

Where everyone matters and every day counts



Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter
Friday 14th February 2025

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We are officially halfway through the year and from the learning that we have seen over the past few weeks, the children are thriving.

Our cultural week was a huge success—we started the week with a colourful non-uniform day! It was lovely to see staff and children dressed in either traditional dress or colours of their researched countries. There was a broad range of activities across the school, including food tasting, creative writing, learning new languages and dancing to name a few! We were pleased to see so many families engage in workshops with their children throughout the week. Thank you to parents and carers for sending positive feedback—we appreciate and value your continued support. Please email any feedback or suggestions to the school office email or via your class email addresses.

A huge thank you to our staff in the kitchen for providing themed meals and puddings. We enjoyed a range of dishes from around the world, such as: Lemon Tea Cookies (Polish), Bombay Potatoes (Indian), Spaghetti Bolognese (Italian), Sausages & Mash (British), Mixed Salad (Turkish), Cinnamon Twists (French), Burger in a Bun (American) and more!

Well done to our year 4 children and staff for their wonderful assemblies this week. They gave us a great insight into the learning that has been taking place this term. Children played the piano, performed street dance, sang songs and shared their club achievements. I was proud to see the children perform with such confidence and enthusiasm—there was a part for everyone. Thank you to Emerald Class for taking us back in time with some music from Abba!

We have recently introduced zones and invested in some new play-ground equipment to create a more structured and purposeful time for children at lunchtime. This has really helped develop children's skills in many ways. Children have reported that:



'The connect four is my favourite part because it is very fun.'

'I like the new equipment because I am not lonely and instead of playing hide and seek, we can play badminton and move around.'

'I am finding it fun outside because we have music and badminton which makes it more interactive.'

'I find it fun because the activities are better than the old ones.'

After half-term, we will continue to organise engaging and creative events for the children to engage in. There is a Year 3 Roman wow day on Tuesday 25th February, which you will have received letters about. The children will participate in various activities such as role-play, food tasting and shield making. Children in year 3 are invited to come to school dressed as an Ancient Roman (e.g. soldier, Julius Caesar, Roman lady).

We look forward to welcoming you to Yellow's class assembly on Thursday 27th February at 2:45pm.

As shared in last week's newsletter, 'Star Awards' will be replaced with a 'Headteacher's Award' after half-term. One child per class will be chosen by their class teachers to receive a Headteacher's Award and sticker in our celebration assembly on Friday. They will also share their learning with the rest of the school and have lunch with me. I am looking forward to recognising and celebrating children's hard work.

A polite reminder to all parents/carers that if you travel by car, please be mindful of parking when dropping off or collecting children from the school. Local residents have reported that their drive-ways have been blocked on numerous occasions. Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

It has been a great first half-term—the children have worked extremely hard and I hope they have been sharing their love of learning and memorable experiences with you. Please join me in thanking our wonderful staff for all their hard work in ensuring the children are safe, happy and enthusiastic about their learning—it is much appreciated.

I wish you all a restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 24th February.

Mrs R Parmar

**VALUE OF THE MONTH
FOR FEBRUARY:**

Kindness

**the quality of being friendly,
generous, and considerate.**



**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.

**Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting
for Year 6 parents**

Tuesday 4th March at 8:15am
Tuesday 4th March at 4:45pm

You only need to attend one of these sessions.

We will share information about the upcoming statutory SATs tests. You will also have the opportunity to ask us any questions.

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is
£2.20 for Nursery and
£2.40 for Reception-Year 6 children. This can be paid via SchoolGrid.

Studybugs QR Code



Attendance Winners

**EYFS/KS1: Orange with
92.1%**

**KS2: Sapphire with
98.4%**

**Whole School
Attendance:
94.5%**

Housepoint Winners

**EYFS/KS1:
Sandringham— 41 points
KS2:
Buckingham—101 points**

**Overall Winning House:
Buckingham—129 points**

EARLY YEARS

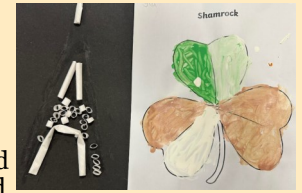
Nursery

This week, Nursery children had the exciting task of learning all about China. We have learnt many fascinating things such as how to say "hello" in Mandarin, how to dance like the dragons and lions in our PE lesson as well as special holidays that are celebrated in China. Teaching children about their culture and the culture of others instills values, traditions and customs that are important to their community. This supports a sense of belonging amongst the children as well as cultural appreciation which has been felt throughout nursery this week with children sharing their own experiences of culture and heritage.



