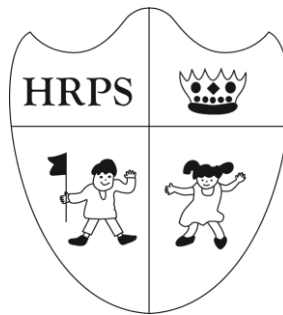


Houghton Regis

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Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

9 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

School Uniform

Staff throughout the school have noticed there are a small minority of children not wearing correct school uniform.

Please note:

- Black jeans, jeggings or black trousers are not acceptable attire for school - skirts, dresses and trousers all need to be grey and of an advertised 'school style.' These are all widely available in supermarkets as well as specialist school uniform shops as well as a wide range of clothing shops.
- Children should not be wearing socks over tights or leggings of any variety with their school uniform. 'Layering' is not allowed at our school.
- Our school uniform policy states that tights should be grey or green. We have had children come into school wearing a variety of colours that clash with the green base colour of the uniform, including navy blue. Please ensure your child's tights are either green or grey as advised on the school website as these colours compliment the school uniform colours.
- All children need to wear black 'school style' shoes. Children should not be wearing trainers or boots to school.

Our uniform policy has been consistently advertised for a number of years so I ask that all parents support their children in following the rules. Children will be challenged by school staff if wearing incorrect items/combinations.

It is very important that all children follow the rules in a school. We thank parents for their co-operation in this area.

School Trips

We are proud to offer a range of class and 'buy in' school trips at HRPS. It is important that once parents and carers have agreed for their children to attend a trip they are not withdrawn from trips at short notice unless the child is ill or off school for exceptional circumstances. This is very important as the school frequently heavily subsidises trips and a lost place for some trips may cost £50-£60. The school reserves the right to charge parents when children are withdrawn from a trip at short notice without a very good reason.

Communication around trips is important. We will aim to send clear letters that outline all the details and the likely time of departure and arrival time back to school. All parents can expect an update around return times if these are likely to mean a different collection time etc. These will usually be communicated by tapestry or google classroom.

In Reception and Nursery only (on what is likely to be a child's first trip) parents can also expect a message stating the group has arrived at the destination venue. However, this will not be an expectation for all classes from Year 1 onwards. It is very important that staff on trips can focus on looking after the children in their groups rather than completing unnecessary communications. Furthermore as the children get older there can be multiple venues and phases to the school trip and keeping parents up to date with the movement of the group is challenging and quite unnecessary. Taking additional adults on school trips to enable such additional communication would raise the cost of trips and we need to keep the costs as low as possible so all children are able to access trips and visits.

While it may be the case that some local schools do carry out such additional communication this can result in trips being simpler, more local and less ambitious. As a leadership team, we would rather our children be able to experience trips based in the Capital City and making use of coastal areas as well as some more local visits rather than limiting children's experience to the the three counties area only. A number of our London based trips have included river walks and sight seeing in addition to the museum or show that is the main event for the day. These opportunities have been greatly enjoyed by children and develop their cultural knowledge and understanding of the world. Thank you for your understanding with this policy.

To give parents an idea of the range of trips and visits I have included examples from the last few years. It is self evident that our trips and visits are wide ranging and extensive for a primary school. We wish to continue with this strong offer and thank parents for their support in delivering an exciting range of trips and visits.

Ballet at Sadlers Wells Theatre The Nutcracker by Matthew Bourne London Based Trip	Tring National History Museum Three Counties Area	Paradise Wildlife Park Three Counties Area	The British Museum London Based trip
West End Shows – Lion King and Lyceum and The Snowman at The Peacock London Based Trip	Ballet at The Coliseum Giselle Swan Lake London Based Trip	National Space Centre Outside of the area	Houghton Hall Park Local Trip
Walton on the Naze Seaside Trip Coastal Trip	Brighton Coastal Trip	Southend on Sea Coastal Trip	The Tower of London London Based Trip
Celtic Harmony Three Counties Area	Vertigo and Stanborough Park Three Counties Area	Hampton Court Palace London Based Trip	Radlett Synagogue Three Counties Area



