

Houghton School Newsletter



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Houghton-on-the-Hill

Dear Families

I am delighted to share that we have a new website.

Houghton-on-the-Hill Primary School – Home

Most of the information has been transferred across from our old website and over the coming months, I will be updating it. Hopefully, you will find this website easier to navigate and find information. The plan is to set up a class information page too so you can easily find key documents that are relevant to your class, as these can get lost on Dojo. Previous newsletters will also be saved in the **News and Events** section.

I have also added the school menus as, 'What is on today's menu?' is a question that is regularly asked! You can find this in the '**School Life**' section. As mentioned, we will also be sharing information on Instagram and Facebook in line with other Learn-At schools. With all the new social media, you will receive an email and form to update photo permissions.

https://www.instagram.com/houghton_on_the_hill_primary/

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565045933551>

Next week, you will get an email about the school trip to the Panto! The Houghton School Helpers have generously offered to pay for the tickets so the only cost will be for the bus. The committee are keen to offer experiences as well as tangible goods and this is a great way to ensure that every child in the school benefits from the fund raising.

Best Wishes

Ali Woollerson

Headteacher



Does your child qualify for Pupil Premium funding?

All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a **Universal** Free School Meal (often referred to as **UFSM**). If you are in receipt of certain benefits, you may be entitled to Free School Meals (**FSM**). No wonder everyone is confused, and some parents miss out!

The difference is that if you are entitled to **FSM** there are other means of support that you can tap into. Once you are in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals our school will receive additional funding (Pupil Premium) to help and support you through your child's education. The school will also receive extra support to deliver a fully inclusive and accessible education for all of our pupils. You can apply for Free School Meals at any time while your child is at Houghton on the Hill Primary school

Pupil premium funding will provide:

- Free school meals in Key Stage 2
- An annual voucher for a school jumper
- Free school milk.
- Food vouchers during the holiday
- A reduction in the cost of educational trips and residential visits.
- Support with educational resources and facilities



Don't let your child miss out!
The Pupil Premium – information for parents



Did you know that extra money could be available to help your child's learning and development?
It's quick and easy to find out if you can claim for your child.

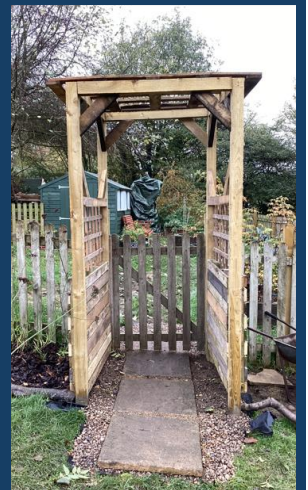
Click on this link to find out how to apply and check if you are eligible.

[Free School Meals | Leicestershire County Council.](#)

Please also speak to our office staff if you would like further help with this.

OUTDOOR GARDEN

Francesca and her team continue to work wonders with our outdoor space. The beds have been built, the logs placed in the seating area, the arch constructed, slabs laid, and some plants purchased. We will have our grand opening, but we will continue to work on this area, applying for grants and further donations to continue the good work. Parents are welcome to visit the area after school on Friday 8th November. Thank you to everyone who has started to send in daffodil and narcissi bulbs for the school bulb planting day this term. Keep sending them in and we will find a suitable planting day before the frost arrives to get the bulbs planted. Thank you for your support.





SPOTLIGHT ON **MATHS- Mrs Woollerson**

As well as being the headteacher, I also work for one day a week as an Assistant Maths Hub Lead for the East Midlands South Maths Hub. Initially I was employed as a Mastery Specialist and teachers from other schools would come to Houghton to participate in teacher research groups, observing and reflecting on lesson design and content. Nowadays, part of my role includes overseeing the Teaching for Mastery phases for primary across the county, working with mastery specialists, teachers, leaders and maths practitioners in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. Our doors are still open though, and we still invite teachers into our classrooms to support professional development of colleagues in other schools, not just at Houghton.

As well as all the personal opportunities I have gained from this role, our school has benefitted too, with several of our staff attending workgroups and programmes to develop their own subject knowledge and classroom practice. We were also one of the first schools to start on a mastery journey with the hub, and the lesson structure that we use for most of our lessons, stems from the professional development I attended over 10 years ago. We also use the materials recommended by the Maths Hub to plan lessons, and we have engaged in programmes that support number sense. More information about our Maths Curriculum can be found here

<https://www.houghton.leics.sch.uk/page/?title=Mathematics&pid=34>

Some of the programmes we are part of this year are:

Mastering Number in FS, Year1 and Year 2- This programme aims to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense for all children from Reception through to Year 1 and Year 2. The aim over time is that children will leave KS1 with fluency in calculation and a confidence and flexibility with number.

Mastering Number at Key Stage 2- This programme enables pupils in Years 4 and 5 to develop fluency in multiplication and division facts, and a confidence and flexibility with number that exemplifies good number sense.

Sustaining- A work group that embeds the mastery principles and focuses on a given theme. This year we will be focusing on problem solving and Mr Taylor will be leading this.

Previously we have been part of the Parent Project which many of you were part of and supporting teaching assistants.

We plan to invite you into classrooms to observe some of our Mastering Number lessons. Watch this space!



Some recent Maths results:

End of KS1- 79% of children achieved expected standard, 17% being at the greater depth standard. (National -70% expected / 16% greater depth)

End of KS2- 75% of children achieved expected standard, 39% being at the greater depth standard (National- 73% expected, 24% greater depth)

Multiplication results- 48% of children achieved full marks (25/25), The average score was 23.32 (National was 29% achieving full marks-2023 result)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We have had a few more questions from parents about birthday treats. Due to a variety of reasons including teacher time, food intolerances, financial constraints and peer group pressure, 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. Also, we do not allow individual presents such as party bags as this could easily get out of hand.

If you would like to buy something to mark the occasion, a class book is always welcome. Thank you for your support.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF IT

If you have not submitted this yet, please see the link attached regarding the acceptable use for IT. Please read it through with your child and submit the Microsoft form.

Thank you.

We will be chasing families who have not completed these as we need 100% return rate.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Q2SrVExU0q>



General Dates for the Diary

Friday 8th November

Grand opening of our outdoor area
Parents welcome to visit at the end of the school day.

Monday 11th November

Flu Immunisations

Friday 15th November

Year 6 Class Assembly

18th – 20th November

Travelling Book Fair

Friday 29th Nov

Chocolate Donations
Non-uniform day

Friday 6th Dec

Christmas Tree Festival 5-7pm

Tuesday 17th Dec

Trip to the panto!

Friday 20th Dec

Last day of term

Monday 6th January

Back to school

Christmas Plans

Foundation Stage Nativity

Tuesday 3rd December 2.15pm
Wednesday 4th December 9.15am

KS1 Performance

Tuesday 10th December 9.15am
Wednesday 11th 2 pm

KS2 Service

Friday 13th December 9.15
Friday 13th December 2pm

Times tbc for KS2