Reception

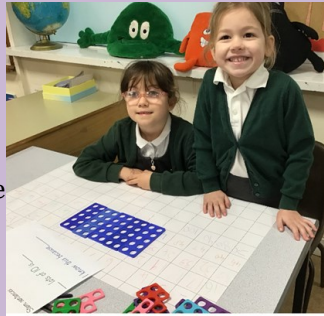
This week in Reception, we have been learning about France and Ireland. We have had lots of fun learning about the countries and completing many creative activities such as making leprechaun masks, passports, flags and Eiffel towers using straws. We have stepped through Celtic rhymes and Parisian piers as we learnt their traditional dances. We enjoyed tasting soda bread from Ireland and foods from France which included brie, stilton, baguettes, crepes and pain au chocolat. C'est tres amusant!!



KEY STAGE 1

Year 1

Year one have been busy this week exercising their mathematical brains to count in groups of 10. They used a variety of resources to help them count forwards and backwards. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed taking part in cultural week as they learnt all about Poland and Japan.



Year 2

Year Two have loved cultural week! Purple class have enjoyed learning about Turkey. We learnt how to say 'hello' and count to 5. We also enjoyed some craft activities such as making flags, tulips and Turkish eyes.



Charlotte class have loved learning about Italy! We made collage flags, plates of spaghetti and meatballs (craft ones!) and enjoyed a presentation all about Italy shared by Francesca's mum.



LOWER KEY STAGE 2

Year 3

This week for cultural week, we have been learning about Canada and South Africa. Yellow class has been on a safari with Mr D and have totally inhabited South African culture, including learning and speaking isiZulu.



Blue class has learnt so many facts, we are truly astounded! They have been investigating Canada's First Nation and have built a Totem pole. We have so much to share with you but we have our class assemblies next half term so watch this space...



Year 4

Year 4 has been very busy. We have continued building our night lights in DT. The children have learnt about bioluminescence and used this knowledge to construct their night lights. Both classes have had their class assemblies where we showcased our learning journey so far. Miss Rogers and Mrs Jenkins are extremely proud of all the children - their performances were excellent.



We have also been taking part in the whole school cultural week. Amber were researching Thailand and Emerald were researching Spain.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

Year 5

We have had an exciting week learning about Nigeria in Sapphire class for cultural week. We located Nigeria on a map, discussed the culture and geographical features. In English, we created a set of instructions as a 'How to survive in a...' guide, with a choice of either the rainforest, desert, savannah or rivers. The children had the opportunity to taste Nigerian foods prepared by Miss Egdell—thank you to her for arranging this. They have also created art works in the style of the Nigerian artist Jimoh Buraimoh.



In Elizabeth class, we have been learning about Romania. In English, the children wrote a detailed instruction on how to climb Moldivaneu Peak in Romania.




Year 6

In William class, we have been learning about Australia. We have created our own persuasive leaflets on why people should visit the country. We have researched the different states and looked at many of the animals associated with Australia. In art, we created our own versions of dot art which was inspired by the aboriginal people. We also created our own versions of the Uluru using watercolours.



This week in Charles class, we have been learning about Mexico. In our English lessons, we have been creating a setting description about the Mexican Afterlife inspired by 'Coco'. In Art, we have been decorating skulls as this links to the festivities of 'Dia De Los Muertos' or 'Day of the Dead'.

