



Growing minds, shaping futures and inspiring lifelong learning

Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter

Friday 5th December 2025



Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Chair of Governors: Mr T Muldownie

Dear Parents, Carers & Children,

This week has been full of Christmas spirit, as our children in Reception performed their nativity - 'Happy Birthday Jesus'. It was lovely to watch the children perform confidently in front of an audience and share the story of Christmas. Well done to all children and a huge thank you to our staff in Early Years.

We hosted our coffee morning in partnership with SNAP Parent Carer Forum. Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to come along. If you were unable to come along, there will be an opportunity to do so in January when we hold our next coffee morning.

Our girls' football tournament took place this afternoon and we welcomed two local schools - Tithe Farm Primary School and St Vincent's Catholic Primary School. Thank you to Mrs White and Mr D for arranging this event and building great relationships with neighbouring schools.

We are looking forward to welcoming year 1 parents next week to watch the performance of 'A Twinkly Nativity'. The children have been singing beautifully during their nativity rehearsals and are looking forward to showcasing their performances on Monday and Tuesday. If you have not done so already, please reserve your space for these performances via ClassDojo.

On Saturday, there is a Christmas Tree Festival at the Priory Church in Dunstable. Mrs Baldwin has arranged for our school to take part in this and a tree will be on display at the event with the decorations that our children have made. Mrs Baldwin will also be singing with the Dunstable Ladies Choir at 12:30pm. Thank you to Mrs Baldwin for arranging this.

Our school Christmas dinner and jumper day is being held on Wednesday 17th December. The menu options are available on School Grid and if your child will be having a school dinner on this day, we ask that you select your child's option in advance.

We have noticed that many children are bringing in uncut grapes as a snack or as part their packed lunch. A polite reminder that grapes must be cut in half lengthways to prevent choking. We thank you for your support with this matter.

Next week will be the last week of any clubs running in school. We look forward to offering further clubs after Christmas.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs R Parmar

Headteacher

Uniform Expectations

- White plain polo shirt/blouse or white shirt and school tie (optional)
- Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan (with school logo - optional)
 - Grey trousers or grey skirt/pinafore (knee length)
- Leggings are not permitted
 - White or grey socks
 - White or grey tights
 - Black school shoes

PE Days

Nursery—Monday
Reception—Wednesday
Year 1—Thursday & Friday
Year 2—Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 3—Monday & Friday
Year 4—Monday & Thursday (Yellow)
Friday (Blue)
Year 5—Monday & Thursday
Year 6—Monday & Wednesday

Attendance Winners

EYFS/KS1: Purple with 98%
KS2: Indigo with 99%
Whole School: 93%

Housepoint Winners

Curie - 239 points
Brunel - 236 points
Bell - 220 points
Johnson - 199 points

Headteacher Awards

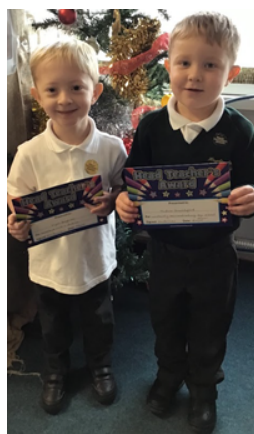
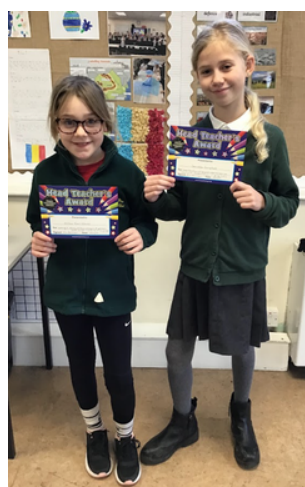
Congratulations to the following children:

Early Years: Davina D, Cove O, Elijah B, Hudson S

Years 1 & 2: Henlie K-A, Siya A, Milan F S, Isabella G

Years 3 & 4: Scarlett-Mae B, Harry A-T, Millie-Rose E, Daniella C

Years 5 & 6: Adrianna L, Esther K, Brianna O



Kidz Zone Before & After School Club Information

If you would like further information on Kidz Zone, please visit their website or book on www.kidzzoneclub.com

Is your child due to start school in September 2026?

