



EMBRACING CHANGE TOGETHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we settle into the new term, we're reminded that change is a natural and important part of school life. Whether it's new routines and school priorities, curriculum updates, or evolving expectations, change brings valuable opportunities for growth, reflection, and improvement.

Of course, change can also come with a few hiccups—those unexpected challenges that require patience and flexibility from all of us. For example, adjustments to our new dinner systems and the IT issues staff experienced over the bank holiday weekend and start to school. We're grateful for your continued support and understanding as we navigate these changes but know that the result will be worthwhile and that the new system will support ease of ordering and efficiency. Every day we are getting a little bit closer to everything being sorted!

We continue to benefit from a stable and dedicated team; however, we were saddened to learn that Mrs Kersten has decided to leave Houghton after an incredible twenty-seven years of service, due to health reasons. Mrs Kersten has been a talented and much-loved Learning Support Assistant, and her contributions to our school have been immeasurable. From her artistic flair and engaging French lessons to her beautiful displays, she has enriched our school in countless ways. We will miss her greatly, but we hope she'll return in a voluntary capacity once she's back to full health.

We also have some changes in the school office this term. Mrs Sheret has reduced her hours and will no longer be in school on Mondays, Fridays, and Wednesday afternoons. We are fortunate to have a strong and capable office team who will continue to support parents and carers. However, due to the reduction in staffing—and with only one member of staff on reception at times—we kindly ask for your support with the following:

- The school office will now close at 3:30 PM.
- Please check emails from the office and updates on Class Dojo before calling with questions. Our office staff are always happy to help, and we understand that sometimes information may not be as clear as intended. However, in some cases, the relevant details have already been shared.

Your cooperation helps us manage the office efficiently and ensures we can continue providing the best support possible. We'll continue to keep you informed and involved as we move forward, and we welcome your feedback and support as always.

Warm regards,

Ali Woollerson

Head Teacher



DATA SNAPSHOT

ASSESSMENTS	SCHOOL DATA 2025	NATIONAL
FOUNDATION STAGE PROFILE GLD	71%	68.3%
YEAR 1 PHONICS	86.7%	79.9%
MULTIPLICATION CHECK	46.7% scored 25/25 Mean Average of 21.97	34% Scored 25/25 Mean Average of 20.2
KEY STAGE 2 Reading Writing Maths expected std +	64.3%	62.2%
KEY STAGE 2 Reading Writing Maths above expected std	7.1%	8.4%
KEY STAGE 2 Reading- exp standard +	92.9%	75.1%
KEY STAGE 2 Reading – above expected standard	46.4%	33.4%
KEY STAGE 2 Writing- exp standard +	71.4%	72.3%
KEY STAGE 2 Writing – above expected standard	7.1%	12.8%
KEY STAGE 2 Maths- exp standard	82.1%	74.1%
KEY STAGE 2 Maths– above expected standard	35.7%	26.3%
KEY STAGE 2 VGP- exp standard +	92.9%	72.6%
KEY STAGE 2 VGP– above expected standard	28.6%	29.6%

We know that school is more than data scores but to ensure that our pupils are ready for the next stage of their education, pupils take part in external assessments throughout their time at Houghton. Here is a snapshot of the data from the end of 2025. We were delighted by the outcomes in Year 6, particularly the reading achievements. In a recent school improvement visit, the reviewer commented that it was clear that Houghton is a "reading school"—and these excellent results are a testament to that.

This information, together with ongoing internal monitoring and external reviews, feeds into our school priorities for the coming year. These will be shared with you in the October newsletter,



Dates for the Diary Class Assemblies

These will start at 9am and will finish by 9.30.

- YEAR 6:** Friday 14TH November
YEAR 2: Friday 13th February
YEAR 4: Friday 6th March
YEAR 1: Friday 20th March
YEAR 5: Friday 24th April
YEAR 3: Friday 8th May
FOUNDATION STAGE: Friday 22nd May



Autumn Fair – A Houghton Highlight!

Saturday 27th September 11am- 1pm

Our **Autumn Fair** is a much-loved event in the Houghton calendar. Not only does it raise valuable funds for the school, but it's also a fantastic social occasion for our whole community.

We're often lucky with the weather (hopefully we're not tempting fate!), so most activities will take place **outdoors**, making the most of our beautiful surroundings.

This year's fundraising goal:

We hope to raise enough money to purchase **class sets of musical instruments** to enrich our curriculum and give every child more opportunities to explore music.

Can You Help?

To make the fair a success, we need **volunteers** to help with:

- Setting up
- Running stalls
- Tidying up afterwards

We only ask for **an hour or two of your time**, and every bit of help is truly appreciated.

👉 If you're able to support us, please complete the volunteer form. <https://forms.office.com/e/ifGJXL5Gw>
Thank you!

Wed 17th Sept
During school time
Cross Country for Yrs 3- 6

Fri 26th Sept
Non- Uniform Day
Jam Jar Tombola for our
Autumn Fair

Sat 27th Sept
11am-1pm
Autumn Fair

Mon 29th Sept
Year 5 trip to meet the
mummies!

