



Living Our Vision: Learning and Giving Together

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a restful break and enjoyed the small burst of warm weather, which gave us a welcome sense of hope for the months ahead. It's amazing how a little sunshine and the return of longer days can lift our mood and renew our energy.

As we begin the summer term, you will notice that the school diary includes several events that rely on warmer weather. These occasions offer valuable opportunities for learning beyond the classroom and for bringing our school community together. Some of these events focus on thinking of others and giving to charity, which reflects our Christian vision, *"Love one another as I have loved you."*

We are delighted to share that we raised nearly £300 for our outdoor area. This money will go towards the upkeep of the Circle of Life Garden, including plants, compost, bark, and other resources to help the space continue to thrive. Thank you to everyone who supported this and joined us for our family afternoon and Easter Egg Hunt- the perfect way to end the term.

Later in the term, we have two further charitable events which we hope you will support. In May, we will be raising money for LOROS on National Numeracy Day. This event will help pupils understand how numeracy skills are used in real-life situations, particularly through learning about money, budgeting, and charitable giving. Classroom activities will link directly to financial literacy, supporting pupils in seeing the purpose and value of maths beyond the classroom. Further details about this event and how we plan to raise money for this excellent charity can be found in our newsletter.

Later in the summer term, the Houghton School Helpers are organising a special event in memory of Dilraj (Dilly) Malhan. After meeting with his parents, we agreed that we would like to honour his memory in a way that reflects his interests. Dilly had a love of sea creatures and water, so we hope to raise enough money to purchase a water activity wall for Foundation Stage and, if funds allow, additional sea-themed books and resources. The Houghton School Helpers already have some very creative ideas, including an obstacle course - an activity that was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils last year.

We are looking forward to an enjoyable and productive term ahead and, hopefully, plenty of pleasant weather to support the many activities planned. As always, thank you for your ongoing support,

Ali Woollerson
Headteacher



Parking Update

Thank you to all the parents and carers who continue to make positive choices about where and how they park when dropping off and collecting children. This includes not parking near the railings opposite school and the entrance to the school car park, both of which can pose a danger to pedestrians if blocked by cars. With the warmer weather approaching and the success of our *Walk, Cycle or Scoot to School* initiatives, we are hopeful that parking concerns will be significantly reduced this term.

To continue promoting respectful and safe parking, we are hoping that some of our School Council representatives will meet with the Parish Council later this term. The Parish Council recently contacted the school regarding ongoing parking concerns and asked that we encourage parents to switch off their vehicle engines while waiting for their children. They highlighted that engines left idling close to the school are *wasteful, polluting* and *anti-social*, and reminded us that it is also illegal to use a mobile phone while a vehicle engine is running.

The School Council are keen to support this initiative, and we will also be contacting and asking for support from Harborough District Council's Climate Impact Officer to promote environmentally responsible behaviour.

In the meantime, we kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that engines are switched off while waiting. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe, healthy and considerate.

Music to our ears!

We were delighted to welcome an ex-pupil back to school to perform to the whole school. He is a superb saxophonist and pianist, and you truly could have heard a pin drop as the children listened intently to his story. He spoke movingly about his personal journey, shared how music has supported him in so many ways, and highlighted the importance of perseverance and never giving up.

Miss Calow was also pleased to share exciting news with the children: this term we are introducing **whole-class musical instrument lessons for Years 2 to 6**. In addition, **Year 6 will be visiting a concert hall** later in the year to experience live music first-hand. We are extremely grateful to the **Houghton School Helpers**, who are fully funding these fantastic opportunities.



History Artefacts

Donation List for Foundation and Year 1

We are looking for old or no-longer-used items to help children learn about *life in the past*. *Clean and safe items only please.*

Home & Everyday Life (Past)

- Old metal teapot or kettle
- Metal or enamel mugs
- Old irons (not electric, or unplugged)
- Wooden spoons or rolling pins
- Washboards
- Old keys
- Old-style scales

Communication & Technology

- Old telephone (rotary or early push-button)
- Typewriter
- Cameras (non-digital)
- Old mobile phones (early models)

Local History (Especially Welcome)

- Photos of the local area from the past

Please Note

No sharp, broken, or valuable items
Items do not need to be "antique" – even 10–30 years old is useful!

