt how to sing in Bengali!



Sapphire Class (Year 5)

Sapphire Class have enjoyed learning about Moldova this week. They were lucky to have a visit from Cristian's Dad to begin their week and had the chance to taste delicious Moldovan cherry crepe cake and Plăcintă. Throughout the week they have written non-chronological reports, created a tourist guide for Moldova, learnt to count in Romanian, created their own Moldovan stamps and learnt a Moldovan traditional dance called the Hora.



Amber Class (Year 6)

In Amber Class, the children have been learning about Nigeria. They used the chromebooks to research about the country so they could write their own non-chronological reports. During the week, they also created leaflets about why people should visit and what they could do there. The children created a piece of art in the style of Nigerian artist Jimoh Buraimoh. To finish off their week, they baked Nigerian Pound Cake.



Emerald Class (Year 6)

Emerald Class studied Latvia for their Cultural Week. They made Latvian Tapestry designs in their art books. They also had a chance to make a Latvian Christmas decoration called a puzurs. They will have a chance to try Latvian snacks next week.

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers that were able to come and speak to the children about their culture and share their traditional experiences. We are grateful that you could broaden our knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

HCL (Herts Catering Limited)

Our kitchen team worked hard to add to cultural week giving the children an opportunity to sample a different cuisine each day. Thank you for preparing delicious meals.

New Appointment in the School Office

I am pleased to share that, from Monday, we have a new team member working within our school administration team. Ms Cindy McGeer has extensive experience working as an executive PA to the CTO (Chief Technical Officer) of a large international company and has also worked in administration roles within a UK University. Ms McGeer will be working closely with the senior leadership role and is looking forward to getting to know parents and pupils.



Nut free school

We would just like to remind parents and carers that we are a nut free school. Therefore, please ensure that your child's packed lunch or break time snack does not include nuts or contain any ingredients relating to nuts such as peanut butter or chocolate spread. This is a very important rule as it keeps members of our school community with certain allergies safe and well.

Parents' Consultation Evenings

A reminder that we will be holding parents' consultations meetings for all year groups on:

Monday, 6 November 2023 - 3:40pm-5:40pm

Thursday, 9 November 2023 - 4:00pm-7:00pm

If you are unable to attend an appointment on this day, please speak to your child's class teacher about arranging this for an alternative day.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Mr James Edwards

Headteacher



Free school meals

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call the Local Authority on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- Dates of birth for your children
- If you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

If your application is successful, please contact the school office to confirm this to enable us to update our records to reflect this.

School Admissions 2024

Central Bedfordshire Council have produced a booklet to help you with applying for your child's school place for 2024.

The following link will take you to the booklet

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

The national closing dates for applications to be received by the School Admissions Team are:

31 October 2023

- Transfer to Secondary 2024
- Transfer to Upper 2024

15 January 2024

- Starting School 2024
- Transfer to Middle 2024



UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Year groups involved	Date
Celtic Harmony trip	Year 3	Friday, 17 November 2023
National Space Centre trip	Year 5	Monday, 20 November 2023
Choir Concert – London	Elizabeth, Charlotte & Choral Club	Tuesday, 21 November 2023
Herrings Green Activity Farm	Year 1 & Year 2	Thursday, 30 November 2023
<u>Christmas events</u>		
Save The Children - Christmas Jumper Day	All	Thursday, 7 December 2023
PTA Christmas Disco	Nursery & Reception	Friday, 8 December 2023
PTA Christmas Disco	Year 1 & Year 2	Friday, 8 December 2023
Jingle and Mingle	Early Years	Monday, 11 December 2023 - 9:10am and 2:00pm
Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day	All	Wednesday, 13 December 2023
PTA Christmas Disco	Year 3 & Year 4	Friday, 15 December 2023
PTA Christmas Disco	Year 5 & Year 6	Friday, 15 December 2023
Reception Nativity	Reception	Thursday, 14 December 2023 - 9:15am and 2:30pm
Year 1 Nativity	Year 1	Tuesday, 19 December 2023 10.30am
Year 1 Nativity	Year 1	Tuesday, 19 December 2023 2pm
Last day of term	All	Wednesday, 20 December 2023 school closes at 2:00pm



Values-based Education
IVET Quality Mark



University of Bedfordshire



***This week's
Attendance Awards***

Reception/KS1 Prince Louis–
Orange 100%

Lower KS2 Princess Charlotte –
Yellow 98.1%

Upper KS2 Prince George–
Elizabeth 98.1%



Star Awards

			
Danny DETERMINATION says, "DON'T GIVE UP."	Colin CURIOSITY says, "THINK FOR YOURSELF."	Chloe COMMUNICATION says, "RESPECT OTHERS."	Izzy INDEPENDENCE says, "DO YOUR BEST."
Vlad R	Saoirse D	Kaiden-Callum D	Damian P
Iustin V	Tala A	Sherwain T	Joshua C
Isabella G	Louis T	Khrisha T	Millie-Rose
Harry O	David W	Ella B	Moses
Sameer D			Joshua H
Antonia			Ciara M
Bailey B			Cezary G
Kai B			Lyra S-P
Clayton G			Denas A
Amelia D			