Friday 3rd October
Individual photos

Friday 3rd October
Harvest Festival @2pm
St Catharine's Church

**Mon 6th and Wed 8th
October**
3.30pm-6.30pm
Parent Meetings

Wed 8th Oct
9.30am- 10.30am
Open Morning for new
starters 26-27

Fri 17th Oct
Last day of term

Wed 29th Oct
Return to school

Mon 10th Nov
1.30pm-2.30pm
Open afternoon for new
starters 26-27

Fri 14th Nov
Year 6 Class Assembly

wc 17th Nov
Book Fair

Wed 26th Nov
Year 1 trip to
Newarke Museum:Toys



From 1 September you can apply for your child's school place for the 2026/27 academic year

Secondary school application closing date
Friday 31 October 2025

Primary and Infant to Junior school application closing date
Thursday 15 January 2026

For hints and tips about the process, information on Leicestershire schools and to apply, visit
leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions





Admissions Update: Foundation & Secondary School Places


Mid-term admissions are processed via LearnAt, but first-time admissions for both Foundation Stage and Secondary School must be completed through the Leicestershire County Council website:

Secondary School Admissions


We encourage all parents to visit local secondary schools. Flyers with open event details should already be with you.

 You can apply for up to five school preferences.

 Use all five options—there's no guarantee your first choice will be allocated.

 Deadline for applications: Friday 31st October

Foundation Stage Admissions (August 2026 Starters)

 If your child is starting Foundation in August 2026, applications must be submitted by:


 Tuesday 14th January 2026

We're hosting open sessions for families to visit Houghton School:

Tuesday 8th October – 9:30–10:30am

Monday 10th November – 1:30–2:30pm

Thursday 8th January – 9:30–10:30am

 To book a place, please book a place here <https://forms.office.com/e/UZUt3HjurK>

Spread the Word!

Please share these important dates with family and friends.

We still have a few places available in this year's Foundation Stage, so if you know anyone who might be interested in joining our school community, please encourage them to call the office to find out more.

Did you know?

Nearly **half of our pupils** come from outside the catchment area—so don't hesitate to recommend us to families near and far!



Curriculum Spotlight

Each month, we'll be highlighting different areas of our curriculum to give families a deeper insight into the subjects we teach and how they're delivered. This month, we're focusing on:

Design & Technology – led by **Mrs Wynne**

Physical Education (PE) – led by **Mrs Davis**



Spotlight on Design and Technology at Houghton Primary School by Mrs Wynne

At Houghton Primary School, we follow a consistent and thoughtful approach to teaching Design and Technology (D&T). Our curriculum is designed to help children develop essential skills in problem-solving, creativity, and practical thinking.

Our Approach

Children are encouraged to research, design, make, and evaluate their work.

Projects are rooted in real-life contexts, making learning meaningful and engaging.

We focus on developing children's ability to think critically about design choices, materials, and user needs.

The process is consistent across year groups, ensuring progression and continuity.

This approach helps children build confidence in their ideas, work collaboratively, and reflect on their outcomes.



Examples of Projects by Year Group

Foundation Stage: Design and make a teddy bears picnic blanket for new starters.

Year 1: Create a moving picture book based on Owl Babies for Foundation children to enjoy.

Year 2: Build a moving wacky racer for the annual school race.

Year 3: Design a stationery holder to help someone working from home stay organised.

Year 4: Construct a steady hand buzzer game for a special occasion.

Year 5: Make a toy carousel for Foundation children to use in their play provision.

Year 6: Prepare a warming, healthy soup to be served after Carol Singing, considering dietary needs and preferences.



Can You Help?

Do you work in—or know someone who works in—design, technology, or engineering? We'd love to welcome visitors into school to talk to the children about their work and inspire the next generation of designers and makers.

If you're interested, please contact us at office@hhs.learnat.uk





Spotlight on P.E by Mrs Davis



Our programme is designed to:

Develop **physical competence** and confidence across a range of activities
Promote **healthy lifestyles**, encouraging lifelong participation in physical activity
Foster **teamwork, resilience, and fair play**
Support **mental and emotional wellbeing** through movement and play
Build **self-esteem** and a sense of achievement in all pupils

Holistic approach

We believe P.E and physical activity is about more than just sport—it's about nurturing the **whole child**. Our curriculum integrates:

Physical development: agility, balance, coordination, strength

Cognitive skills: strategy, decision-making, problem-solving

Social and emotional growth: cooperation, leadership, empathy

Inclusivity: ensuring every child feels valued and supported, regardless of ability

Children experience a wide variety of activities including dance, gymnastics, games, athletics, and outdoor adventurous activities. Lessons are designed to be fun, engaging, and accessible to all.

Swimming: A Core Life Skill

In **Year 2**, swimming becomes a **core part of the curriculum**. We prioritise it because:

It's a **vital life skill** that can save lives

It builds **confidence and independence** in water

It supports **physical fitness** and coordination

It introduces children to **water safety and responsibility**

Our goal is for all children to be able to:

- Swim at least **25 metres confidently**
- Use a range of strokes effectively
- Understand and apply **basic water safety principles**

Swimming lessons are delivered by qualified instructors in a safe, supportive environment, and progress is tracked to ensure every child receives the guidance they need.

We are committed to get every child to achieve the swimming goals. Therefore, children will be taken yearly, after Y2, until they achieve them.