Money Matters

Small 'change; can make a huge difference.

Money is an important part of everyday life and a key element of our mathematics curriculum. However, how often do children (and even adults!) actually handle coins today? With phones and even watches replacing the use of bank cards, notes and coins children do not always appreciate the value of money or even recognise coins. It doesn't help that, for example, a 2p coin is larger than a 5p coin, leading younger children to assume it is worth more. No wonder teaching money can be tricky!

On **Wednesday 20th May**, it is **National Numeracy Day**, and each class will be taking part in activities linked to money and **financial literacy**. Financial literacy is the knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable people to make informed, effective decisions about money. It goes beyond simply counting coins and includes understanding how money is earned, used, saved, borrowed and managed over time. All activities will, of course, be **age-appropriate**.

Money is also linked to giving and charity, and to understanding the difference it can make. Our Trust charity this year is **LOROS**, and to support both the money focus and this important cause, we are asking that every child brings in some coins.

Later this week, your child will bring home a small cup. Over the coming weeks, we would like them to fill it with any spare coins you may have. You might also like to ask family and friends to contribute. This could include 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p coins, as well as £1 and even £2 coins. If possible, we would love the cups to be filled — and a few silver coins in the mix would be wonderful! With 203 children in the school, a few silver and gold coins could make a huge difference to LOROS.

All the money collected will be donated to **LOROS**. We are hoping to use the coins to spell out the word LOROS before counting them all up to discover how much we have raised for this fantastic charity.

You have a few weeks to start collecting, and we ask pupils to bring their cups of coins into school on **Wednesday 20th May**.

Bring on the summer term!



Coming Together in Collective Worship

Collective worship is an important part of our school day and provides a time for us to come together as a community. It is invitational in nature and inclusive of children of all faiths and none. Collective worship reflects and supports our school values of **kindness, respect, courage, forgiveness, self-control and gratitude**. **Steve Ransley, vicar of St Catherine's**, leads collective worship every fortnight. Alongside school staff, children are regularly invited to lead parts of worship, helping to develop their confidence and sense of responsibility. We have a strong and dedicated team of collective worship leaders, and on occasion worship links directly to work being undertaken by school committees or within individual classes.



Connecting, Sharing, Supporting: SEND Parent Forum

Our SEND Parent Forum is now up and running, and we are delighted to share that Café 55 have kindly offered us a space to meet on a regular basis. There will be a mixture of session types: informal gatherings for parents, meetings where a school representative will attend to share information, and sessions with external visitors.

As previously shared in Dojo, here is the date of our next meeting:

📍 Café Fifty Five, The Pavilion, Grange Lane, Thurnby, Leicester, LE7 9PH.

📅 Friday 17th April

🕒 10:30–12:00

The focus of this meeting will be to explain the role of an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant). They are teaching assistants who have had special training from educational psychologists to support the emotional development of children and young people in school. ELSAs have regular professional supervision from educational psychologists to help them in their work. Bev Maclean, Houghton's ELSA, will be there alongside me.

Please note that ELSA support is not limited to children with SEND, so we would love to welcome a few new faces to this session. Please complete the follow link so we know numbers. <https://forms.office.com/e/hYzkz332Zx>

We are planning to set up a page on our school website to save all the agendas and materials that are discussed in the meetings.

Dates for the Diary

April and May

Monday 13th April

Back to school

Friday 17th April

SEND Forum Meeting

ELSA focus

Café Fify Five, Thurnby

Friday 24th April

9am

Year 5 Assembly

Friday 8th May

9am

Year 3 Class Assembly

Mon 11th - Thurs 14th May

KS2 SATS week (Year 6)

Wednesday 20th May

LOROS Charity Day (please note change of date from previously shared)

Friday 22nd May

9am

Foundation Class Assembly

Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May

Half term Holiday

June and 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

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

Tuesday 9th July

2pm Leavers' Assembly

Last day of Term



The chicks have arrived! We will keep you updated with photos on Class Dojo. Another experience funded by Houghton School Helpers.


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