STAR AWARDS

			
Danny DETERMINATION says, "DON'T GIVE UP."	Colin CURIOSITY says, "THINK FOR YOUR-SELF."	Chloe COMMUNICATION says, "RESPECT OTHERS."	Izzy INDEPENDENCE says, "DO YOUR BEST."
Theo R	Thomas T	Leo I	Damian P
Zion K	Jaden T	Louie M	Joshua H
Saoirse D	Ayla R	Keyan M	Darius M
Scarlett-Mae B	Ava-Rose G	Yellow Class	Franky-Ray R-S
Ayaan S	Crue O	Lyra S-P	Julianna E
	Floeda M		Zaima Z
	Medina N		Bella S
	Xivaan G		Jesse H
			Cristian M
			Kimberley F

Contact Information

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Upcoming Events:

Day	Date	Time	Year Group	Event
Monday-Friday	17-21 February		All children	Half-Term
Monday	24 February		All children	Return to school
Tuesday	25 February		Year 3	Roman wow day
Thursday	27 February	2:45-3:10pm	Year 3 - Yellow Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Monday	3 March		Year 6	National Offer Day - Secondary School
Tuesday	4 March	8:15-8:45am	Year 6	Key Stage 2 SATs Information Meeting for parents
Tuesday	4 March	2:45-3:10pm	Year 3 - Blue Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Tuesday	4 March	4:45-5:15pm	Year 6	Key Stage 2 SATs Information Meeting for parents
Thursday	6 March	2:45-3:10pm	Year 2 - Purple Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Thursday	6 March		All children	World Book Day
Tuesday	11 March	2:45-3:10pm	Year 2 - Charlotte Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Thursday	13 March	2:45-3:10pm	Year 1 -Orange Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Friday	14 March		Year 1	Trip to the library
Tuesday	18 March	2:45-3:10pm	Year 1 - Green Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Thursday	20 March	2:45-3:10pm	Reception - Platinum Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Tuesday	25 March	2:45-3:10pm	Reception - Gold Class	Class Assembly - parents invited
Monday	31 March	3:45-6:15pm	All children	Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday	1 April	9:30-10:00am	Years 3 & 4	Easter Performance - parents invited
Wednesday	2 April	2:45-3:15pm	Years 3 & 4	Easter Performance - parents invited
Thursday	3 April	4:00-7:00pm	All children	Parent Consultation Evening
Friday	4 April		All children	Last day of term – school finishes at 2:00pm. There will be no clubs or after school clubs on this day.



February 2025

Newsletter

Thursday
20th Feb

19:00 - 20:00
FREE



FREE SESSION

Supporting Healthy Screen Use

A range of steps that can help minimise the harms from screens

Monday
3rd Feb

10:00 - 11:30
£24



Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Tuesday
11th Feb

19:00 - 20:30
£24



Facing Defiance

Specific strategy to help parents manage defiant and challenging behaviour, especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA conditions, 5 to 12 years old.

Tuesday
18th Feb

19:00 - 20:30
£24



Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness

Get the facts and know the harms about these two drugs so you can hold an informed conversation with your teens.

Tuesday
25th Feb

19:00 - 20:30
£24



Understanding the Teenage Brain

A 'must see' for all parents and teachers of teens and pre-teens. Explains why teens think, feel and behave very differently from adults and how we can support them.

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Understanding Anger	10 FEB 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	11 FEB 10am
Facing Defiance	14 FEB 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	27 JAN 7pm 25 FEB 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	28 JAN 7pm 24 FEB 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 FEB 10am 3 MAR 7pm
Improving Family Communication	3 FEB 7pm 4 MAR 10am
AUTISM: Improving Communication	4 FEB 10am 4 MAR 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	4 FEB 7pm 3 MAR 10am
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	10 FEB 10am 10 MAR 7pm
What is ACT?	17 FEB 10am 17 MAR 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 FEB 7pm 18 MAR 10am
Anxiety Explained	18 FEB 10am 18 MAR 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	18 FEB 7pm 17 MAR 10am
Decreasing Depression	24 FEB 7pm 25 MAR 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	25 FEB 7pm 24 MAR 10am



SEND conference for parent carers

Hear from our new Director of Children and Families and get information and support from a variety of organisations



You can also sign up for two of the following workshops on the day:

- Therapeutic thinking
- Graduated approach
- Speech and language
- Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

The conference is taking place on Tuesday 11 March 2025 at the Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, MK45 1AH. There is a morning session running from 9:30am to 12:30pm and an evening session running from 5:30pm to 8:30pm.

To book your free place please visit:
bit.ly/CBCSEND2025 or scan the QR code on this poster.

