



**Where everyone matters and every day counts**  
**Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter**  
**Friday 5th April 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 half-term with lots of exciting visits and events that have taken place.

World Book Day was thoroughly enjoyed by all children and staff, who made a fantastic effort to dress up as a character from a book. The activities throughout the day allowed children to explore a range of story writing techniques and share their favourite books and authors.

Science Week took place across the whole school with all children taking part in practical experiments, with some classes exploring the use of our outdoor learning environment in Forest School. Parents were invited in to school to work alongside their children during Science lessons and the feedback received has been very positive. Thank you to all parents who attended. Our next parent session will be held during 'Cultural Week' starting on Monday 20th May. This will be a very exciting and fantastic learning experience for us all, as we will be exploring the variety of cultures and increasing diversity within our local community. You will be able to sign up for sessions with your child's Class Teacher nearer the time.

Voice in a Million. A huge thank you to Miss White and Miss Brett who organised this event at Wembley Arena. Voice in a Million was set up in 2009 with an under-pinning message that raises awareness of the plight of children in care and the importance of Adoption and Fostering, both in the UK and world-wide. Our school choir attended and became part of the 5000 strong 'choir' that evening. They performed a variety of songs to parents. It was a truly inspiring event and we were incredibly proud of the children, they were a credit to you and us.


A huge congratulations to all the children in Years 3 & 4 for their wonderful performance of 'Rock Bottom'. I am sure you will agree that the children excelled and were confident with their acting and singing. Thank you to all the members of staff for their hard work and commitment during rehearsals. I would also like to thank all parents for supporting their children with learning their lines and songs, as well as providing costumes.

Thank you for continuing to support our school and I wish you all a very happy Easter. We look forward to seeing you back at school on Tuesday 23rd April.

*Mrs B Waite & Mrs R Parmar*

**VALUE OF THE MONTH:**  
**Self-Belief**

Self-Belief is the positive feeling you have to show that you are capable of anything. You feel empowered, confident and can overcome challenges and problems.

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

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

**Sponsored Walk**

The children took part in a sponsored walk yesterday in order to raise money for 'Addenbrooke's Hospital' and 'High Five Ollie'. Thank you for all your contributions.

**Class Attendance Winners for March**

**EYFS/KS1: Purple Class with 95.9%**

**KS2: Red Class with 97.7%**

**Whole School Attendance: 94.5%**

**Housepoint Winners**  
**EYFS/KS1: Falcons with 135 points**

**KS2: Hawks with 237 points**

**Overall Winning House: Falcons with 353 points**

# Our Learning

## EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

We had parents join us for Science Week and we had lots of fun. This term, our theme has been 'Long Long Ago'. We have listened to lots of different Fairy Tales and explored a variety of openings and endings. During Jack and the Beanstalk, we matched beans to numbers, wrote on leaves and drew and painted pictures of the characters from the story. We even measured different heights of beanstalks and the giant's feet using counting blocks and acted out the story too. For The Three Little Pigs, we made different houses and numbered each one. We looked at the strongest house and explored other materials the pigs could have used, like metal and rocks. During The Three Billy Goats Gruff, we made bridges out of different materials, like bricks, wooden blocks and plastic balance beams. We acted out the story on the bridge outside using role play masks. In Little Red Riding Hood, we learnt how to draw a story map showing the route Red Riding Hood took to reach Grandma's house. We made some delicious biscuits for Grandma, weighing out some of the ingredients and counting spoonfuls of other ingredients into our bowls. Lastly we have been learning all about Easter. We had an Easter Egg Hunt outside and enjoyed making our chocolate nests to take home and counted our eggs to put on the top. This term we have also introduced Travelling Ted and Teddles who travel home with a different child each weekend and their adventures are written in the diaries.

