



INVESTING IN INCLUSION WITH THE P.I.N.S PROJECT

Dear Families

At Houghton, we are proud of the experience and expertise within our school community. But we also know that great schools never stand still. That's why we're always looking outward—seeking new ways to strengthen our understanding of key areas such as curriculum content and delivery and SEND provision.

One exciting opportunity we have applied to be part of is the **PINS Project**—short for **Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools**. This national initiative supports mainstream primary schools in becoming more inclusive for **neurodivergent children**, including those with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and other neurodevelopmental differences. This is funded by the Department for Education, NHS England, and the Department of Health and Social Care.

A key element of the project is the development of **Parent Carer Forums**—a feature we are particularly keen to grow at Houghton. These forums provide a vital space for families to share their experiences, contribute ideas, and work collaboratively with the school to shape inclusive practices. We believe that listening to and learning from our parent community is essential to creating a school where every child feels seen, supported, and able to succeed.

Miss Hill, our SENDCo, has previously shared a survey link with you all, and this feedback will directly shape how we develop inclusive practices at Houghton. In addition, we will be holding a **Parent Carer Forum meeting in the school hall on Thursday, 13th November between 10am and 11am.**

The aim of this is to:

Improve services and provision: Parents provide real-life insights that help schools and services tailor support effectively.

Ensure co-production: Working with families—not just for them—builds shared ownership and aligns with the SEND Code of Practice.

Identify gaps and priorities: Parent feedback highlights unmet needs and emerging challenges, especially for neurodivergent or disabled children.

If you have any questions, please get in touch. We hope some of our families can attend. This is not just for families with children with a diagnosis.

Thank you for your support in helping every child—and every family—flourish.

Warm regards
Ali Woollerson
Headteacher



SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON ART AT HOUGHTON by Miss Calow



I'd like to start by saying a huge thank you for all the art supplies and art books donated to school during the summer term. They have been dispersed amongst the classes to help enrich our curriculum and are already being put to good use to create artwork and learn about artists. So far this term, classes have explored how to colour mix paint to create work in the style of existing artists and developed their sketching by focussing on improving specific skills. I have really enjoyed the chance to talk to the children about their artwork, feel the children's excitement in the classroom when experimenting with new skills and see the fantastic end results of their learning. We have many more art projects to come this year, and I can't wait to see the creativity Houghton has to offer.



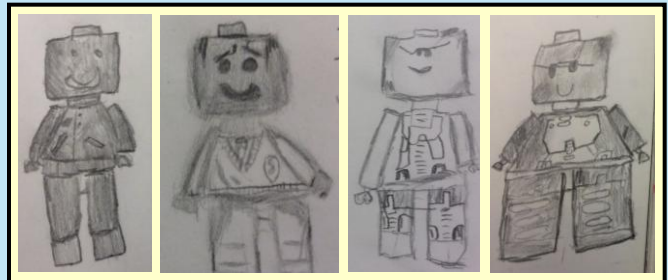
Year 1 Mondrian work using colour mixing of secondary colours.



Foundation Stage leaf sketches using line.



Year 4 Ndebele artwork using colour mixing of tertiary colours.



Year 2 Lego figure sketches using shapes.



Year 5 sketches of Houghton using perspective.

Houghton is looking for some musical inspiration!

Do you or someone you know play an instrument or sing? Are you willing to come into school and talk to the children about your instrument and give them the opportunity to hear some live music?

If you are interested, please contact Miss Calow via the school office.



From Pool to Pitch: Celebrating Success!

We're delighted to celebrate the fantastic sporting achievements our school community has already enjoyed this year. From curriculum-based activities such as swimming to external competitions, our pupils have demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm and talent. Each week in our Celebration Assembly, it's wonderful to hear about the successes children achieve in clubs outside of school too—whether it's dancing, horse riding, theatre, karate, or many other pursuits.

A huge congratulations to everyone who has taken part—we're incredibly proud of you! We look forward to celebrating even more successes as the year progresses.

These achievements wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our volunteers. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Davis and Mrs Bradley for giving their time to help run events, and to Mr Cadman, Mr Wynne, and the families of children who have participated in external competitions. Your involvement makes a real difference.



