



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter
Friday 7th November 2025

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back to Autumn 2, often a favourite with the children and staff due to the many upcoming religious festivals and celebrations. I am looking forward to hearing carols being practised as I walk through the school corridor! We are also looking forward to welcoming parents in for various events throughout the term—please check the upcoming dates section for further information.

We started the week with a training session for all staff on our new approach towards behaviour called Therapeutic Thinking. We have introduced our behaviour motto of 'ready, respectful and safe' and are reminding children of the behaviour expectations at all times. Staff had further training delivered by external providers around Safeguarding and De-escalation strategies. Our lockdown policy and procedures have been reviewed and we will be carrying out a lockdown drill in the upcoming weeks. We will be talking this procedure through with all children and explaining the reasons behind why a lockdown may need to take place. If you have any questions around this, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

The first week back has already been filled with many events:

-a residential trip for our year 6 children—we are certainly looking forward to welcoming them back and hearing about their great experiences. Thank you to the staff who accompanied the children on their trip.

-a Macmillan coffee morning with representatives from the nursing team who shared information about mental health services available for all—thank you to all parents and carers for attending and thank you for your contributions

-a fun-filled and engaging visit from the author, Emily Lloyd-Gale who shared the stories she has written and the process behind this. The children were enthusiastic and inspired by her journey. Emily will be on the playground after school selling copies of her books and will accept payments by card or cash.

A reminder that our Parent Consultation Evenings are being held next week. If you have not yet made an appointment, please do this via ClassDojo or alternatively, speak to your child's class teacher.

Day	Date	Time	Classes & Location of meetings.
			Entrance to the school for these appointments will be via the side door next to the bike shed.
Monday	10th Nov	3:45-6:15pm	Silver (Mrs Green), Ruby (Mrs McBrearty) & Orange (Miss Davidson) Orange Classroom Purple, (Miss Hayat), Coral (Mrs Everitt) & Green (Mrs Gammon) — Purple Classroom Gold (Mrs March), Platinum (Mrs Baldwin), Sapphire (Mr D), Teal (Mrs Zarrouq) Blue (Mrs Boland/Mrs White) & Yellow (Miss Viks) - Hall Amber (Miss Naisby), Emerald (Mrs Rafael) & Indigo (Miss Rogers) - Emerald Classroom
Thursday	13th Nov	4:00-7:00pm	Silver (Mrs Green), Ruby (Mrs McBrearty) & Orange (Miss Davidson) Orange Classroom Purple, (Miss Hayat), Coral (Mrs Everitt) & Green (Mrs Gammon) — Purple Classroom Gold (Mrs March), Platinum (Mrs Baldwin), Sapphire (Mr D), Teal (Mrs Zarrouq) Blue (Mrs Boland/Mrs White) & Yellow (Miss Viks) - Hall Amber (Miss Naisby), Emerald (Mrs Rafael) & Indigo (Miss Rogers) - Emerald Classroom

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 25-26

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

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is:
Nursery—£2.40
Years 3-6—£2.60
This can be paid via SchoolGrid.

PTA School Disco
Friday 21st November

Thank you to the Friends of HRPS for organising our annual school disco. Please see the timings below:

Early Years—1:45-2:30pm
Years 1 & 2—2:30-3:15pm
Years 3 & 4—3:15-4:15pm
Years 5 & 6—4:20-5:20pm

A £2 entry fee will be charged at the door and children will be provided with a drink and snack. Entrance to the disco will be via the door next to the bike shed. Children will be dismissed from the disco from the main playground.

Kidz Zone Before and After School Club
Information

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

Attendance Winners
EYFS/KS1: Green with 99.4%

KS2: Year 6 with 100%

Whole School Attendance: 95.3%

Housepoint Winners for the week:

Curie—48 points
Bell & Brunel—47 points
Johnson—45 points

Where everyone matters and every day counts



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Next week, it is anti-bullying week and a chance for us to consider ways to be more respectful in our words and actions. This year's theme is 'Power for Good'. There will be an assembly on Monday and planned activities around this theme throughout the week. Children will also be reminded to carry out good deeds. A reminder that we are inviting all children and staff to wear odd socks on Monday.

