



CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

As you can imagine, Christmas is a very busy time of year in a primary school! Although we try to keep routines going for as long as possible, the daily timetable can quickly change—from maths and English one minute to dressing up as an angel the next!

We also know that families are busy preparing for the festive season, so just in case you miss any of our school events, I've summarised everything on the next page. Alongside our nativities and Christmas services, we have a few other exciting activities:

Tree Festival Thursday 4th December 5–7pm

We would love you to join us for our Tree Festival this Thursday. Santa will be in school (please pre-book tickets at the office), and there will be food, drinks, and stalls to enjoy. Afterwards, you can pop down to St. Catherine's Church to vote for your favourite Christmas tree. The competition is fierce—teachers and children alike are keeping their designs top secret until the trees are displayed at the church! There will also be entries from the local community.

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day – Wednesday 17th December

You should have received an email from the office on Friday 29th November with details. Please read it carefully. There will only be two menu options that day, but as always, children are welcome to bring a packed lunch. All meals must be pre-booked by **4th December**. Children are also invited to wear a Christmas jumper, sweatshirt or T shirt over their normal school uniform.

Christmas Hampers

Our school corridors are looking wonderfully festive with Christmas hampers! Any winner would be delighted to receive one, so please make sure all raffle tickets are returned to school by **Monday 15th December**.

Thank you for ongoing support this term. It means so much to all the staff at Houghton and shows once again how Team Houghton extends far beyond the school gates.

Warm regards.
Ali Woollerson
Headteacher



Countdown to Christmas

Dates for the Diary



Foundation Stage Nativity (in the school hall)

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

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

Thurs 4th Dec 5-7pm

KS1 Performance at St. Catharine's Church

Tuesday 9th December 9.15am
Wednesday 10th December 2.15 pm

KS2 Service at St. Catharine's Church

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



Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper Day

Wednesday 17th December

Last day of term

Friday 19th December



Return to school

Mon 5th Jan

Reminder: 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 at least 2 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. Please remember that no photos should be taken during the performance due to limited photos permissions of some children.

More dates for the Diary

Remember to check our school website for term dates
[Houghton-on-the-Hill Primary School - Term Dates](#)

Class Assemblies 2026

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



The Year 6 trip to **Warning Zone** is booked for **Wednesday 10th December**. This is a Leicester based charity which is dedicated to teaching life-skills and safeguarding children. Their mission is to deliver life-saving messages to children aged 10-11, catching them on a key transition in their lives as they venture into the next stage of their education. More information can be found on their website.

<https://warningzone.org.uk/>

Class Assemblies are an important part of our school year—a special time to share our learning, welcome parents and families into school, and develop our performance skills! Recently, Year 6 showcased their knowledge of World War II in an impressive assembly. They captivated the audience with their acting, singing, dancing and musical talents, leaving everyone thoroughly entertained and proud.



**Warning
ZONE...**
LIFE SKILLS CENTRE

15th January 2026- deadline for new starters

If your child has a sibling that is due to start school in Autumn 26, please remember that the deadline for applying is 15th January 2026. Don't delay!



SEVERE WEATHER

Recent weather has shown that school closures are not only due to snow and ice, but snow is usually the main culprit. I'm showing my age now, but in the past, the only way to find out if school was closed was by listening to the radio! Thankfully, things have changed—now we have Class Dojo and school websites to keep everyone informed.

If we experience snowy weather, please check Class Dojo regularly for updates. The safety of children and staff is always our top priority, and we also need to ensure we have enough adults in school to operate safely. Closing the school will always be a last resort. Sometimes, instead of closing, we may delay opening by an hour or so. Often, the first part of the morning is the most dangerous for travel, but a few hours later, the roads are much clearer. Let's hope I won't have to make any decisions around the weather, this academic year!

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

This academic year, we have made a few changes to our school trips. For example, the trip to Beaumanor, which traditionally took place in Year 3, has now been moved to Year 4. Parents have already received information about this change .

Our Year 1 children recently enjoyed a visit to the Newarke Houses Museum, where they explored how toys have evolved over time. This was followed by a trip to St. Mary de Castro Church. The adults accompanying the trip reported that they enjoyed it just as much as the children, so we are delighted to announce that this will now become an annual Year 1 tradition!

Year 6 were fortunate to welcome Mr. Bettles into school to share his knowledge about World War II. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to deepen their understanding of this important historical period. We are keen to develop similar experiences across other year groups. If you have expertise or experiences that could support class topics, please speak to the class teacher—we would love to hear from you!



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Learning ~ Fellowship