



POSITIVE PARENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

Dear Families

This term, we are continuing to work on our School Improvement Priorities, one of which focuses on parental partnerships. Although feedback from parents is generally positive, we are not complacent, and we want to continue building effective relationships by working closely with you to support and improve motivation, behaviour, and academic success. This includes social and emotional support, as well as academic support. For example, this year, you will have seen teachers at the gate in the morning to make them more accessible to parents and we have created an online video about how we are supporting children in school with their emotions. Last year, we sent out a parental survey to gather your input, and interestingly, the feedback was very similar to views about homework i.e. viewpoints differed within classes and across classes! We also considered feedback about end-of-year reports. Therefore, some of the initiatives we are introducing and continuing with are as follows:

- ❑ Feedback about your child's learning behaviours in class will be summarised at the Spring term parents' evening for Year 1 to Year 6 (behaviour, self-scaffolding, reflection, readiness to learn, and effort). Last year, a summary table was shared as part of the end-of-year report, but some parents commented that they would have liked this information earlier.
- ❑ Opportunities to pop into class at the end of the day to see a project your child has been working on. We are inviting parents into classes on World Book Day (Friday 7th March) at 2:45 PM. Class teachers will inform you about other projects happening in their classrooms, throughout the year.
- ❑ Time to observe part of a lesson. Research has shown that this has more value if it is cohort-specific, so rather than having everyone come to a reading lesson, for example, the class teacher will invite you into their class to observe a lesson relevant to that year, e.g., a Mastering Number lesson in Year 4, a Phonics lesson in Year 1. These observations will take place at different times during the week, usually at 9 AM or 2:30 PM. Look out for invites via Class Dojo.
- ❑ Time to work alongside your child. Our Rainbow Charity Day was a huge success last year, and we have plans for a similar event at the end of this term.
- ❑ Inviting parents to support lessons, e.g., RE lessons. There is such a lot of knowledge and expertise in our community which we are keen to tap into.

We recognise that parents work, do not always live locally, or have younger siblings to care for, and we also face the issue of lack of space but hopefully, we can strike the right balance so that we can create a supportive, collaborative environment that benefits everyone.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Ali Woollerson
Headteacher



FIRST DAY BACK AFTER HALF TERM



WORLD BOOK DAY

This year sees the 25th anniversary of World Book Day which we will be celebrating as a school on **Friday 7th March**. The charity "World Book Day" champions reading for fun because children are more likely to read if they think that they will enjoy it. There will be dressing up day on Friday 7th for everyone who wants to and children (and staff) are encouraged to dress as one of their favourite book characters.

Throughout the week, children will be given opportunities to read and enjoy books and stories and this year, we will be having a whole school focus on traditional and fairy tales. We would like to invite you into school to see some of the work that your child has produced during the week and your child's class will be open for you to join them from 2.45pm on the Friday afternoon.

Your child will be coming home this week with a World Book Day voucher worth £1 that they can use to get a free World Book Day book at a bookstore. Vouchers are valid until 23rd March 2025.

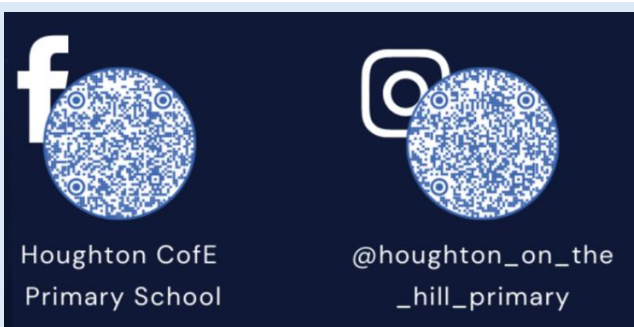
We are looking forward to celebrating the world of books and hope that you can join us!

Please note that other schools may be celebrating on the Thursday, but we have picked Friday as Thursday is a PE day for several classes and we thought it would make getting changed quite tricky and time consuming if pupils are dressed up as a book character!



Tapping into our Community

We are keen to get parents or members of our local community to share information about their culture, religion or area of expertise. This could be in a whole school assembly or in a class. Year 2 loved it when Mrs Matharu visited their class to talk about the Punjabi culture, for example. Mrs Wynne is particularly keen to get someone to talk to her class about Judaism so please contact her directly if you know of anyone who can help with this.



FOLLOW US

Have you logged onto our Instagram or Facebook page yet? So far, we only have 43 followers so let's see if we can get to a 3-digit number before the end of the week!

General Dates for the Diary

Monday 24th February
Wednesday 26th February
Parents' Meetings

Friday 28th February
Year 4 Class Assembly 9am

Wednesday 5th March
'Biggest Ever Girls Football Session'
from Houghton Rangers for girls in
Year 1 to Year 6
(in school time)

Friday 7th March
World Book Day (pg. 3)

Friday 21st March
Year 5 Class Assembly 9am

Friday 28th March
6pm-8pm
HSH Family Bingo Night

Friday 4th April
Year 3 Class Assembly 9am

Wednesday 9th April
2pm
Easter service

Thursday 10th April
3.15pm
Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 11th April
2-3pm
Charity Afternoon for parents
Tbc

Easter Holidays
14th- 25th April

WELCOME BACK MISS HILL

We are delighted to announce that Miss Hill has returned to Houghton after a year-long maternity leave. During her absence, I have been fulfilling the role of SENDCO, and while I will continue to support this area, Miss Hill has resumed her responsibilities as the school's SENDCO. Miss Hill will be working in Foundation on a Monday and Tuesday, and Wednesday will be ringfenced for her SEND work.



ALL CHANGE!

Last term, we communicated with you that Dinners and First Aid reporting are changing. We are looking forward to the many benefits and savings that these changes will bring but we do acknowledge that as with any new system, there will be teething problems. We will continue to keep you informed of any updates and hope that any issues can be resolved quickly. Thank you for your support with this.

Please remember to check emails for First Aid notifications as we are moving away from paper copies, this week.