On Tuesday, we will be talking to children about the importance of Remembrance Day and holding a two minute silence to reflect upon the sacrifices the armed forces make on our behalf. Mrs Boland has kindly created a poppy wreath with some children in Key Stage 2, which we will place on the Memorial Stone on the Village Green —thank you to Mrs Boland and the children for their contributions. A reminder that children are still able to purchase poppies and products associated with Remembrance Day. We ask for a contribution which will be donated to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



On Friday, all children and staff are invited to wear yellow and/or spotty clothes for Children in Need with a donation of £1. Throughout the day, children will take part in a 'Challenge Yourself to 25' activity—thank you to Mrs Everitt and our School Parliament for organising this.

A reminder that flu vaccinations will also be happening next week for children in Reception to year 6. Children will only receive a vaccination if consent has been given. Details around this can be obtained from the school office.

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 require any support with this, please do come and speak to a member of the admin team.

We are hosting an Information Evening and Open Days for prospective families to attend:

Date	Time	Details
Monday 24th November	5:15pm	All families are invited to attend. Information about the school will be shared and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. You will also have a chance to meet members of the Early Years team.
Tuesday 25th November	9:15am	Open morning/afternoon for families to have a tour of the school—please book an appointment for your preferred time by sending an email to office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk or calling us on 01582 867487. If you are unable to make these dates and times, please contact us and we will arrange a time that is convenient for you.
	10:00am	
	1:15pm	
	2:00pm	

Following a review of our current leadership structure, there have been some slight changes which you can see on the 'Meet our Leadership Team' page. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday.



Mrs R Parmar
Headteacher

Bedfordshire Police have asked us to share the following information to help protect students personal belongings and improve the chances of recovering lost or stolen items:

Register Your Child's Mobile Phone – Immobilise

This free service helps police identify and return lost or stolen phones and other valuables. By registering your child's device, you're helping protect their property and increasing the chances of recovery if it goes missing. The website also offers helpful advice on keeping devices safe and secure.

It only takes a few minutes to register, and it's completely free—please take a moment to do this and help keep your child's phone safe.

www.immobilise.com/help/registermobilephone

Lost Property – Report My Loss

This free service allows you to register lost items, which can then be accessed by police and other agencies to help recover them. You'll also receive a reference number that can be used for insurance claims or replacement processes.

www.reportmyloss.com/uk



We're thrilled to share that our Christina Marks school of performing arts recently led an assembly to showcase what we've been doing and to encourage more students to get involved! The pupils did a fantastic job presenting their experiences, explaining our activities, and showing the positive impact the club has had on their confidence, teamwork, and creativity.

Our aim is to raise the profile of Christina Marks School of Performing Arts across the school community and inspire more students to take part. Whether your child is already a member or interested in joining, this is a great time to get involved.

We'd love for you to encourage your child to come along and see what we're about. It's a fantastic opportunity to develop new skills, make friends, and be part of something exciting at school.

Thank you for your continued support — it means a lot to both the students and staff involved in the club.

To book classes or the trial, please follow the link below.

