

Houghton School Newsletter



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Calm, Confident, Ready: Assessment Season

Dear Families

As we enter the summer term, we begin our annual assessment season across the school. While Key Stage 2 SATs are often the most widely recognised, it is important to remember that assessments take place in all year groups. These include the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check, and a range of class-based assessments.

These assessments form part of the wider picture that teachers use to make their professional judgements about each child's attainment. These judgements, alongside a range of evidence gathered throughout the year, will be shared with you at the end of term. Children may mention that they have completed assessments, and some may not even realise it! This is because assessment is a natural and ongoing part of our teaching, helping us to check understanding and identify next steps for learning.

Alongside this, teachers are also beginning report writing. These reports will not only reflect academic achievement, but also your child's personal development and learning behaviours — areas that have been discussed with you previously through parent meetings.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils the very best during this time, especially our Year 6 children. Throughout the year, they have been well supported by the Year 6 team so that they feel prepared, familiar with the style of questions, confident in managing their time, and—most importantly—confident in themselves. Whatever the outcomes, we know they will do their very best. In fact, every year we find that many pupils say they enjoy the experience!

You can support your child by helping to keep this period calm and positive. Please avoid placing unnecessary pressure on them—these assessments are just one part of their educational journey. Ensuring your child arrives at school on time each day is especially important. The administrative side of SATs is complex, and absence or lateness can have a significant impact, so we thank you in advance for your support. Lots of early nights too, please! Mr Taylor will share details via the Year 6 Class Dojo about arrangements for an early breakfast during SATs week.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
Good luck year 6!
Best wishes

Ali Woollerson
Headteacher





WELCOMING THE BISHOP OF LEICESTER

We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Leicester, Bishop Martyn, for a wonderful morning in school. We were also pleased to be joined by Steve Ransley (Vicar at St Catherine's), Steve Roddy (Director of Education at LearnAT), and Roger Bettles (Foundation Governor).

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to share an insight into life at our school, including a tour of the building and visits to classrooms where our guests were able to see learning in action. Bishop Martyn also led part of our Collective Worship, which was followed by the children sharing how they live out our school vision of "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" I only wish I could have recorded the Q&A session. The children spoke thoughtfully and confidently about our committees and our *Let's Go Zero* focus areas, truly reflecting the values we promote as a school.

I often speak about those "proud headteacher moments," and this was certainly one of them. From the calm and orderly way the children entered and left the hall, to the joyful singing and strong leadership demonstrated by our Year 6 Collective Worship leaders, there was so much to celebrate.

I was particularly impressed by the children's engagement throughout the visit. Behaviour was excellent, with pupils consistently demonstrating our *expected behaviours*. This is a term we have been developing across the school, helping children to clearly understand what positive behaviour looks like in different situations. Through class discussions and whole-school assemblies, children are becoming increasingly confident in applying these behaviours—not just in lessons, but also when moving around the school, on the playground, and when entering and leaving shared spaces such as the hall.

The consistent use of this language by all adults has been key in supporting this approach. This added focus is already making a noticeable difference, with children showing even greater awareness and confidence in meeting expectations.

HOUGHTON DOES IT AGAIN: TENNIS SUCCESS

Congratulations to our Year 5/6 teams who represented our school at a tennis competition this week. We are delighted to share that both teams were successful—one team was awarded the *Spirit of the Games*, while the other won the overall event and will now progress to the next round. Well done!

A huge thank you to our volunteers, Mrs Bradley and Mrs Godsmark, for their support at the event—we truly couldn't do it without you!



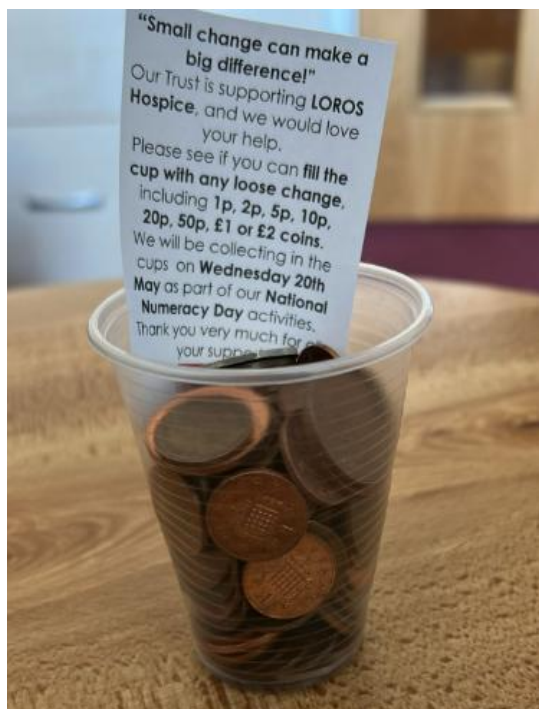
Reminder – Coin Collection for National Numeracy Day (Wednesday 20th May)

Last month, we shared details about our upcoming *National Numeracy Day* activities, focusing on money and financial literacy, alongside fundraising for our Trust charity, **LOROS**. As a reminder, each child has been given a small cup to fill with spare coins. We kindly ask that these are returned to school on **Wednesday 20th May**.

Any coins are welcome (1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2), and if the cups can be filled, that would be fantastic. With 204 children taking part, even a few silver and gold coins will make a real difference.

We're looking forward to combining our learning about money with supporting such a worthwhile local cause—and to seeing how much we can raise together!

Thank you for your continued support.





Laying the Foundations for Success

As part of our ongoing cycle of monitoring and evaluation, we recently welcomed a LearnAT review of our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision. While we are still awaiting the written report, we were delighted to receive positive verbal feedback.

EYFS continues to be a key focus for all subject leads, alongside the ongoing dedication of our exceptional EYFS team. However, EYFS is not just the responsibility of the Early Years staff—regardless of the year group you teach, the importance of strong foundational skills should never be overlooked.

We were particularly impressed with the quality of our enhanced and continuous provision, the high levels of engagement demonstrated by the children, and the strong progress being made in writing.

As always, our EYFS children were a delight. They demonstrated impressive independence, sustained engagement in their learning, and confidently initiated conversations with visiting adults.

We are delighted that our EYFS provision is full for next year, with the longest waiting list in the trust. There is a misconception that all pupils come from Houghton; however, families continue to choose our school from beyond our catchment area. We want to ensure that families understand that places can still become available, and that attending Houghton is not out of reach.



Dates for the Diary

May

Mon 11th- Thurs 14th May
KS2 SATS week (Year 6)

Wednesday 20th May
LOROS Charity Day (please bring in your
cups full of coins)

Friday 22nd May
9am
Foundation Class Assembly

Mon 25th May-Fri 29th May
Half term Holiday

June

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

Monday 15th June (pm)
EYFS/KS1 Sports day

Friday 19th June
HSH Fun Run (change of date)

Thursday 25th June @ 7pm
Friday 26th June @ 2pm tbc
Year 6 Performance

Tues 30th/1st July
Year 6 trip to Gulliver's

July

Thursday 2nd July
Reports sent to parents/guardians

Friday 3rd July
End of year disco HSH tbc

Monday 6th July
Visiting new classrooms- transition day

Tuesday 7th July
School receive SATS results

Thursday 9th July
2pm Leavers' Assembly
Last day of Term

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.

Please ensure that children are in school for the first day back (**Wednesday 26th August**) as this is the time where teachers establish new routines and expectations.



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		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

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	21
F	22	23	24	25	26	27

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	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

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