If you have a child due to start Reception in September 2026, applications need to be made via the Central Bedfordshire School Admissions portal

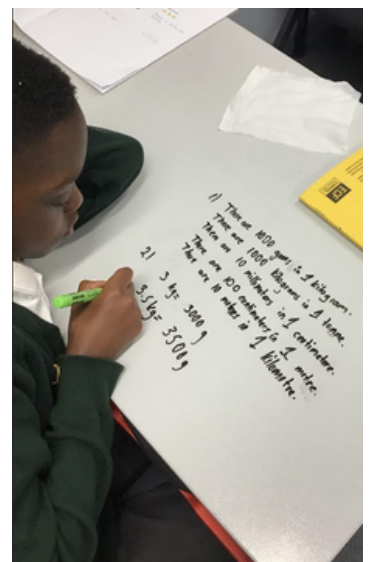
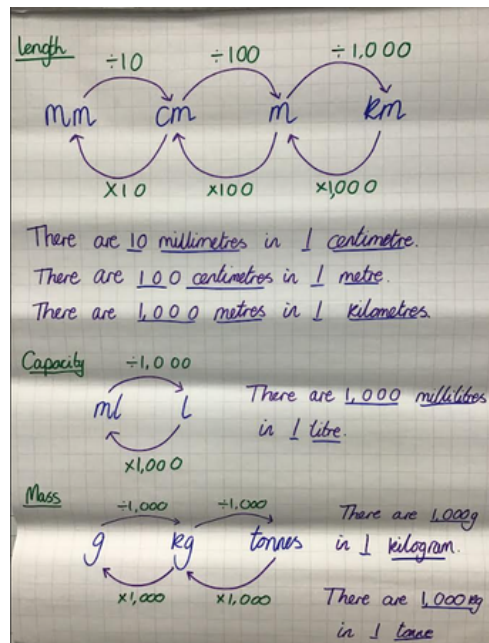
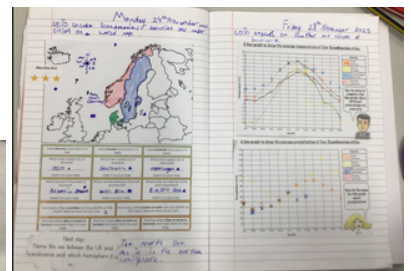
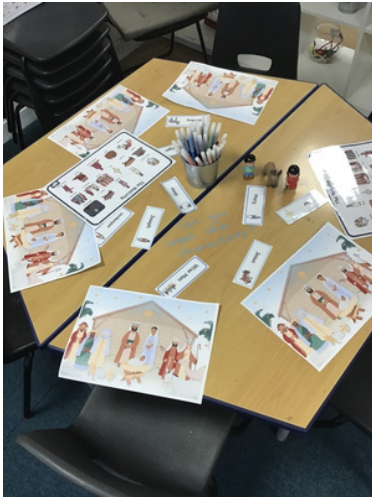
https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions/496/apply_for_a_new_lower_or_primary_school_place

The deadline for applications is **Thursday 15th January 2026** and you are encouraged to use all 3 preferences and name 3 different schools closest to your catchment. If you would like to book a visit to our school or if you require any support with the online application, please do come and speak to a member of our school admin team.

Bronze Awards - 100 Dojo Points



Our learning this week...



Autumn Term Events

| Date | Time | Year Group | Event | Location |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 8 th December | 2:00-3:00pm | Year 1 | Nativity - parents invited | Hall |
| Tuesday 9 th December | 9:15-10:00am | Year 1 | Nativity - parents invited | Hall |
| Tuesday 9 th December | | Year 3 | Year 3 Polar Express WOW day - children to come to school in pyjamas | |
| Tuesday 16 th December | 2:00-3:00pm | Year 2 & Choir | Christmas Carol Concert | All Saints Church |
| Wednesday 17 th December | | All | Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day— children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform | |
| Thursday 18 th December | 9:15am | Nursery | Jingle & Mingle - parents invited | Hall |
| Thursday 18 th December | 2:15pm | Nursery | Jingle & Mingle - parents invited | Hall |
| Friday 19 th December | 2:00pm | All | Last day of term—school finishes at 2:00pm. There will be no after school club on this day. | |

Our Leadership Team



Headteacher
Mrs R Parmar



Assistant Headteacher—
Pastoral & Inclusion
Ms D Faure-Alexis



Assistant Headteacher—
Academic &
Lower Key Stage 2 Leader
Mr D de Gouviea-Smith



School Business
Manager
Mrs F Jones



EYFS & Key Stage 1 Leader
Lead Practitioner
Miss M Davidson



Deputy Key Stage 1
Leader
Miss S Hayat



Key Stage 2
Leader
Miss E Naisby

Friends of HRPS

What is a PTA?

PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association. Volunteer organisations like this are usually composed of parents, class reps, teachers and other school staff who come together for regular meetings to discuss the school year and upcoming events.

PTAs bridge the gap between parents, teachers and pupils, helping to build productive relationships and further ensure the school is a place where pupils can thrive.

