



Where everyone matters and every day counts

Houghton Regis Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 30th November 2018

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 with many successful and enjoyable events taking place to enhance the children's learning experiences. The children have particularly enjoyed their trips to various locations and we continue to plan more exciting visits for the Spring and Summer Terms. A huge thank you to all parents who were able to attend our Maths Curriculum Sessions. We received positive feedback from those who attended and some parents have requested that we hold parent sessions every half-term, which we are planning to do as of the Spring Term. Our next parent session will be on the English Curriculum and dates will be sent out in next month's newsletter.

As we approach the festive season, we look forward to some fun-filled and exciting events across the school. These can all be found on our 'Upcoming Events' section on our school website.

We had a successful day raising money for Children in Need by wearing spotty, bright or striped clothing. Thank you for your contributions - we raised £275.55.

You may have seen an updated feature on our website - 'Feedback from Parents and Visitors'. Please send in any positive comments or feedback that you would like to share about the school via the School Office. You can also complete Parent View on the Ofsted website on:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

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

Mrs B Waite & Mrs R Parmar

VALUE OF THE MONTH:

Friendship

Friendship is a relationship of mutual affection between people.



Kidz Zone Zone Holiday Club Information

Kidz Zone Club will be providing a holiday club on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st December 2018. More information can be found on our school website or on the following website

<http://kidzzoneclub.com/holiday-club/>

Class Attendance Winners this month

EYFS/KS1:

Purple Class with 99.4%

KS2: Blue Class with 99.1%

Whole School Attendance: 95.73%

Housepoint Winners

EYFS/KS1: **Eagles with 62 points**

KS2: Eagles with 255 points

Overall Winning House: Eagles with 317 points

Christmas Post Box

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



Our Learning

EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

In Silver Class, we have been learning all about the story of the Gingerbread Man. The children listened to the story then joined in, acting out the different parts and saying the main lines. The children went for a trip to the Bakery to find out about the different things you can buy there. We talked about how much the items cost and learnt about how to ask for items politely and confidently. When we got back to school, the children decorated their Gingerbread with icing and sprinkles, developing their fine motor skills and creating their own designs.



Gold Class have had such a busy few weeks since we returned from the half-term break. We headed straight into some firework fun where we found out about 'The Gun Powder Plot'. The children were able to recall and sequence the events and they created some amazing firework pictures using a variety of resources. We then moved on to the festival of Diwali. We heard the story of Rama and Sita and learned all about the traditions involved in this celebration. The children made Diwali cards, Mendhi and Rangoli patterns and they worked very hard on moulding and decorating their clay Diva pots. Our next festival of light was 'Hanukkah'. We heard all about King Antiochus, the Maccabees and the miracle of the oil. The children made Menorahs, retold the story and carried out some experiments using oil. They especially enjoyed 'Taste Tuesday' that week as we made and ate doughnuts! Last week we had a super 'Gingerbread Man' theme. The children were amazing at telling and writing the story and they loved making their very own biscuits. The highlight though was of course our visit to the library and Greggs. We were very well looked after at the library, making Gingerbread houses and the children were excited to buy their own Gingerbread Men. The children's behaviour was as always fantastic and we all had a great time. Finally, this week, we met a little penguin called 'Pip'. He was an Adelie penguin from the Antarctic. The classroom got very cold indeed as we recreated Antarctica in the role-play area, explored the real ice and even made frozen smoothies! We are looking forward to beginning our Christmas celebrations where we will be performing our Christmas play, sharing traditions and of course covering everything in glitter!



KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

In Year 1 Maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D Shapes. We sorted and looked at the properties of shapes. At the end of the unit, we made 3D models using play-dough, art straws and polydrons. In English, we have written diary entries and first-hand accounts of the great fire. Our Science has been based around Reversible and Irreversible changes to materials once they have been heated. We discovered that chocolate and wax melt from a solid to a liquid but can be changed back again, whilst other materials cannot be changed back once they have been heated. What excitement we had in Art and Design as we made 3D Fire of London houses using small boxes, lolly sticks, straws and then added some flames. We also made pop-up Titanic cards featuring the Titanic and an Iceberg. In our PE lessons, we have been keeping fit by doing lots of running through circuit training. We have been able to get PRIDE points through living our value of PRIDE.



