

Houghton School Newsletter



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Together We Make Houghton Special

Dear Families,

And so, we are almost at the end of another school year. Throughout it all, I have felt incredibly supported, not only by colleagues within school but by our whole school community. New visitors to the school often comment on that 'lovely feeling' they experience when they spend time here, and many of our new families have shared that Houghton was recommended to them because of this special sense of community. Several comments on the Report Feedback form mention this too.

My thanks extend to all of our staff who work tirelessly every day to ensure that our children flourish. This includes our teachers, support staff, office team, kitchen staff, cleaners, premises staff and lunchtime supervisors, all of whom play a vital role in making our school such a positive place to learn and grow.

I am also enormously grateful to the parent helpers and volunteers who regularly give up their time to support the school. People such as Mrs Hayes, Mr Bettles, Miss Ford, Steve Ransley (and the Excite volunteers), Miss Mitchell and Mr Morris make a real difference to the experiences we can offer our children. Of course, special mention must also go to our very own Mrs Robinson, who has volunteered from 8.30am to 3.10pm every day of the school week for many, many years. She truly is a Houghton treasure!

As a school, we are also incredibly grateful to our Houghton School Helpers, led by Sammy Godsmark and Tracey Kirk, and supported by so many other parents. This year is likely to be their last, and they have certainly put the hours in! In the new academic year, we will be asking if there is anyone else who may wish to continue this valued work. The Houghton School Helpers not only raise much-needed funds for the school, but they also ensure that children benefit directly through social events, special experiences and fundraising activities that bring our community together.

Finally, thank you to all parents and carers for the support you give both at home and in partnership with the school. Whether it is helping with reading, attending school events, supporting school initiatives, ensuring children arrive ready to learn each day, or simply encouraging them through the challenges and successes of the year, your contribution makes an enormous difference. We know that the achievements of our children are strongest when home and school work together, and we are grateful for the trust, kindness and encouragement you continue to show us.

As we reach the end of the year, I would like to wish all of our families a happy, restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Wednesday 26th August** for another exciting year at Houghton.

With best wishes,
Ali Woollerson



Transition Day Success



There were smiles all round during Transition Day, with children excitedly exploring their new classrooms and enjoying the opportunity to feel a little more grown up!

Team Houghton: Farewells and New Arrivals



It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to some very important people this term.

First, our wonderful **Year 6 pupils**. They have been an exceptional cohort, and Mr Taylor has been very fortunate to teach them in both Year 4 and Year 6. The way they have conducted themselves, particularly in the roles and responsibilities that come with being the oldest pupils in school, has been exemplary. We were incredibly proud of them during the SATs period; every single one of them gave 100%. These learning behaviours will serve them well as they move confidently into the next stage of their education.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are also sad to say goodbye to **Mr Feeney** and **Mrs Foster**. They have been an important part of Team Houghton, and it simply won't be the same without their humour, caring nature, and dedication to the job. We wish them both the very best in the next stage of their adventures, whether that is a new school or retirement.

Finally, we have a few changes taking place over the summer holiday. In the new term, we will be joined by **Mrs Law**. Parents and Year 4 pupils have already had the chance to meet her and have seen for themselves what a wonderful addition to the team she will be.

We are also losing **Mrs Clements** but gaining a **Mrs Edwards**, as Mrs Clements is getting married in July! In addition, **Miss Lee**, **Mrs Mansell**, and **Mrs Smith** will be joining Team Houghton over the summer. We look forward to welcoming them all and continuing to strengthen our fantastic staff team.



Developing Our Transition Process

This year, we are further developing our transition arrangements to help ensure a smooth start to the new school year. During the summer holidays, you will receive a link that will allow you to share any information that you feel your child's new class teacher may need to know before they return to school. This is entirely optional, but we know many parents will value the opportunity to pass on important information ahead of September.

