

Where everyone matters and every day counts



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter
Friday 31st January 2020

Acting Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Chair of Governors: Mrs J Mew

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Happy New Year to you all.

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of our first half-term! We have had a positive start to the Spring Term and the children have been working hard and as always, learning has been fun, inspiring and challenging. If you would like to explore the topics that your child is learning about, you can find this information on our website under the 'Curriculum' section.

The children in Years 5 and 6 took part in fantastic workshops led by Conductive Music UK, that combined Music, Sciences and Creativity. They used new technology using lights and sensors to create a smart musical instrument. They thoroughly enjoyed this experience and were able to share their knowledge and final pieces of music with their peers and teachers.

A huge well done to Sapphire and Yellow classes for their wonderful assembly performances. The children in Sapphire Class were very knowledgeable about the Ancient Egyptians and were keen to educate us about different aspects of Egyptian life and history. We were even shown a live performance of a mummification! The children in Yellow Class certainly demonstrated their talent well from mathematicians to crazy scientists, to boxercise coaches and even characters from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! Thank you to all the children, teachers and teaching assistants for your hard work and dedication. Keep up the great work. We look forward to the upcoming class assemblies, where children will be sharing more of their learning experiences.

Our next Parent Curriculum Workshops for this term will be held on:

- **Monday 10th February 9:00-10:00am**, where the theme will be **History**.
- **Tuesday 10th March 9:00-10:00am**, where the theme will be **Science**.

We look forward to seeing you at these sessions as we value and encourage support from parents. You can sign up for these sessions with your child's Class Teacher.

We had a successful day raising money today to support the Australian bushfires by wearing green or blue. Thank you for your contributions - we raised £294.65. We will also be taking part in the NSPCC Number Day on Friday 7th February. Letters have been sent home with details.

Thank you to the PTA who have organised our Valentine's Disco on Friday 14th February. If you would like to purchase a ticket for either the Early Years and Key Stage 1 disco (3:00pm-4:00pm) or the Key Stage 2 disco (4:10pm-5:10pm), please hand your reply slip and money to the School Office. This will also be a non uniform day to support the British Heart Foundation and we ask that children wear red on this day. The PTA will make a contribution to the British Heart Foundation.

A reminder that children will be receiving their Mid-Year Reports, which share their current attainment and progress against their end of year targets. The reports will be sent home on Friday 14th February.

Our half-term week will be from: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February and we have an INSET day on Monday 24th February. Children will return to school on Tuesday 25th February.

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

Mrs R Parmar

VALUE OF THE MONTH
FOR JANUARY:

Loyalty
A strong feeling of support or allegiance.

VALUE OF THE MONTH
FOR FEBRUARY:

Enthusiasm
A feeling of energetic interest in a particular subject or activity and an eagerness to be involved in it.



Kidz Zone Before and After School Club Information

A Holiday Club will be held on Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th February 2020. If you would like further information on Kidz Zone, please visit our website or book on www.kidzzoneclub.com.

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 January

EYFS/KS1: Gold 2 Class
with 98.66%

KS2: Blue Class with
97.69%

Whole School Attendance:
95.8%

Housepoint Winners
EYFS/KS1: Hawks with
178 points

KS2: Falcons with **204 points**

Overall Winning House:
Falcons with **347 points**

Our Learning

EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

The children have come back from the Christmas holidays happy, relaxed and ready to learn. They have embraced our new topic Opposites with great enthusiasm. We started our topic learning about Cold and during that week we read the story Cuddly Duddly and made snowflakes, icicles and snowmen. We also learnt the penguin dance! Then we looked at Hot and read the book Handa's Surprise, tasted food from the story, looked at the animals in the story and made Handa's House from recycling materials. In P.E we learnt an African dance. Next we thought about Fast and Slow and enjoyed the story of The Hare and the Tortoise. The children drew some fabulous tortoise pictures and decorated them with squares. Chinese New Year is a festival all children have really enjoyed learning about this month. The Chinese restaurant has been very popular in the role play area as well as tasting noodles using chopsticks, making lanterns and fans. We read the story of The Great Race and then had jumping races of our own and talked about who came first second and third and practised writing the numbers. Well done Silver Class we are very proud of you!

Gold class has started 2020 by looking at Opposites. Our first week we looked at cold places; we can now find Antarctica on a map and really enjoyed reading a story about Pip the penguin and learnt all about other animals we find in the snow. We built an igloo in the classroom and really enjoyed using our ice boxes to build towers (The teachers think we enjoyed knocking them down more!) Next we looked at hot places; we went on a safari in the classroom and wrote our own fact files about all the animals you might find! We got creative and turned our handprints into animals and then tested our number knowledge by solving some tricky number problems. Our next opposite to look at was fast and slow. We learnt all about Chinese New Year and heard the story of 'The Great Race'. We started to look at how to use stopwatches to measure time. We even got to try and eat noodles with chop sticks! We have really enjoyed looking at what animals represented the year in which we were born. Some of us were born in the year of the horse; the rest of us were born in the year of the goat. Next week we are going to be looking at big and small where we will hear the story 'The smartest giant in town' and explore patterns in both shapes and numbers.



KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

In Key Stage 1 we have begun our new topic named 'Out of this World'. In History, we have found out about the first moon landing and started to compare the experiences of Neil Armstrong to Tim Peake. We have begun to recognise how things have changed over time, such as the type of space-suits worn by the astronauts and the different activities astronauts now do. In Geography we will be revising the continents and oceans of the world. You could help your child by using Google Maps to explore planet Earth. Our Science topic is called 'Materials' and so far this term we have learned the names of different materials and the objects that are made from them. We then used our outdoor environment to complete a Science walk where we used our prior knowledge to identify the objects and materials we could find outside. In English we have been reading a variety of fiction stories set in space such as One Giant Leap and Bob the Man on the Moon. We have improved our use of adjectives and expanded noun phrases by describing aliens and alien landscapes. We are currently learning how to use question marks by inventing an interview with Neil Armstrong



In Maths we have focussed on division by sharing objects into equal groups and finding links between multiplication and division. Currently in Year 1 we are developing our place value knowledge by now looking at numbers up to 100. In Year 2 we are beginning to look at statistics by looking at tally charts and pictograms. Please help support your child by helping them count and recognise numbers to 100 and by practising their times tables (Year 2).



In Green Class, we have enjoyed practising our gymnastic skills in PE. We spoke about how to keep safe when walking across a bench and then used our imagination to explore different ways of travelling. One of our favourite ways is by pulling ourselves forwards on our tummies!



Orange Class have enjoyed learning about Neil Armstrong and about the 1969 moon landing. They have liked investigating materials and designing an umbrella that will shield us from the rain.

In Purple Class, we developed our paper technology skills and have made some fantastic alien models. We used some maths skills to make sure they were symmetrical and challenged ourselves to make complicated concertina arms.



Our Learning

LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

Our curriculum this term has been based on our English book, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. This has inspired us to complete an author study, which involved using our ICT skills to research information about him and his life, even before becoming a writer. We have then developed our knowledge of the story to write setting and character descriptions. We became the characters during our drama performances, recreating the golden ticket scene and making adverts to advertise the competition. We used the chapter 'Down the Chocolate River' to create some inspiring sensory descriptive poetry. Using the wrappers from actual chocolate bars and sweet packets we made a class 3D poem. The theme of chocolate also spread into other areas of our curriculum. We have begun to design our own chocolate bar wrappers, we conducted a class market research of our favourite features for a wrapper and took these into account when beginning to design our own.

We are able to understand how to create chocolate sweets based on our Science lessons of States of Matter. We have explored the formations of liquids, solids and gases which have helped us to understand the process involved in melting and reshaping chocolate back into a solid (the form of a chocolate bar). We have handled frozen balloons, water balloons and air balloons. We observed what happened when we cut and removed the outer skin of the balloon (over a small bowl or tray) and discussed how the solid kept its shape, the liquid flowed and took the shape of the container whilst the gas spread out to fill all the space available (although they couldn't actually see it). 'What is air?' was a question they investigated; They learnt that air is not 'nothing' but has a weight and is all around us. By using Parachutes and hang gliders they discovered that air resistance kept these things up in the air.

During Maths, we have covered fractions and learnt how to convert these into decimals, which led on to our learning of measuring including decimal units. We have practically used various measuring tools to support our understanding of this concept.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE

In UKS2, we have immersed ourselves in our new topic of Ancient Egypt. In our topic lessons, we have been researching the mummification process, understanding the importance of the river Nile, exploring the everyday life of an ancient Egyptian and writing a newspaper report about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. We have also linked our topic to Art, where we followed detailed instructions on how to draw a realistic portrait of Tutankhamun.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of percentages and have just began covering metric and imperial measurements. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been using our reasoning and problem-solving skills to deepen our understanding.

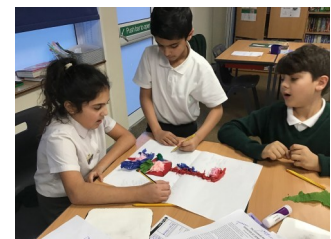
In English, we have been enjoying reading Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll - it links to our topic of Ancient Egypt very closely which means we have been able to use our knowledge from topic lessons in our English work. The book has given us plenty of opportunities to cover a range of writing genres, such as: writing from different character's perspectives, newspaper reports, play scripts and formal letters.

In our Science lessons, we are exploring the circulatory system and its functions. We have enjoyed creating a model-heart to demonstrate how the heart pumps blood, as well as investigating how nutrients and water travels around the body. We're looking forward to exploring how exercise and diet impact a human body.

Emerald Class enjoyed partaking in fun workshops on the 16th and 17th of January, we were able to use the Micro:Bit, with lots of lights and sensors (compasses, temperatures, magnetometer, buttons, etc.) all of which were used to create a smart musical instrument.

Sapphire Class thoroughly enjoyed sharing what we have learnt about the ancient Egyptians in our class assembly. Everyone spoke confidently and enjoyed dancing to 'Walk like an Ancient Egyptian'.

Amber Class have enjoyed Tag Rugby for our outdoor PE lessons. We have been working together and learning how to throw the ball to the side or backwards.



Upcoming Events:

NSPCC Number Day

Friday 7th February

History Curriculum Workshop for parents in class

Monday 10th February 9-10am

Purple Class Assembly

Thursday 13th February at 9am

Mid-Year Reports to be sent home

Friday 14th February

PTA Valentine's Disco & Wear Red Day

Friday 14th February

Early Years & Key Stage 1—3pm-4pm

Key Stage 2—4:10pm-5:10pm

Half-term Week

Monday 17th—Friday 21st February

INSET Day

Monday 24th February

Children return to school

Tuesday 25th February