

Houghton School Newsletter



Website: www.houghton.leics.sch.uk

tel: 0116 241 2465

email: office@hhs.learnat.uk



STEPPING INTO SPRING TOGETHER

The darker months can often feel slow, and then suddenly the spring and summer terms arrive, and everything begins to move at pace. Updating the school diary certainly reminded us just how quickly the rest of the year will fly by—there is plenty packed in!

As well as our Class Assemblies, you'll notice that we have scheduled several additional events where families are invited to join us. Due to our limited indoor space, many of these take place later in the year when we can hopefully make the most of our wonderful outdoor areas. Please pop these dates into your diaries. A few events are marked as *TBC*, but we hope to keep any changes to a minimum. There will also be year-group-specific opportunities to come into class, and teachers will send invites for these directly (for example, the Year 1 Phonics Meeting).

We also have several fundraising activities planned—some for school and others supporting the Trust's Charity of the Year, **LOROS**. We always aim to strike the right balance between special events and keeping routines consistent for the children, especially when it comes to dress-up days. As a reminder, we only dress up as book characters for World Book Day every two years. This year is a non-dress-up year, so instead we will be having a **Cosy Clothes World Book Day on Thursday 5th March** — something simple and easy for families. Children are welcome to come to school in pyjamas, onesies, tracksuits or other comfortable clothing so they can enjoy curling up with a favourite book. Mrs Pickford shared this information before half term, and book vouchers were also sent home for children to use over the holiday.

We are also looking forward to meeting you for Parents' Evening this term. During the meeting, you will receive a summary of your child's attainment, general behaviour, effort, independence and wider learning skills. We have made a few small updates to the form this year to ensure it is more inclusive. The updated form outlines all the key information, and we will talk through each section with you during your appointment.

We have so much to look forward to this term, and we can't wait to share it with you and your children.

Warm regards

Ali Woollerson

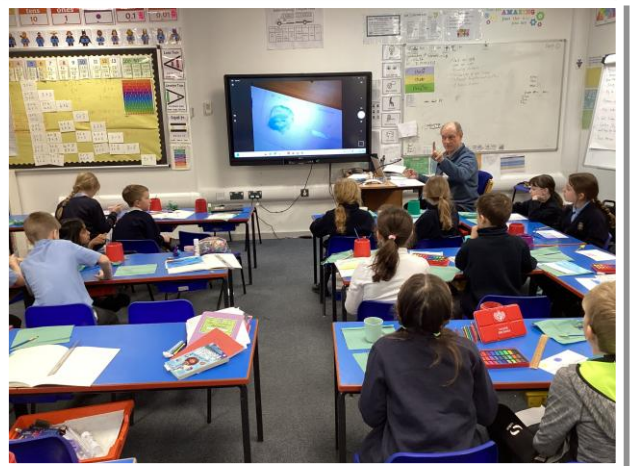
Headteacher





A WASH OF COLOUR IN YEAR 4

How lucky are we to have had an artist visit Year 4 to model how to use watercolours effectively. Mr Calow (Miss Calow's dad) is a talented artist, and he spent the day with our Year 4 artists, modelling techniques and supporting them with each stage of the process. We were delighted by the beautiful artwork they created.



AIM HIGH!

We have a feeling that our skipping club is going to be a big hit—our Year 6 pupils certainly enjoyed the first session!



DANGEROUS PARKING

We were recently visited by a neighbour who expressed serious concerns about parking near the bend by the school. Increasing numbers of cars are stopping close to the cricket pitch gate, parking on or over the kerbs, and pulling up dangerously close to the corner. This makes it difficult for pedestrians to use the pavement safely and creates a significant risk, as drivers coming around the bend may not see parked cars—or children—until it is too late. Please can we remind all families to park both safely and considerately. The neighbour's visit came from a place of genuine worry that a child could easily be hurt if this continues.

I have noticed this myself when leaving school early for meetings; the parking along this stretch of road has become increasingly concerning due to the number of cars positioned unsafely.

As previously shared, the car park at The Old Black Horse is available for families to use at the start and end of the school day. Now that the weather is improving, we strongly encourage you to make use of this safer parking option. It will take minutes to walk safely to school.

Thank you for helping us keep all children safe.



Last term we explored the theme of **mental health and belonging** as part of Children's Mental Health Week. Classes took part in activities that helped pupils think about what makes them feel safe, connected and included. Children created artwork, shared ideas in circle time and heard key messages in assembly about looking after ourselves and one another. It was wonderful to see how thoughtfully they engaged with the theme.

Dates for the Diary

March

Monday 2nd and Wednesday 4th March

3.30pm -6.30pm
Parent meetings

Wednesday 4th March

Class Photos

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day (see 1st page and dojo message) – Cosy Clothes and a favourite book!