We are also offering some children who may benefit from additional transition support the opportunity to visit their new classroom during one of our teacher days before the start of term. If your child is invited to attend, further details will be shared via Class Dojo nearer the time.

We hope you found the recent **Meet the Teacher** sessions useful, particularly in understanding what will be needed in your child's new class, especially for those moving into a new key stage. As a reminder, children do **not** need to bring pencil cases or concentration aids (such as fidget toys) into school, as all essential classroom equipment will be provided. We are aiming to keep items brought from home to a minimum, so please refer to the parent information leaflets shared by the new class teachers for full details. Social Stories have also been shared with pupils to help with the transition.

We also ask for your support with our expectations regarding appearance and jewellery. Jewellery should be kept to a minimum, with only plain stud earrings permitted. On PE days, earrings must be removed before coming to school. In addition, if hair is shoulder length or longer, it should be tied back. Hair accessories, including ribbons and bows, should be black, blue or white and should be modest in size. Thank you for your continued support. Please keep the class teacher information sheet handy as a useful reminder ahead of the new school year. We hope these arrangements help all children feel confident, settled and ready for a successful start in September.

WELCOME TO YEAR 4



Welcome to Year 4. This leaflet is to share some key information about your child's new class. During the year, communication will be via Class Dojo and from monthly whole school newsletters. If you have any concerns about your child throughout the year, please feel free to contact me via Dojo or by phoning the school.

THE YEAR 4 TEAM
Class teacher: Mrs Pickford
Support staff: TBC

BAGS
Children ideally need to use a **school book bag or small rucksack** to bring their belongings to school. The classroom lockers are quite small, and your child will need to fit a book bag, PE kit and coat in.

EQUIPMENT
The children need to bring in a coat, water bottle and packed lunch (if they have one) every day. These all need to be clearly named. A pencil case as well as pens and pencils will be provided.

No toys or fidgets in school please (a pack of uno cards or ball for break time is acceptable. We will give a concentration to a child if we feel it will help their learning.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

All school uniform needs to be clearly named so we can return lost items to the correct owner. The children need smart black footwear and shouldn't be wearing trainers with coloured logos or boots.

PE KIT

PE kits will be left in school all the times as we sometimes have extra sessions. We will send kits home to wash every half term or if it gets very dirty/muddy. Every item needs to be clearly named.

PE kit should include:
Houghton PE t-shirt (white or blue)
Black or blue shorts and jogging bottoms/leggings
Black or blue jumper or hoodie
Well-fitting trainers for outside (spare socks).

JEWELLERY AND HAIR

Our policy states that earrings (plain stud only) should be removed on PE days. This is for safety reasons. No other jewellery should be worn during the school day. Hair that is below shoulder length or gets in the child's eyes, should be tied back. This applies to boys and girls.

FOREST SCHOOL AND CONSERVATION

We do need outdoor learning clothes in school. We will do outdoor learning for a short time during the school year. Details of this will be sent out closer to the time. Similarly if we working in the conservation area, you will be notified beforehand.



Moving to Year 2

A social story to help me get ready for my next step.

1. About Me

My name is _____

Soon I will be moving to Year 2.

2. My New Classroom

This is my new classroom.

I will learn and work in this room. There will be a teacher and other children to help me.

3. My New Teacher

This is Miss Calow

My teacher will help to learn new things. I can talk to them if I need help.

4. Adults Who Help Me

These are the adults who may work with me.

They will help me feel safe and be ready to learn.

5. Arriving at School

In the morning, I will come to school with my grown-up. I will say goodbye at the gate and then walk around to the classroom through the door.

6. My Things

This is where I will keep my things.

I will put my coat and bag here.

7. During the Day

In Year 2, I will:

- Learn lots of new and exciting things.
- Work at a table with my own pencils and pens.
- Have fun and play with my friends at break time and lunchtime.
- Follow routines and ask questions.
- Be able to ask for help when I need it.
- Remember to show expected behaviour.