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Boys' Football League Quarter Final- Wednesday, 7 February 2024

On Wednesday 7 February, HRPS hosted the Vale Academy in a quarter final match. The boys got off to a bright start, with Alfie C being rewarded for his effort pressing high and finishing into the bottom corner to give us the lead. We continued to control the next ten minutes. However, the Vale grew into the game and began to take a foothold, levelling the scores before going into the break leading. The lead in truth could have been more were it not for the fine stops from Freddie in goal. After half-time, the dominance from the Vale continued and they took their chances. Despite the Vale's dominance, Houghton heads did not drop and the boys continued to try to play football and kept battling away with Mason getting a deserved consolation goal. Unfortunately the result was 8-2 to the Vale.

Year 5 Ancient Greek WOW Day- Thursday, 8 February 2024

Yesterday, Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their ancient Greek WOW Day. The children created Greek vases using scratch art, made wreath crowns and did some Greek dancing. They also made some Greek temples and wrote letters using the Greek alphabet. The children had the chance to taste Greek food such as pitta bread, olives, hummus, tzatziki, taramosalata and feta cheese.

Isaac, 'This was the best day of school!'

Laura, 'I liked trying the food, especially the tzatziki.'

Gracie, 'I liked being able to dress-up.'

Kelsey, 'A great day teaching us all about ancient Greece.'



Girls' Football League Match-Today

This afternoon, Years 4, 5 and 6 girls played Beecroft Academy at home. Our girls played really well securing a convincing 9-0 victory! Goals came from Jasmine (5), Denas (3) and the Beecroft keeper when trying to stop a powerful shot from Everly. Victoria's excellent performance in goal also deserves a mention. Well done girls and a big thank you to Mrs White for her quality coaching.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Mr James Edwards

Headteacher



Extra Curricular Activities Spring Term 2024

Club	Year group involved	Day	Time of Day
Taekwondo	Reception- Year 6	Monday	Afternoon
Gymnastics	Year 3-6	Tuesday	Morning
Ballet	Nursery- Year 5	Tuesday	Afternoon
Ballet	Nursery-Year 5	Wednesday	Morning
Football	Year 3-6 (Boys)	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.00pm
Football	Year 3-6 (Girls)	Wednesday	3.15 - 4.00pm
Football	Reception-Year 2 (Boys & Girls)	Thursday	3.15 - 4.00pm
Science Club	Year 5	Thursday	3.15 - 4.00pm

Free school meals

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call the Local Authority on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- Dates of birth for your children
- If you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

If your application is successful, please contact the school office to confirm this to enable us to update our records to reflect this.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Year groups involved	Date
Bikeability Training	Year 5	Monday, 12 February 2024- Thursday, 15 February 2024
Ten Pin Bowling	Years 4-6	Monday, 12 February 2024
Gymnastics Competition	Year 3 & 4	Monday, 12 February 2024- Thursday, 15 February 2024
Half-term	All	Monday, 19 February 2024- Friday, 23 February 2024
A.I.M. High Science Day at Whitefield Primary Academy	Years 5-6	Monday, 11 March 2024

This week's Attendance Awards

Reception/KS1 Prince Louis –
Green 94.2%

Lower KS2 Princess Charlotte –
Yellow 99%

Upper KS2 Prince George –
Elizabeth 100%



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Star Awards

			
Danny DETERMINATION says, "DON'T GIVE UP."	Colin CURIOSITY says, "THINK FOR YOURSELF."	Chloe COMMUNICATION says, "RESPECT OTHERS."	Izzy INDEPENDENCE says, "DO YOUR BEST."
Rares A-B	Joshua C	Ana A	Stefania V
Reuben S	George T	Jude M	Theo R-S
Freya R	Safa A	Ava-Rose G	Jason E
Rosalie F	Jack H	Lilah M	Jesse H
Lilly S		Harrison B-F	Aleksandra S
Annabelle M		Zara A	Eleni W
Lois U		Chloe O	Ivy B
Chloe D			Lexie S
Arian F			
Liam D			