&

SEND Parent/Carer Meeting- see page 5 for details and venue.

Friday 6th March

9am
Year 4 Class Assembly

wc 9th March

Bikeability week for Year 5 pupils- details to follow

Friday 20th March

9am
Year 1 Class Assembly

Thursday 26th March

9.15am
Easter Service

Thursday 26th March

3.15pm
Easter Egg Hunt- details to follow

Friday 27th March

2pm
Family Easter Afternoon

April

Monday 30th March- Friday 10th April

Easter Holidays

Monday 13th April

Back to school

Friday 24th April

9am
Year 5 Assembly

May

Friday 8th May

9am
Year 3 Class Assembly

Mon 11th- Thurs 14th May

KS2 SATS week (Year 6)

Friday 22nd May

9am
Foundation Class Assembly

Mon 25th May-Fri 29th May

Half term Holiday

June/July

1st and 2nd June

Year 4 Multiplication Checks

Wed 3rd- Fri 5th June

Year 4 Residential to Beaumanor

Mon 8th June (pm)

KS2 Sports day

wc 8th June

Year 1 Phonics Check

Thurs 11th June

HSH Fun Run tbc

Monday 15th June (pm)

EYFS/KS1 Sports day

Friday 19th June

Fundraising day for LOROS

Thursday 25th June @ 7pm

Friday 26th June @ 2pm tbc

Year 6 Performance

Tues 30th/1st July

Year 6 trip to Gulliver's

Friday 3rd July

HSH Disco tbc

Thursday 9th July

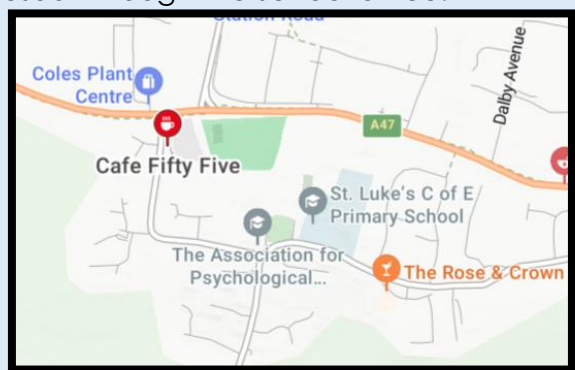
2pm Leavers' Assembly
Last day of Term

STRONGER TOGETHER: SEND PARENT FORUM PROGRESS

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our **SEND Coffee Morning** before half term. It was a lovely turnout, and we know that several families who couldn't make it due to other commitments have shared that they hope to join future events. During the session, Emma Hill (our current SENDCo) outlined the school's SEND timeline using the **Assess, Plan, Do, Review** cycle. This process helps ensure that support for pupils is tailored, responsive and regularly reviewed. Concerns about a child's progress or development can be raised by either the class teacher or by parents/carers at any time. At Houghton, we hold **termly SEND surgeries** and **Pupil Progress Meetings**, where teachers meet with the SENDCo and/or senior leadership team to discuss individual needs. Alongside this, the SENDCo works closely with teachers to support the writing and reviewing of **IEPs (Individual Education Plans)**, which are then shared with parents at agreed points throughout the year. Following feedback, we have now separated IEP sharing from the main parent evenings so that dedicated time can be given to these important conversations.

We also explained how staff used the **teacher training day at the start of the year** to share key information about the needs of our SEND pupils. This helped us "hit the ground running" with the right adaptations, scaffolding and support in place from day one. This is regularly reviewed with staff and parents to ensure that that current provision meets the needs of our pupils.

We were pleased to introduce **Mel Wrightam**, our new SENDCo who will be covering the role during Emma Hill's maternity leave. Mel will be in school every **Monday**. If parents would like to arrange a meeting with her, appointments can be booked as usual through the school office.



SEND PARENT FORUM
Thursday 5th March
9.15-11.15am
Café Fifty Five
Thurnby
Leicester LE7 9PH

As part of the **PINS (Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) Parent Forum** and our commitment to co-production, parents were asked to share what they feel we could improve in terms of processes and procedures, and what they would like future sessions to include. We will share our responses to these suggestions at the next meeting and in a future newsletter.

We are delighted that the parent group is already making excellent progress. Although **Cafe and Ash Weetman** are listed as the official organisers, it truly feels like a collaborative effort. One of our grandparents has kindly arranged for the next meeting to take place at **Café Fifty Five in Thurnby**, from **9.15am to 11.15am on Thursday 5th March**. This reflects feedback that meeting away from school may be more comfortable for some families and also avoids any anxiety for pupils who might find it difficult knowing that their parent or carer is in the building.

The PINS facilitators will also be joining us from **10.00am** to help move this project forward. Our next focus will be **supporting transition to the next class** and exploring what further support we can put in place in school to make this as smooth as possible for all children. We hope you can make it!