

# Houghton School Newsletter



Website: [www.houghton.leics.sch.uk](http://www.houghton.leics.sch.uk) tel: 0116 241 2465 email: [office@hhs.learnat.uk](mailto:office@hhs.learnat.uk)

## WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all our Houghton families and a special welcome to our new starters who have joined us for the next seven years of their education. As a parent myself, I know how fast these years pass by so enjoy every moment of them and don't wish them away! We also welcome some new staff. Mrs Sam Thandi is joining us in Foundation until Miss Hill completes her maternity leave, and Mrs Emma Fellows will be teaching Year 2 until Miss Calow returns in the spring term. I know that you will give them both a warm Houghton welcome. Everyone (including adults) can have mixed feelings about new starts. In Collective Worship today we talked about the 'Wow, Ow and Now' moments. There will be excitement about seeing friends, meeting a new teacher and being in a new classroom but there will be worries about unfamiliar routines and being away from home. These feelings are normal, and I am sure some parents and teachers were having similar feelings before they started the new term too!

When reflecting on how lucky we are to be together at Houghton ( the Now moment) we thought about our friendships, our environment and our Christian values which we all live and breathe. These enable us to be successful, not just at Houghton, but also in later life.

Reassuringly, within the first half hour of the gate opening, classes were all settled, pupils were smiling, and we were ready to start our new academic year. There is a lot to look forward too.

Wishing you all a wonderful Autumn term,

Best wishes,  
Ali Woollerson  
Headteacher





READY TO LEARN  
AND CATCH UP  
WITH FRIENDS.



# School Priorities 2024-2025

Whole school improvement priorities this year, will focus on the following:

## **PRIORITY 1 - Writing**

To continue to develop the writing curriculum so that all pupils receive well-planned, high-quality learning opportunities in writing to ensure that they reach their full potential. This will include the use of pre-teaching and practice of key aspects of writing, the use of formative assessment and effective feedback.

## **PRIORITY 2 - Adaptive Teaching**

To build a culture of adaption for inclusion which impacts positively on the whole class and not just those with SEND needs.

## **PRIORITY 3 - Parental Engagement and Communication**

To continue to build effective relationships, working closely with families to support and improve pupils' motivation, behaviour and academic success- this will include social and emotional support as well as academic support.

For communication from class teachers, subject leaders, school admin and leadership to be clear, consistent and in line with LearnAT principles.

To showcase and promote events from the school to the wider community, not just to Houghton families, to share the good work and ensure that demand for places is maintained.

We have already made a good start on these priorities during our three teacher days, and some of the areas, such as adaptive teaching, align closely with some of the professional development opportunities provided by Learn-AT.



# Dates for the Diary

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Sept**

Theatre Visit (in school)  
for  
Yrs 1 to 6  
The Jungle Book

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Sept**

KS2 Cross Country

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Sept**

Autumn Fair  
(11-2pm tbc)

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Sept**

School Photographer  
Individual photos

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Sept**

Harvest Festival tbc

**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> and Wed 9<sup>th</sup>  
October**

Parent Meetings for FS  
to Yr 6  
3.30-6.30pm

**Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Oct**

Year 6 trip to Warning  
Zone

**Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Oct**

Open Morning for new  
starters 25-26

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Oct**

Last day of term

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct**

Return to school

# START OF TERM REMINDERS

At the end of the summer term, you had the opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and find out about the routines in classes and other information about the school year. We hope you found the information sheet that you were given useful. Here are a few 'Back to school' reminders....

2024/25
Schools open Tuesday 27 August until Friday 18 October 2024 (Bank Holiday Mon 26 August)
Half-term: 21 – 25 Oct 2024
Schools open Monday 28 October until Fri- day 20 December 2024
Christmas Holiday: Mon 23 Dec until Fri 3 Jan
Schools open Monday 6 January until Friday 14 February 2025
Half-term: 17 – 21 Feb 2025
Schools open Monday 24 February until Friday 11 April 2025
Easter holiday: Mon 14 – Fri 25 April 2025
Schools open Monday 28 April until Friday 23 May 2025 (Bank Holiday Monday 5 May)
Half-term: 26 – 30 May 2025
Schools open Monday 2 June until Tuesday 8 July 2025
Summer holiday: Wed 9 Jul – Mon 25 Aug 2025
Training Days In school 21/22/23 August 2024 Disag. 9/10 July 2025

Dates for 25/26 have not yet been confirmed.

## UNIFORM

Most of you are familiar with our uniform policy which can be found on our school website but here are a few reminders:

Plain, black, sensible shoes (no boots)

All uniform must be named. Please check this regularly to make sure that names have not faded in the wash. We have so much unnamed lost property during the year and most of it is unclaimed.

Earrings should be removed on PE days, preferably before coming to school. Please read our Wearing of Jewellery policy on our school website. [www.houghton.leics.sch.uk/parents/uniform](http://www.houghton.leics.sch.uk/parents/uniform)

If hair is below the shoulder or gets into eyes, it must be tied back (Boys and girls).

## ALLERGIES

Please be aware that we have children in school for whom contact with nut products is life-threatening. **Any food suspected of containing nuts (e.g. Nutella) will be confiscated as the risk is too great.** Please do take care.

May I also remind you that the only permitted morning snack is fruit (dried or fresh) and not biscuits, crisps or chocolate.

## BIRTHDAY TREATS

Everyone loves a birthday, and these are often celebrated in class by singing Happy Birthday and sharing news. Due to a variety of reasons including food intolerances and financial constraints, please can we remind you that we do not allow children to share birthday treats such as cakes, sweets, chocolates or other food items with their peers. If you would like to buy something to mark the occasion, a class book is always welcome.

Thank you for your support.