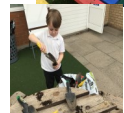


This month we have been exploring 'Traditional Tales'. We kicked off the topic with 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We built our own castle in the classroom and planted some magic beans. This has really inspired Gold class to do some wonderful writing imagining what our magic beans might grow into. We also made our own pancakes with the help from some of the adults; they were delicious! The next story we looked at was 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and what a busy week we had! Our parents came in to help us build rafts for the goats. We explored floating and sinking as part of Science Week. We also worked out how to make our own bridges to get away from that grumpy troll. The following story we looked at was 'The Three Little Wolves And The Big Bad Pig' and what a funny story that was! We looked at how characters may have a different personality than what we thought and looked very closely at this month's value of trust. Can we now trust the big bad pig? Finally we have finished the topic with the story 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We have been learning about 'time' and we enjoyed the game 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' We even had a go at writing our own traditional tales! It has been a very busy month and the children have done us extremely proud by pushing themselves to keep improving. Keep it up Gold class!



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

We have explored 'Fairy Tales' and 'Spring'. We started our Fairy Tales topic with a WOW day. This entailed constructing bridges out of newspaper for the Three Billy Goats, building Troll houses in the Forest School and testing suitable materials for the roof of the Three Little Pigs' house. We thoroughly enjoyed our busy STEM based WOW day. In Maths this week, we are learning about capacity. Prior to this, we learnt about measuring length and mass. We have been super mathematicians by accurately using key vocabulary throughout this unit. Maths was very practical and hands-on in this unit of learning; we measured each other's heights, visited the Forest School to find and measure different lengths of sticks and measured the capacity of containers. We even used balance scales and weights to follow a recipe for chocolate Rice Krispie cakes. In English, we acted out The Three Billy Goats Gruff, sequenced stories, wrote Goldilocks and the Three Bears from different points of views. To help us write spring poems, we went on a Springtime nature walk and found many signs of Spring, which we described with verbs and adjectives. We found out that the best time to sow seeds is during Spring; we had a choice of planting either a French bean, broad bean or a mangetout. It has been very exciting watching the seeds germinate over the last two weeks. We look forward to watching our plants grow at home and hopefully trying some of the produce later in the year! Thank you to all our parents who joined us during Science week we loved having you learn with us.



In Year 2 we have completed our topic of 'Fairy Tales'. We began with a WOW Day where we spent a day in a Carousel of activities focussing on Science and Technology activities. During our 'Fairy Tale' topic we have written alternative versions of well-known tales in our English lessons, sequenced stories and written apology letters from Goldilocks to the Three Bears. In our Maths lessons, we have completed our topics on Fractions and Measurement. We have used different equipment to measure length and height, used thermometers to read temperatures and compare mass using weights and balance scales. It was really exciting to invite our parents into class during Science week. It is a real treat to be able to share our learning with our parents. Year 2 were lucky enough to have a visit from the Fire Fighters from Dunstable Fire Station. We discussed fire safety, learned rhymes and were able to explore the fire engine. We were all able to use the fire hoses to shoot water over the fence into Forest School. To celebrate 'World Book Day' we all dressed up as our favourite story book characters. We have begun to explore the topic of 'Spring' by exploring outside to look at the signs of Spring in our flower borders and in Forest School. We will use this as a starting point to begin investigating 'Plants' in greater detail. We have all had the opportunity to make shortbread cookies in our Cookery lessons, now we are eagerly awaiting our next sessions. Remember to check out the Our Learning tab on the website to see more photographs of what we have been up to.



# Our Learning

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

It has been a busy month for Year 3. We have been working hard to learn our lines and develop the characters of Stone Age people for our production. We have been learning the words to the songs and have even been singing them in the playground! We have performed two dress rehearsals to the rest of the school and did not let our nerves get the better of us. We are looking forward to showing our grown ups what we have been working so hard on. In English, we have been reading *The Ice Monster* by David Walliams. We love David Walliams' books and have enjoyed finding out what happens next in each chapter. We have written letters, play scripts and character descriptions using our knowledge of the storyline. We also had our first WOW day this term which was based on *The Ice Monster*. We moved around the school, taking part in a range of activities including drama and art. We made our own woolly mammoths, created enormous wanted posters and acted out some of our favourite scenes from the book. In Maths, we have looked at 2D and 3D shapes in a range of different contexts. We have named and identified the properties of different shapes. We had to work hard with our learning partner and show our school values of determination and perseverance when constructing 3D shapes. We felt a great sense of achievement when we had constructed each shape and were able to tell a friend the number of vertices, edges and faces of each shape.