PTAs are now established in most schools and parents enjoy working closely with teachers, creating bonds with other parents, fundraising for events, working with the local community and learning more about the curriculum.

At our school, we are known as Friends of HRPS.

What do we do?

Friends of HRPS aim to accomplish a range of things, all usually geared at making the school a better place to learn. We work together to raise money with a variety of creative events throughout the school year, encouraging the whole community to get involved.

Friends of HRPS events

In previous years, we have organised summer fetes, Santa's Christmas Grotto, discos and a sponsored walk to name a few.

Why is our role so important?

We give parents more of a voice and get them feeling involved. Parents can provide the school community with a fresh perspective and highlight any concerns in a supportive environment.

The organisations are also instrumental in providing additional opportunities for pupils by strengthening the overall school experience.

Why should you join Friends of HRPS?

Being a part of your child's school community has several benefits:

- Scheduled meetings allow parents to keep up to date with upcoming academic events and socials.
- It creates stronger relationships with staff members, where they can easily communicate expectations and standards of learning.
- It allows parents to establish relationships and network with other parents.
- Parents can support the school in creating the best environment possible for their child and other pupils, helping make a real difference.
- Friends of HRPS members can learn new skills, from fundraising and problem-solving to communication and creativity.
- As a member of Friends of HRPS, you'll be able to see measurable results and appreciate the impact of all your efforts!

Please email the Chair, Mrs R Reid-Stavrinides at: ptahrps@gmail.com if you would like to find out more information.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS



Penalty Notice Fines for absence from school are changing

From 19th August 2024 Penalty Notice fines
increase to £160 for each parent, for each child.



You can be fined if your child has
a total of 5 days of unauthorised
absences in 10 school weeks, for
things like:

- being late after the register
has closed
- truancy
- taking a holiday without
permission from the school
- or if a headteacher isn't satisfied
for the reason for missing school

Over a rolling 3-year period the
sanctions are:

- 1st offence – £160 reduced
to £80 if paid within 21 days
- 2nd offence – £160
- 3rd offence – Court hearing
and up to £2,500 fine, or
up to 3 months in prison
and a criminal record

For more information go to:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/missing-school



SEND Dance Classes

Fun and inclusive classes for those with suspected or diagnosed additional needs

Imagine & Move | 4 – 4.30pm

Sensory movement class for those aged 3+
Aimed at those who need support from a parent/carer to participate
£5 per class invoiced termly



Magic Movers | 4.45 – 5.30pm

Creative dance class for those aged 7+
For those who can follow instruction and participate independently
£7 per class invoiced termly

**Introductory offer:
20% off for Spring Term!**

15th January – 26th March (No class 19th February)

 **Imagination Dance**
Community Interest Company

Thursdays during term time
at Houghton Regis Leisure Centre

Limited spaces! Book now:
info.imaginationarts@yahoo.com
07394 934911



Central
Bedfordshire
Council



2025 Christmas Tree Festival

**Join us at the Priory Church
for a Magical Celebration**

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th December

Friday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

FAMILY FUN AWAITS!



**MUSIC
STALLS
REFRESHMENTS**

**CELEBRATE THE MAGIC OF
CHRISTMAS TOGETHER IN A
FOREST OF TREES!**

Priory Church, Dunstable, LU5 4RU
Entrance £3.00 adults, children free
All children must be accompanied by an adult



CHRISTMAS LUNCH DEC _____

MAIN MENU

Sliced Turkey Breast
with Chipolata Sausage
& Sage & Onion Stuffing
& Gravy

or

Roast Quorn Fillet
with Plant Sausage
& Sage & Onion Stuffing
& Gravy (Ve)

or

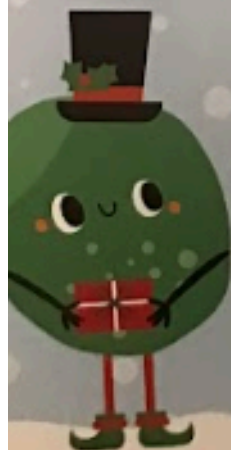
Plant Sausage & Gravy (Free From*) (Ve)

SERVED WITH

Roast Potatoes
with a Choice of Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT

Choice of Christmas Dessert



@hclcatering

www.hcl.co.uk

Houghton Regis Primary School – Parent Governor Vacancy

Governor Position Available

Houghton Regis Primary School is seeking a committed individual to fill a vacancy for a Parent Governor. This position is ideal for someone with the skills and dedication needed to contribute to the school's effective governance and ongoing success.

Who are our School governors?

