

Houghton Regis Primary School



'Growing minds, shaping futures and inspiring lifelong learning'

Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar

Assistant Headteachers: Ms D Faure-Alexis & Mr D de Gouviea-Smith

Monday 5th January 2026

Reception Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term, we will be exploring the magical world of **Traditional Tales!** Children will enjoy listening to, reading, and acting out traditional stories. Our aim is to spark imagination, build confidence and help children enjoy sharing and creating stories of their own!

Here are the books we will be looking at throughout the term:



Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

This term; the children will be learning all about **Dreams and Goals** through our Jigsaw PSHE programme. They will be encouraged to think about what a challenge is and how it can help us learn and grow. The importance of not giving up when something feels tricky and how to set a simple goal and work towards achieving it.

Communication and Language

Children will be developing their creativity and imagination through activities linked to fairy tales and traditional tales. They will be learning and performing songs and rhymes, creating their own stories using familiar characters and settings. Working in small groups they will be encouraged to use new vocabulary that they have recently learned to retell stories. These activities help children to express themselves creatively, build confidence, and develop their language through imaginative play, role play and storytelling.

Physical Development

Children will be continuing to develop their fine motor and creative skills through a range of practical activities. They will be encouraged to use a pencil with the correct grip to form clear, recognisable letters. By using simple tools such as hole punches and split pins to change and join different materials we aim to develop their fine motor skills.

Literacy

This term, our writing will be inspired by well-loved traditional tales. The children will develop their early writing skills through fun, practical activities linked to these stories. We will be focusing on: labelling pictures where children will add labels to characters and objects from stories (e.g. wolf, cottage, bed), helping them match sounds to letters. Writing captions for pictures by using simple phrases to describe what is happening in a picture, for example: "The wolf is running." "I can help." We will be writing speech bubbles for different characters about what they may be saying to support their understanding of story language and character feelings.

St Michaels Avenue, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5DH
Telephone: 01582 867487

Email: office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk
Website: www.houghtonregisprimary.co.uk

Houghton Regis Primary School



'Growing minds, shaping futures and inspiring lifelong learning'

Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar

Assistant Headteachers: Ms D Faure-Alexis & Mr D de Gouviea-Smith

Phonics

This term, we will be continuing our Little Wandle phonics sessions, where children learn to read and write using sounds. We will be focusing on Phase 3, which introduces new digraphs and trigraphs (two or three letters that make one sound). Sounds we will be learning will include: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, oo, ar, or, ur, _ow, oi, ear, air, er. These sounds help children to read and spell longer words such as rain, sheep, night, boat, fork, star, coin, fair. The children will be learning new tricky words such as: was, you, they, my, by, all, are, sure, pure (words that cannot be sounded out easily).

Mathematics

This term, our maths learning will help children to develop their understanding of number and measure through practical, hands-on activities and play. We will be focusing on: **Alive in 5, Mass and capacity and Growing 6, 7 and 8.** Children will explore numbers up to 5 by: recognising and counting up to 5 objects, subitising (seeing how many without counting), understanding one more and one less. They will also compare quantities using more, less and equal. Children will be comparing heavy and light objects during capacity and they will explore full, empty and half full. They will be using water, sand and containers to investigate capacity and use everyday language to describe what they notice. Children will learn to recognise and represent numbers 6, 7 and 8.

Understanding the World

We will be focusing on exploring the past, understanding people and communities and observing the natural world. Children will explore how life has changed over time by learning about farmyard job roles and technology – comparing how farmers work now and in the past. The children will be discovering how bread was made in the past and how it is made today. Children will learn about different cultures and communities and observe and explore the local area, noticing seasonal changes with plants and wildlife.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will be bringing Traditional Tales to life through creative activities. They will be taking part in cooking activities linked to stories, creating character drawings using a variety of materials and explore colour by naming primary and secondary colours and discovering what happens when colours are mixed. During investigations they will be looking at texture and choose materials that are best suited for different purposes.

Please continue to support your child's reading at home, practise writing their names correctly and reading their tricky words. Once they are able to read the words, they will be given new ones.

Thank you for your continued support. Should you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Baldwin and Mrs March

*St Michaels Avenue, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5DH
Telephone: 01582 867487*

*Email: office@houghtonregisprimary.co.uk
Website: www.houghtonregisprimary.co.uk*