During November, **Year 2** have been fascinated by our two History-based topics. We have ventured back into the past to find out about **The Great Fire of London** and more recently **The Titanic**. Beginning with beautifully illustrated picture books in our English lessons, the children have really begun to explore what experiences a child might have had during these time periods. We have written diaries and letters in the first person, using new and fantastic vocabulary to describe what would be happening around us. In History, we have found out the facts of each of these Great Events and begun to discover how the consequences of the event changed the way lives were lived. In Science, the children have explored **Materials**, looking at how things change when they are heated and cooled. We have also begun to explore **Floating and Sinking**. We have been **thinking Scientifically**, making predictions and recording our observations. In Art & Design Technology, we have made some beautiful pictures and models, including our new unit on creating **Moving Pictures** using pop-up mechanisms and levers. In Maths, we have explored 2D and 3D shape, focusing on developing our knowledge of names and properties. We have begun to reflect shapes using 1 line of symmetry. We have just begun to work with money, finding totals and change. We are now using '**Mathletics**' at home and at school - we are very enthusiastic at earning points and certificates.



Our Learning

LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

November has been a very exciting month for Year 3. We have started our swimming lessons in Blue Class and stepped back in time on our Stone Age school trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum. During our trip we were given the opportunity to build shelters and make ancient face paint, bracelets and fire! We also made flatbread which were cooked on an open fire and modelled clay pots with our bare hands. In school, we have started to read our new book called *The Magic Faraway Tree* by Enid Blyton. We are really enjoying it so far and our favourite characters are Moonface and Saucepan Man. We have written letters to our friends to convince them to join us on a trip up the tree and created our own magical lands that can be found at the top of the tree. In Maths, we have been focusing on written methods of multiplication and division. With lots of practice, we are now able to apply our knowledge to word problems. Lastly, in our topic lessons we have started our new topic called Land Use. We have begun by exploring Google Maps and creating sketch maps of both our school and the surrounding areas. We are already looking forward to see what the next lesson has in store.



During November, Year 4 have been very busy! We started our new Science topic of Rocks and Soils and we have been experimenting with how rocks can change over time. We completed the acid test, pouring vinegar over different types of rocks and observing what changes took place. We also started our new book, *The Magic Faraway Tree* during our English lessons and have been able to create a wide variety of pieces of writing. These have included, persuasive letters to invite friends to the tree, planning of narratives, character and setting descriptions, adverts and diary entries. Throughout our Maths lessons, we have continued to develop our knowledge of number and calculations including multiplication and division. We have extended our learning by using written methods for our calculations and using these during problem solving tasks. A very exciting day during November, was our trip to The Chiltern Open Air Museum. During the day, we made clay pots, jewellery, bread and butter and our very own fire! This was really exciting and all the children thoroughly enjoyed their day.

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 been reading '*Running Wild*' by Michael Morpurgo, which has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres; for example non-chronological reports, narrative writing, setting and character descriptions and explanation texts. This term, our topic in Science is properties and changes of materials where the children have been experimenting to find the properties of materials and the most suitable conductor or insulator. The children have been thoroughly enjoying guitar lessons on Wednesday afternoons. This is an exciting opportunity to build on their skills over the year.



In Year 6, in Maths, we have been learning about circles, coordinates, translation and the beginnings of algebra. We had the privilege of having parents visit us and watch their children learn in the classroom. The teachers and the children really enjoyed this, as did the parents. 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, '*Kensuke's Kingdom*' by Michael Morpurgo, has given the children the opportunity to write in many different genres; for example: a letter, a diary entry and a news report. It has also been used within our guided reading sessions; as a final lesson children will be writing a book review.



More recently in our Science topic, Evolution and Inheritance, we have been studying how we become the people that we are through inherited and acquired traits. As well as this, we have been studying Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace, who were two of the most prevalent scientists within the area of evolution.



Upcoming Events:



Please see the dates below for events taking place next month

PTA Film Night—Polar Express

Thursday 6th December 3:15pm-5:30pm

Children will only be able to attend if their consent slips have been sent in to school along with their money—£1.50.

Gold Class Nativity

Tuesday 11th December 9:15am

Please send back your slips stating the number of tickets required. We can only offer 2 tickets per child.

Members of the PTA will be selling hot drinks, mince pies and raffle tickets.

Christmas Dinner Day

Wednesday 12th December

Children can wear their Christmas jumpers on this day. The menu will consist of:

Roast Turkey, Cocktail Sausage, stuffing OR Quorn Roast, vegetarian Sausage, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Choice of 2 seasonal vegetables, Gravy

Christmas Pudding and Custard OR Christmas Cake , Christmas biscuits

Years 1 & 2 Christmas Production

Thursday 13th December —2:15pm & 6:00pm

Please see the School Office about reserving tickets for these performances. We can only reserve 2 tickets per child per performance due to health and safety regulations and the number of people that can be in the Hall at one time. Letters will be sent home next week.

Members of the PTA will be selling hot drinks, mince pies and raffle tickets.

Christmas Jumper Day and Parent Coffee Morning

Friday 14th December

Children are to wear their Christmas jumpers and a contribution of £1 would be greatly appreciated.

We are holding a very special Christmas coffee morning for parents from 9-10am and we invite all parents to wear their Christmas jumpers.

Wednesday 19th December—Last Day of Term