

Houghton Regis

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Primary School

St Michaels Avenue
Houghton Regis
Dunstable
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LU5 5DH

NEWSLETTER



27 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Parents' Consultation Evenings

We will be holding parents' consultation meetings for all year groups on:

Monday, 14 October 2024 – 4:00pm-7:00pm

Monday, 14 October 2024 – 5:30pm-7:00pm (Platinum Jubilee Nursery only)

Tuesday, 15 October 2024- 3:30pm-5:30pm (William Class only)

Thursday, 17 October 2024 – 3:30pm-5:30pm (except William and Charles Class)

Appointment signup sheets will be displayed outside your child's classroom or on the main playground on Monday, 30 September.

If you are unable to attend an appointment on this day, please speak to your child's class teacher about arranging this for an alternative day.

Request for leave

Medical appointments

A Leave of Absence form should always be completed in advance for any type of medical appointment. The form is available in the main office and on our website. Please aim to provide a week's notice with evidence for medical appointments unless the appointment is for something highly urgent.

We also need to encourage parents to make appointments out of school hours. Where this is not possible, the pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment.

Likewise, when requesting leave of absence for exceptional circumstances such as for funerals and weddings please complete the form and provide as much notice as possible.

Government guidelines state that parents should provide 20 days' notice of requests for leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. Whilst we understand this guidance may be challenging in some cases we would like to ask that parents aim to provide at least a weeks' notice in line with our policy for medical appointments.

Finally, I need to remind parents that permission for leave of absence from school will only be given in very exceptional circumstances. There are 12 weeks of school holidays and removal of a child during term time seriously disrupts their learning.

School Admissions 2025

Central Bedfordshire Council have produced a booklet to help you with applying for your child's school place for 2025.

The following link will take you to the booklet

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions

The national closing dates for applications to be received by the School Admissions Team are:

31 October 2024

- Transfer to Secondary 2025
- Transfer to Upper 2025

15 January 2025

- Starting School 2025
- Transfer to Middle 2025

Dates of secondary school open events

Location	School	Dates and times of open events
Caddington	Manshead CE Academy	Thursday 3rd October 2024 5.00pm - 8.00pm 2 Speeches: 5.15pm & 6.15pm and an SLT Drop in at 7.00pm. Booking for tour slots will be available via our Website.
Dunstable	All Saints Academy	Wednesday 2nd October 2024 5.00pm - 7.00pm Talk by the Principal in Main Hall at 6.00pm Academy in Action Tours can be booked on the evening
Houghton Regis	Houstone School	Thursday 17th October 2024 5pm – 8pm Talk by the Principal Elizabeth English at 5PM, 6PM and 7PM. Houstone in Action tours available to book – details provided at open evening

Harvest Festival

Parents and carers of pupils in the classes listed below are welcome to join us for Harvest Festival at All Saints Church on Monday, 7 October at 1:45pm.

Yellow
Blue
Amber
Emerald
Elizabeth
Other interested School Choir Children in Years 5 and 6

Letters will go out to parents and carers of children involved nearer the time.



Wet Weather

Thank you to parents and carers in Key Stage One for their understanding around the need to close one of our classrooms and the knock on effect of asking one class at a time to work from home. We appreciate that this has been difficult for some parents.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful weekend. I hope the weather improves over the next few weeks so our children can spend more of their free time outside.

Kind regards

Mr James Edwards

Headteacher



Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Year Group	Event
Wednesday	2 October		All Children	Book Fair
Thursday	3 October	9.00-9.45am	Reception	Phonics workshop for parents
		2.30-3:15pm	Reception	Phonics workshop for parents
Monday	7 October	1.45pm	Years 3 & 4, Elizabeth Class, Choir	Harvest Festival at All Saints' Parish Church
Tuesday- Friday	8-11 October		Year 6	Year 6 residential visit
Thursday	10 October		Year 5	National Space Centre
Thursday	10 October		Years 3 & 4	Harvest Assembly
Monday	14 October	4-7pm	All Children	Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday	15 October	3.30-5.30pm	William Class	Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday	17 October	3.30-5.30pm	All Children	Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday	23 October		Year 6	World War 2 Wow Day
Friday	25 October		Years R-6	SLA Flu Immunisation Session
Friday	25 October			School closes for half-term
Thursday	31 October			Deadline for submitting High School application to the Local Authority
Monday	4 November		School Closed for All Children	INSET Day
Tuesday	5 November		All Children	Return to school
Wednesday	6 November			Prospective parents and children starting school Sept 2025
Friday	15 November		All Children	Children In Need
Tuesday	3 December	11.00-11.30am	Choir	Visit to All Saints View
Thursday	5 December	9.15am and 2.30pm		Reception Nativity
Wednesday	11 December	9.10am and 2.00pm	Nursery	Jingle and Mingle
Thursday	12 December	10.30am and 2pm		Year 1 Nativity
Monday	16 December	1pm-2.30pm	Years 2, 3, & 4	Christmas Carol Concert- All Saints Church
Wednesday	18 December			Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Friday	20 December		All Children	Last day of term – school finishes at 2pm
Monday	6 January		School Closed for All Children	INSET Day
Tuesday	7 January		All Children	Return to school



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."
Mason B	Willow D-S	Kierah-Lilly D	Ainsley C
Nico B		Evelyne P	Esmae T
Yasir K		Vlad R	Eva C
Harper P		Myles B	Israel A
Arber A		Crystal C	George F
Ella P		George T	Alexandra E
Willis Y			Danyaal H
Daniella c			
Zara A			
Toby P			
Evie S			
Aiza Z			
Andrei R			



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SUMMER TERM 2024

Club	Year group involved	Day	Time of Day
Ballet	Year 3- 6	Tuesday	Afternoon
Ballet	Nursery-Year 2	Wednesday	Morning
Football	KS2 (Boys)	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.00pm
Netball	Year 3-5 (Boys and Girls)	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.00pm
Football	KS2 (Girls)	Wednesday	3.15 - 4.00pm
Science Club	Year 3	Thursday	3.15 - 4.00pm
Street Dance	Year 1-4	Thursday	3:30 - 4:30pm
Taekwondo	Reception- Year 6	Friday	Afternoon

This week's Attendance Awards

Reception/KS1 Prince Louis –
Green 99.1%

Lower KS2 Princess Charlotte –
Blue 99.6%

Upper KS2 Prince George –
Elizabeth 96.4%



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School Term dates for the academic year 2024/25

AUTUMN TERM

Staff Training Days: Monday 2 September 2024; Monday November 2024

Term Starts: Tuesday September 2024

Half-Term: Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2024

Term Ends: Friday 20 December 2024 at 2pm

SPRING TERM

Staff Training Days: Monday 6 January 2025

Term Starts: Tuesday 7 January 2024

Half-Term: Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025

Term Ends: Friday 4 April 2025 at 2pm

SUMMER TERM

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 5 May 2025

Staff Training Days: Tuesday 22 April 2025; Monday 2 June 2025

Term Starts: Wednesday 23 April 2025

Half-Term: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025

Term Ends: Tuesday 22 July 2025 at 2pm



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



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Bedfordshire

great
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**Was your child born between
1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021?**

**They will start school in September 2025, so you
need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2025.**

 **Apply online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions**

You can also complete a paper application form which is available from your local school
or by contacting School Admissions  admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk  **0300 300 8037**

A great place to live and work.

