

## Where everyone matters and every day counts



### Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter Friday 9th May 2025

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had a busy week with lots of activities taking place. On Tuesday, children in year 4 had a fantastic day at the Natural History Museum at Tring. The children were very excited to explore the galleries filled with over 4,900 specimens. We learnt about the life of Walter Rothschild, the founder of the museum, and saw a life-size replica of his giant tortoise. We visited each gallery and took part in a workshop all about skeletons.

Children reported:

*'I liked seeing the crocodiles.'*

*'I liked seeing the Tasmanian tiger and taking part in the skeleton workshop.'*

*'I liked seeing the animals, especially the insects. I*

*liked guessing the animals when we looked at the skeletons in the workshop.'*

*'I liked seeing the tiger and lion cub. It was interesting to see how dogs have evolved over time.'*



The children in year 1 visited Wardown Park Museum, where they explored toys from the past. They were very excited about their visit and were keen to share their experiences of playing with 'old' toys. The children seemed particularly enthused about the stuffed mice that kept running off!

Thank you to the staff for organising educational visits and broadening the children's experiences in these areas of the curriculum.



On Thursday, we marked our respect on the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day by observing a two minute silence. An assembly was held to share key information with the children to explain why we celebrate this special event and remember the veterans who sacrificed their lives during World War Two.



Our year 6 children have been working extremely hard to prepare for their SATs that are taking place next week—please join me in wishing them the best of luck.

A reminder that children must not be scooting or riding their bikes on the playground before school and at the end of the day. Staff patrolling the playground will be reminding children to 'walk their wheels' in order to keep everyone safe by preventing any accidents from happening.

After half-term, we will be hosting curriculum sessions for you to engage in activities with your child. These will take place during the school day and further information around these will be shared in next week's newsletter.

#### PTA Updates

The PTA has organised an end of term disco on Friday 23rd May. On this day, children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 can come to school in suitable party wear, as their discos will be taking place during the school day. Please note that the finishing time for the Years 1 and 2 disco is 3:30pm.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

I look forward to seeing you on the gate on Monday morning.

**Mrs R Parmar**

#### VALUE OF THE MONTH FOR MAY:

##### Empathy

**the ability to understand  
and share the feelings of  
another person**



#### 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](http://www.kidzzoneclub.com).

#### PTA School Disco Friday 23rd May



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

Nursery & Reception—1:45-2:30pm  
Years 1 & 2—2:30-3:30pm  
Years 3 & 4—3:30-4:30pm  
Years 5 & 6—4:30-5:30pm

A £2 entry fee will be charged and children will be provided with a drink and snack.

#### School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is:  
Nursery—£2.40

Years 3-6—£2.60

This can be paid via SchoolGrid.

#### Studybugs QR Code



#### Attendance Winners

**EYFS/KS1: Green with  
99.1%**

**KS2: Emerald with 100%**

**Whole School  
Attendance:  
95%**

#### Housepoint Winners

**EYFS/KS1:  
Balmoral 31 points**

**KS2:  
Sandringham—59 points**

**Overall Winning House:  
Sandringham—83 points**

## ***Meet our Leadership Team***



**Interim  
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**



**Early Years Leader**  
**Mrs R Baldwin**



**Key Stage 1 Leader**  
**Miss M Davidson**



**Upper Key Stage 2  
Leader**  
**Miss E Naisby**

## EARLY YEARS

### Nursery

This week throughout the nursery, we went on a shape hunt that took us all around the school. The children were "shape explorers" and were very excited to share what they found. The children were able to name the shapes correctly, as well as describing the shapes, such as a triangle has three sides.

Well done children - you are super shape finders!



### Reception

This week, we continued our theme of travel. We 'visited' London and the children have learnt about the many famous landmarks such as: Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and the London Eye to name a few. We have been singing some old traditional English nursery rhymes like Oranges and Lemons and Ring a Ring of Roses. We read the story 'Katie goes to London'.



## KEY STAGE 1

### Year 1

We visited Wardown Park Museum this week where we had the chance to engage with an Old Toy Workshop and play with old toys from the 18th century, 19th century, 20th century and 21st century. The children loved exploring the Museum where they learnt about Luton's historical artefacts.



### Year 2

This week in maths, we continued learning about fractions. We can now use the proper mathematical language to explain fractions, including numerator, denominator and vinculum. We have looked at unit fractions (where the numerator is 1) and have started to look at non-unit fractions (where the numerator is more than 1), playing a great game of snap today using representations of these.



## LOWER KEY STAGE 2

### Year 3

This week, sports day preparations have started. The children have worked on athletics and have been practising sprinting, long jump and the javelin. The children also had an opportunity to share their homework. The children were asked to make a Biome from a shoe box. A Biome is a large geographical region characterized by a specific climate, vegetation, and animal life. We have some very talented pupils, who have really made their Biomes come to life.



### Year 4

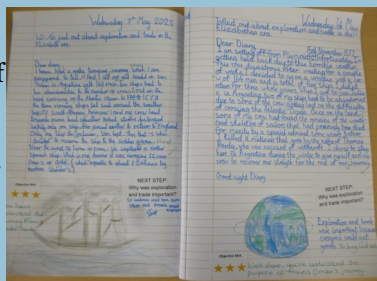
On Tuesday, the children went to the Zoological Museum in Tring. They enjoyed walking around the galleries, looking at the exhibits, and reading about the different animals. They took part in a skeleton workshop, where they discussed the skeletons they saw and tried to work out which animals they belonged to. On Wednesday, they used the information they had gathered to write a fact file about their trip, using the pictures they had sketched and the factual information they had collected.