This month in Year 4, we have finished our book, *The Ice Monster* by David Walliams. We have now covered a range of writing and even drama sessions based on the text. We have worked with shapes, 2D and 3D, and spent time studying the properties of shape so that we could practically build them and create nets for shapes, which then formed gift boxes. We have been investigating States of Matter during our Science lessons and now understand solids, liquids and gases and how we can change states of matter. We even challenged ourselves to represent our findings showing what the particles would look like during our melting chocolate experiment. We had great fun during Science week and were lucky enough to have our parents, grandparents and carers come in and join in our lesson with us.

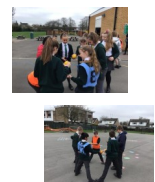


## UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE

In Year 5, in Maths, we have been looking at time and timetables. We have been using our skills to complete problem solving and reasoning tasks based on our current topics. In English, we have been reading 'Who Let the Gods Out?' by Maz Evans which is linked to our Topic of Ancient Greece. This term, we wrote an explanation text, planned and delivered presentations, wrote setting and character descriptions and wrote a newspaper report. In our Topic lessons, this term, we have been comparing and contrasting the Ancient Olympics with the Modern Olympics as we know it today. We have also been looking out how the Greeks shaped the democracy we have today. We designed and created our own clay pots in the style of the Greek pots that we looked at. Children in Year 5 have been enjoying cooking lessons, where they have made shortbread and pizzas. They have been learning safe ways to chop vegetables and hygiene when preparing food.



In Year 6, in Maths, we have been learning about area and perimeter and how to find each within compound shapes. 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, 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo, has given the children the chance to learn the various methods that authors use to 'grab' the attention of a reader; for example: Figurative language such as; Personification, metaphors, similes and AANVA – (Adjective, adjective, noun, verb, adverb). We have also created a senses (Touch, Hear, See, Smell, Feel, Taste) bank that informed the children on what to incorporate in a poem. They were shown a clip that they were able to use to write poetry. Some of the poems were amazing. Guided Reading this term is based around *War Horse* as well as SATs focussed; looking at different question types and how they are answered. In Science, the topic we continue to study is Electricity; the children have had the opportunity to investigate whether it would make a difference to a bulb if the wires were shorter or longer or if bulbs would be brighter if there were more or less wires or batteries. The children chose their questions and had to create a fair test, record their results and come to a conclusion. We continue to learn about World War 1. Children have created a news report based on the assassination of Franz Ferdinand – the catalyst that started the war. They have also written a letter to a loved one from a soldier's point of view.



## **Upcoming Events:**

*Please see the dates below for events taking place this term*

### **Easter Holidays**

**Monday 8th April—Monday 22nd April**

### **Children return to school**

**Tuesday 23rd April**

### **Final Payment for Year 6 Kingswood Residential Trip**

**Tuesday 30th April**

### **Emerald Class Assembly**

**Thursday 2nd May 9:00am**

### **Polling Day**

**Thursday 2nd May**

### **Spring Bank Holiday**

**Monday 6th May**

### **Class Photographs**

**Thursday 9th May**

### **Year 2 and 6 SATs Week—breakfast will be provided for all Year 6 children in the morning**

**Monday 13th May—Friday 17th May**

### **Cultural Week**

**Monday 20th May—Friday 24th May**

### **Orange Class Assembly**

**Thursday 23rd May 9:00am**

### **Half-Term Week**

**Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May**