8. Going Home

At the end of the day, I will get ready in the classroom and then meet my grown-up on the playground.

9. If I Feel Worried

Sometimes I might feel worried and that is ok. If I am worried, I can talk to an adult who will help me.

I am worried about - _____

10 I am Ready!

Moving to Year 2 is a big step.

- I will be brave.
- I will try my best.
- People at school will help me.

★ I am excited for my next adventure in Year 2! ★

I am going to Foundation at Houghton School!



Dates for the Diary

Last day of term
Thursday 9th July

School finishes at 3.10pm, as normal

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

1.30pm for Year 6 parents- please note earlier time. Year 6 parents are invited to St Catharine's Church.

TRAFFIC UPDATE!

We are also aware that the A47 is being closed for part of this day so please leave early and take into consideration traffic issues and redirected routes.

First day back to school
Wednesday 26th August

TERM DATES 2026-2027

Looking ahead, the dates for the 26-27 academic year can be found here. [Houghton-on-the-Hill Primary School - Term Dates](#) and also on the next page



Our HSH Social event was a real success. The mix of activities meant that all children could find something they loved whether it was disco dancing, playing pool or taking part in an art activity. Thank you to all the adults who helped with this.



Summary of Attendance to date



- Severely absent (50% or more sessions missed)
- Persistently absent (10% or more sessions missed)
- At risk of persistent absence (5-10% sessions missed)
- Good attendance (95-99%)
- Excellent attendance (99%+)

We have reviewed attendance across Foundation to Year 6 for this academic year. Where attendance or punctuality is a concern, **letters will be sent to families**, including cases where repeated lateness has been identified. As always, we encourage you to speak with us if you need any support with routines or other challenges that may be affecting your child's attendance.

Term Dates 2026-27



Term days for children

School holidays

Staff training (in school)

Staff training (disaggregated)

Public holidays

August						
M	2	3	4	5	6	7
T	8	9	10	11	12	13
W	14	15	16	17	18	19
T	20	21	22	23	24	25
F	26	27	28	29	30	31

September					
M	1	2	3	4	5
T	6	7	8	9	10
W	11	12	13	14	15
T	16	17	18	19	20
F	21	22	23	24	25

October					
M	1	2	3	4	5
T	6	7	8	9	10
W	11	12	13	14	15
T	16	17	18	19	20
F	21	22	23	24	25

November						
M	1	2	3	4	5	6
T	7	8	9	10	11	12
W	13	14	15	16	17	18
T	19	20	21	22	23	24
F	25	26	27	28	29	30

December					
M	1	2	3	4	5
T	6	7	8	9	10
W	11	12	13	14	15
T	16	17	18	19	20
F	21	22	23	24	25

January					
M	1	2	3	4	5
T	6	7	8	9	10
W	11	12	13	14	15
T	16	17	18	19	20
F	21	22	23	24	25

February						
M	1	2	3	4	5	6
T	7	8	9	10	11	12
W	13	14	15	16	17	18
T	19	20	21	22	23	24
F	25	26	27	28	29	30

March					
M	1	2	3	4	5
T	6	7	8	9	10
W	11	12	13	14	15
T	16	17	18	19	20
F	21	22	23	24	25

April					
M	1	2	3	4	5
T	6	7	8	9	10
W	11	12	13	14	15
T	16	17	18	19	20
F	21	22	23	24	25

May						
M	1	2	3	4	5	6
T	7	8	9	10	11	12
W	13	14	15	16	17	18
T	19	20	21	22	23	24
F	25	26	27	28	29	30

June					
M	1	2	3	4	5
T	6	7	8	9	10
W	11	12	13	14	15
T	16	17	18	19	20
F	21	22	23	24	25

July					
M	1	2	3	4	5
T	6	7	8	9	10
W	11	12	13	14	15
T	16	17	18	19	20
F	21	22	23	24	25