Curious about a career in teaching? Have you ever considered retraining?

At Learn Academies Trust we deliver an immersive teacher training programme which is aimed at high-quality graduates who want to be part of a school team from day one. We work with the National Institute of Teaching to deliver attractive and comprehensive routes into teaching and can advise you about which option is best suited to your training needs.

Come along to one of our online open events to find out more and discover how our programme prepares you for the classroom from day one! Find out more on our Trust [website](#) and book onto the next session [here](#).



Attendance Reminder

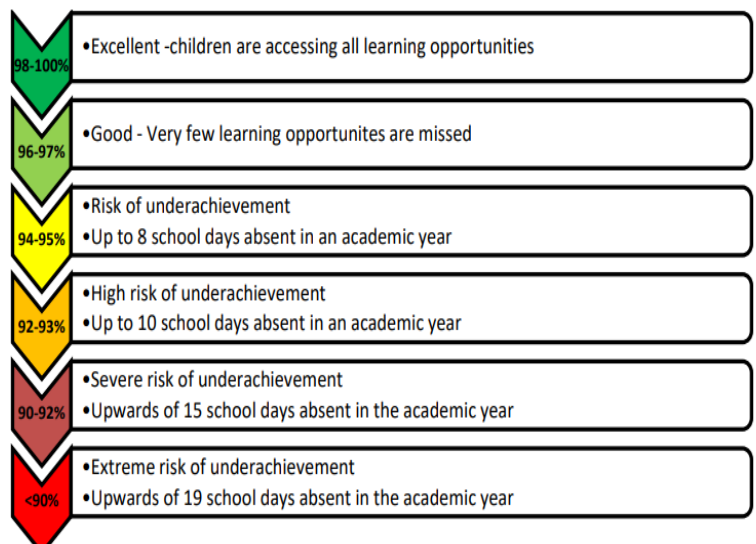
We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of regular school attendance and punctuality. Taking children out of school for holidays during term time is strongly discouraged, and families may be subject to fines in line with government guidelines. This information has regularly been shared with families.

On the day we broke up for half term, our overall school attendance was at a low of **85.7%**. While we understand that some absences were due to illness, we are concerned about the number of children missing school for other reasons. Attendance is closely monitored, and if your child's attendance falls below **90%**, you may receive a letter with an update and any necessary next steps. The LA may also be notified of any parents who take their children out of school for 10 sessions or more so please consider this if booking a term time holiday.

We have previously shared the **term dates** with families, and these can also be found on the **school website**. Please refer to these when planning any holidays to avoid disruption to your child's education.

[Houghton-on-the-Hill Primary School - Term Dates](#)

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high attendance and ensuring every child has the best opportunity to learn and thrive



Mon 10th Nov 1.30pm-2.30pm

Open afternoon for new starters 26-27

Fri 14th Nov 9am
Year 6 Class Assembly

wc 17th Nov
Book Fair

Mon 24th Nov 9am
Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check meeting for parents

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

Mon 17th Nov
School Immunisations

Friday 19th December
Last day of term

Mon 5th Jan
Return to school

Christmas Plans

Foundation Stage Nativity

Tuesday 2nd December 9.15am
Wednesday 3rd December 2.15 pm

Thurs 4th Dec
5-7pm

Christmas Tree festival at school and
at St Catharine's Church

KS1 Performance

Tuesday 9th December 9.15am
Wednesday 10th December 2 pm

KS2 Service

Tuesday 16th December 9.15am
Tuesday 16th December 2pm

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

Tickets only

Due to fire safety requirements and limited space, we will be allocating tickets for all the Christmas Performances. There will be an opportunity for family members to attend one performance/service so hopefully nobody will be disappointed.

- **Foundation will have 4 tickets altogether, 2 for the Tuesday and 2 for the Wednesday (in school)**
- **KS1 will have 4 altogether, 2 for the Tuesday and 2 for the Wednesday (in church)**
- **KS2 will have 2 altogether, 1 for the morning and one for the afternoon service (in church).**

You are more than welcome to swap them with other parents in the class.

You will receive a separate ticket letter, with further details nearer the time.