



KINDNESS AND GRATITUDE

Dear Families,

I have often highlighted in newsletters the significance of our school values—not just here at Houghton but as guiding principles for life. I frequently reflect on how fortunate I am to work in a school where these values are consistently demonstrated, not only by our pupils but also by our staff and parents.

This year, I have been genuinely overwhelmed by the generosity of our parents—not just through monetary donations but also with your creative ideas and the invaluable gift of time. Kindness and gratitude are the two school values that have particularly stood out to me in recent weeks,

For example, Mr. and Mrs. Kirk and friends have greatly supported us in addressing the drainage issue on our field. Thanks to their help and the installation of new pipes, we are hopeful that the field and daily mile track will soon be back in use, enabling us to make full use of our wonderful outdoor area. Two parents are also raising money by completing a half marathon to help fix parts of the track that were damaged by the water. Houghton School Helpers have provided sensory equipment to benefit all children across the school, and a kind parent has made a financial donation to support our school initiatives. Finally, parents have volunteered in Forest School and with sporting events. The list could go on and on.

These are just a few examples of how your incredible support makes a tangible difference; I know there are many more. When budgets are tight, your contributions—whether through time, ideas, or donations—have a profound impact on our ability to provide a well-rounded and enriching environment for our students.

On behalf of Team Houghton, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering generosity and support. We are constantly reminded of how lucky we are to have such a dedicated and compassionate community of parents.

Thank you for all that you do. Should you have any questions, ideas, or wish to get involved in upcoming initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best Wishes

Ali Woollerson (Headteacher)



BEFORE DURING AND AFTER!



We can get to the second trim trail because of our new bridge.

The daffodils we planted are out!



The new salad bar is a hit!



Coaches from Houghton Rangers helped us to promote the FA's #LetGirlsPlayBiggest EVERfootball FootballSession

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Easter holds a special place in the heart of our church school, and over the coming weeks, we will be sharing the Easter Story with the children during class and Collective Worship. To celebrate, the children will retell the story through songs at our Easter Service, which will take place on **Wednesday, 9th April** at St Catharine's Church at **2pm**. We warmly welcome parents to join us for this meaningful occasion but please note that seating is reserved for the pupils, so standing room will be available at the sides and the back of the church. Therefore, we kindly request that only one person per family attends.

Easter is also a time for new life and beginnings, and we are having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Thursday 10th April at 3.15pm**. Houghton School Helpers will be sharing information soon so look out for the posters and messages about what you need to do to buy a ticket for this.



Finally, we are inviting parents to join us on **Friday 11th April for at 2pm** for our Annual Trust Charity event. This year it is Easter themed.

Last year, the LearnAT schools raised over £4500 for the Rainbow charity, with Houghton contributing £400 towards this. In the Autumn term, pupils across the 19 schools voted for a new charity and Cancer Research was chosen to be the trust Charity for 24-25. This is a charity that is close to our hearts as it has affected so many of our families and colleagues in school, so we are keen to raise lots of money. Here is our plan for our Charity day:

- ❑ **Families are invited into class to work alongside their child on Easter themed activities from 2pm on the 11th April.**
- ❑ **It will be a non-uniform day linked to the theme of Spring or Easter. This could be as simple as wearing a top in a pastel colour, designing a T-shirt covered in Easter egg patterns or dressing up as an Easter Bunny! In return we will be asking for donations for Cancer Research.**
- ❑ **Children are invited to enter an Easter Hat competition. This could be a traditional Easter bonnet but could also be something more creative linked to rabbits, Spring or the Easter Story, for example. We will have a parade during the day and will choose some winning designs.**

Thank you in advance for supporting this event.

General Dates for the Diary

Thursday 27th March
Year 4 Trip

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
See details on page 2

Easter Holidays
14th- 25th April

Monday 28th April
Back to school

Monday 5th May
Bank Holiday Monday

wc Monday 12th May
KS2 SATS for Year 6

26th-30th May
HALF TERM

Monday 1st June
Back to school

LATENESS

Most children are settled and in class completing their morning work, by 8.45 which is great news, but we are finding that we are having more and more children arrive after the gate is closed. Pupils who arrive late disrupt lessons and, if a child misses the start of the day, they can feel unsettled and embarrassed and risk missing vital work and important messages from their class teacher. Registers open at 8.45

The following information is from the LearnAT Attendance Policy.
[Attendance Policy LearnAT](#)

- If their arrival is less than 30 minutes after the register opens it will be recorded as late - L code (Late before the close of register)
- All pupils arriving 30 minutes or more after the register opens will be marked as having an unauthorised absence for the morning session.

Over the next few weeks, we will be monitoring late arrivals. This will be shared with an external reviewer who is visiting our school in April.

If your child has a persistent lateness record, you may be invited to a meeting at school, but you can approach us at any time if you are having difficulties getting your child to school on time. We are here to support you.

ALL CHILDREN ARRIVING VIA THE OFFICE MUST BE SIGNED IN BY PARENT/CARER

Thank you for your support with this.

**** Gates close at 8.45****