Given the nature of our school, our governors comprise a mixed parents, local authority members, staff members and other members of the community who work with the school's leadership team. See our page on the school website for a personal statement of each member.

What do School Governors do?

Governors are 'overseers' of the school and the employers in law of school staff. Whilst the day-to-day running of the school and operational decisions are the responsibility of the school's leadership team, the governors are responsible for the long-term strategic decisions regarding the school. In particular, governors have three core functions:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, striving to ensure that each child obtains the best education possible and ensure the safety and security of the child whilst at our school
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is spent most effectively to the benefit of our children.

The governing board also decides school policy and ensures that the school complies fully with statutory safeguarding procedures. The Governing body is often referred to as "a challenging friend" to the school leadership team.

Expectations of an Effective Parent Governor

As an effective Parent governor, you will be expected to:

- Support the aims and ethos of the school
- Visit the school regularly to become familiar with its environment and operations
- Work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team, and fellow governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
- Prepare thoroughly for meetings by reading relevant papers in advance
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development, including attending governor training sessions
- Attend all full governing board and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for their full duration
- Stay informed by reading briefings and newsletters for governors
- Support and remain loyal to decisions made by the governing board
- Respect the confidentiality of governing board discussions and affairs
- Declare any interests and withdraw from meetings where you, a partner, close relative, or associate could benefit or where impartiality could be compromised
- Uphold the broader responsibilities of a governor in a public institution, including promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing board.

The role of a Parent Governor is distinct to your role as a Parent with a child at the school and it is important to distinguish between those two different roles.

Support and Training

Appropriate support, free training, and resources are available for all members of governing boards. This includes:

- Induction training, which all governors are expected to complete within the first six months of their appointment
- Access to a comprehensive, high-quality training and development programme designed to support improvements in leadership, management, and governance

Our existing governing body members are generally allocated to particular area of oversight including Accommodation, Early Years, Finance, Health & Safety, Pay, Safeguarding and School Development Plan. Whilst we try to ensure all areas are covered effectively we also seek to match the interest of any Governors to one of these areas of oversight wherever possible.

Time Commitment

Governors are expected to attend all full governing board meetings as well as committee meetings, as appropriate. There are approximately six meetings per calendar year. In addition to meetings, governors are expected to visit the school during the school day to monitor and evaluate practice—an essential part of the role. Governors are also often invited to attend school events, such as assemblies and sports days.

Time Off from Work

Under employment law, employers must provide employees who serve as school governors with reasonable time off to fulfil their duties. The amount of time off is agreed upon by the employee and employer, and in most cases, employers grant this time off with pay.

Following a recent audit of the governing board skills any one of the following experiences would be desirable for us although not essential:

- Links with local businesses
- Experience of Human Resources
- Experience of premises maintenance and facilities management

Increasing diversity is important for us to enable us to maintain good critical thinking. We would be delighted to hear from people with views and experiences that enable us to better represent children from different backgrounds. We would particularly encourage applicants from anyone who can represent the following groups which are currently not represented on our board and are under-represented.

- Asian / Asian British
- Black / Black British / Caribbean / African
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

What can we offer?

- A chance to develop skills in strategic leadership
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors, headteacher and senior leaders in driving school improvement
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school matters and governance roles
- A sense of achievement in making a difference and supporting children in our school
- Becoming part of the biggest volunteer workforce in the UK
- Chance to visit the school, meet teachers, hold discussions with subject leaders etc...
- Induction training and support
- Inclusion in a friendly team of professionals

Our vision:

When pupils leave Houghton Regis Primary School, they will be confident, independent and resilient citizens of the world who are open minded and ready to embrace their future.

Our values:

Happiness, Independence, Excellence, Respect, Ambition

Our ethos:

At Houghton Regis Primary School, we believe that every child has the right to a high-quality education in a safe and nurturing environment and our children have the potential to be worthy citizens of the world.

We believe that every child is capable of achieving their full potential and maximising their learning opportunities to excel in all that they do.

Our learning approach embraces our diverse community, reflecting our commitment as an inclusive school.

We expect our children to be ready, respectful and safe.

We are ambitious in promoting positive relationships with parents, carers and professionals so we can achieve the best outcomes for our pupils.

Wellbeing for our pupils, staff, parents and carers is at the heart of everything we do.

If you would just like to find out more, please contact:

Mr Tom Muldownie, Chair of governors, at governingbody@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

Mrs Rajneet Parmar, Headteacher, at office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

or chat in the playground to any of our parents who are already governors at Houghton Regis:

Mrs Sam O'Connell, Mrs Amy Knights-Allen