## UPPER KEY STAGE 2

### Year 5

This week the children have been writing a diary entry based on a character from the book 'Boy in the Tower'. They had to consider all of the features to include for example, first person, phrasal verbs, chronological order, facts and opinions and rhetorical questions. In our history lesson, the children have learnt about exploration during the Elizabethan era and the achievements of the explorer Francis Drake.



### Year 6

We have continued reading our class book during our English lessons and we have continued writing our non-chronological reports on the Yellow Spotted Lizard.

In maths, we have been reading and interpreting pie charts. For VE Day, we learnt about why it is important and what it means to us. We then created our own Union Jack flags to celebrate.



## HEADTEACHER AWARDS



### **Congratulations to the following children:**

<i>Early Years</i>	<i>Alfie N, Myra A, Ezekiel J, Salma B, Siya A</i>
<i>Years 1 &amp; 2</i>	<i>Lilah M, Jeremie B, Mikael I, Keyan M</i>
<i>Years 3 &amp; 4</i>	<i>Leon S, Lou-Lou G, George F, Anwita BN</i>
<i>Years 5 &amp; 6</i>	<i>Malachi B, Ines A, Liam T, Arran G</i>



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Office:**

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### **Nursery:**

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### **Reception and Key Stage 1:**

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### **Family Support Worker:**

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### **Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2:**

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## Upcoming Events:

Day	Date	Time	Year Group	Event
Monday-Thursday	12-15 May		Year 6	Key Stage 2 SATs Week
Friday	16 May		Year 6	Bowling Trip
Friday	23 May	1:45-2:30pm 2:30-3:30pm 3:30-4:30pm 4:30-5:30pm	Reception Years 1 & 2 Years 3 & 4 Years 5 & 6	PTA Disco—children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 can come to school in appropriate party wear on this day.
Monday-Friday	26-30 May		All children	Half-Term
Monday	2 June		All children	INSET Day—school closed for all children
Tuesday	3 June		Year 6	Go Construct Knex Challenge
Monday	9 June		All children	School photographs - please ensure children have their full uniform in school for their photograph.
Monday-Friday	9-13 June		Year 1 & Year 2 resitting	Phonics Screening Check Week
Tuesday	10 June	9:30-10:30am	Nursery & Reception	Sports Day
		1:30-2:30pm	Nursery (PM)	Sports Day
Thursday	12 June	9:30-11:00am	Years 1 & 2	Sports Day
		1:30-3:00pm	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Sports Day
Wednesday	18 June	9:30-10:30am	Nursery & Reception	Sports Day (Reserve Day)
		1:30-2:30pm	Nursery (PM)	Sports Day (Reserve Day)
Wednesday	18 June		Year 3	Trip to Buckingham Railway Centre
Thursday	19 June	9:30-11:00am	Years 1 & 2	Sports Day (Reserve Day)
		1:30-3:00pm	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Sports Day (Reserve Day)
Monday-Friday	23-27 June	All day	Year 6	Careers Week/Enterprise Week
Thursday	26 June	3:00-3:45pm	Year 6	Year 6 Enterprise Fair
Wednesday	25 June		Year 2	Trip to Ashridge
Tuesday	8 July		Year 6	Key Stage 2 SATs results
Tuesday	8 July	5:00-6:00pm	Year 6	End of year production
Wednesday	9 July	9:30-10:30am	Year 6	End of year production
Thursday	10 July	2:00-3:00pm	Year 6	End of year production
Monday	21 July	9:15-10:00am	Year 6	Leavers' Assembly
Monday	21 July	4:00-5:30pm	Year 6	Leavers' Party
Tuesday	22 July		All children	Last day of term—school closes at 2pm

### **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.

### **What Do PTAs Do?**

These groups may aim to accomplish a range of things, all usually geared at making the school a better place to learn.

Members of a PTA are likely to work together to raise money with a variety of creative events throughout the school year, encouraging the whole community to get involved.

### **PTA Events at Houghton Regis Primary School**

In previous years, the Houghton Regis PTA has organised summer fetes, Santa's Christmas Grotto, discos and a sponsored walk to name a few.

### **Why are PTAs Important?**

PTAs 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 a PTA?**

Being a part of your child's school PTA 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.
- PTA members can learn new skills, from fundraising and problem-solving to communication and creativity.
- As a member of the PTA, 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](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/missing-school)



# Inclusive Football Sessions

**Every Sunday at  
Venue 360,  
Gipsy Lane,  
Luton, LU1 3JH**



**12.00pm – 1.00pm**

Beginner session, including basic ball skills, gross motor skills and small sided games.

**1.00pm – 2.00pm**

Intermediate session, including ball mastery, technical drills and small sided games.

For booking information please contact  
Martin Samm at

**[info@disabilityinaction.co.uk](mailto:info@disabilityinaction.co.uk)**



**£8**  
per session

**After 6 sessions you  
will receive:**

Personalised training top including  
your name and choice of number  
on the back