<https://christina-marks-sopa.classforkids.io>

HEADTEACHER AWARDS



Congratulations to the following children:

<i>Early Years</i>	<i>Mohammad A, Morgan O, Amal F, Siobhan D</i>
<i>Years 1 & 2</i>	<i>Bradley E, Zara C, Lola S-S, Jayden D</i>
<i>Years 3 & 4</i>	<i>Joel B, Myahh-Rose P, Levi U, Willis Y</i>
<i>Years 5 & 6</i>	<i>Sophia Y, Kyle B, Ronnie E</i>



OUR LEARNING THIS WEEK:



AUTUMN TERM EVENTS:

Day	Date	Time	Year Group	Event	Location
Monday-Friday	10th-14th November		All	Anti-Bullying Week	
Monday	10th November		All	Odd Socks Day to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week—children and staff are invited to wear odd socks	
Monday	10th November	3:45-6:15pm	All	Parent Consultation Evening	Hall, Classrooms
Tuesday	11th November		All	Remembrance Day	
Tuesday	11th November		Reception—Year 6	Flu Vaccination (1st Session)	
Thursday	13th November	4:00-7:00pm	All	Parent Consultation Evening	Hall, Classrooms
Friday	14th November		All	Children in Need—children and staff are invited to wear yellow and/or spotty clothes. Children will take part in a 'Challenge Yourself to 25' activity.	
Monday-Friday	17th—21st November		All	Cultural Week—On Thursday, children and staff are invited to wear traditional clothes from their own culture or coloured clothing to represent the country flags they have explored this week.	
Tuesday	18th November		Reception, Year 6	National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP) Heights & Weights	
Friday	21st November	1:45-2:30pm 2:30-3:15pm 3:15-4:15pm 4:20-5:20pm	Reception Years 1 & 2 Years 3 & 4 Years 5 & 6	Friends of HRPS Disco—children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 can come to school in appropriate party wear on this day.	Hall
Tuesday	2nd December	9:00-10:30am	All	SNAP Parent Carer Forum	Hall
Tuesday	2nd December	2:15-3:00pm	Reception	Nativity—parents invited	Hall
Wednesday	3rd December	1:30-2:30pm	Reception	Nativity Trail	School grounds
Thursday	4th December		Reception—Year 6	Flu Vaccination (2nd Session)	
Thursday	4th December	9:15- 10:00am	Reception	Nativity—parents invited	Hall
Monday	8th December	2:00-3:00pm	Year 1	Nativity—parents invited	Hall
Tuesday	9th December	9:15-10:15am	Year 1	Nativity—parents invited	Hall
Tuesday	16th December	2:00-3:00pm	Year 2 & Choir	Christmas Carol Concert	All Saints Church
Wednesday	17th December		All	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day—children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform	
Thursday	18th December	9:15am	Nursery	Jingle & Mingle—parents invited	Hall
Thursday	18th December	2:15pm	Nursery	Jingle & Mingle—parents invited	Hall
Friday	19th December	2:00pm	All	Last day of term—school finishes at 2:00pm. There will be no after school club on this day	

Meet 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



**Upper 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



SAVE THE DATE



SAVE THE DATE

PINS is a national project that brings health professionals, educators, and experienced parent carers together to support primary schools.

Welcome from SNAP Parent Carer Forum!

We are inviting you to join our first PINS Coffee Event

Date: 2nd December 2025

From: 9.00am To: 10.30am

Place: Houghton Regis Primary

Each session will be themed and for our first session we will be introducing SNAP Parent Carer Forum, the PINS project, as well as the 6C's framework.

We are looking forward to meeting you and hearing about your parent carer experience, and that of your child.

The Goal

To help every child feel included, understood, and supported—especially those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

PINS is designed to:

- ✓ Help schools improve how they support children with SEND
- ✓ Offer early help to children who may be struggling - with or without a diagnosis
- ✓ Provide training for school staff to build skills and confidence
- ✓ Enhance communication and partnerships between schools and families

MORE INFORMATION



For more information please email
PINS@snappcf.org.uk and see our PINS webpage



November Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Raising Self Esteem	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	4 Nov 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	4 Nov 7pm
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	11 Nov 10am
Supporting A Child with ADHD	11 Nov 7pm
FREE ADHD Kids & Homework	13 Nov 6-7pm
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	17 Nov 7pm
Facing Defiance	18 Nov 10am
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	18 Nov 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
Anxiety Explained	24 Nov 7pm