

Houghton School Newsletter



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What is the same and what is different? Supporting smooth transitions

Dear Families

It is that time of year when we begin to think about the year ahead, even though we still have a few very busy weeks remaining this term. As we reflect on upcoming changes, it is important to consider how we support children through transitions into their next class. We all benefit from routine—I know I certainly benefit from knowing what will change and what will stay the same!

Consistent routines and smooth transitions help to create a calm, organised classroom where children feel safe and confident. When pupils know what to expect, they become more independent, less anxious, and more ready to learn. At Houghton, opportunities to develop strong routines and transitions are carefully planned and thoughtfully integrated into our timetable—they are not an add-on, but an essential part of school life.

To support this, we have planned several transition events this term. Details of these can be found on the **dates page** of this newsletter. Some of our plans have been informed by feedback from the SEND Parent forum held in the autumn term. If you would like to join us for our next meeting (**Monday 8th June at 9:30am in Café Fifty-Five**), we will be sharing updates and discussing any further ideas we can implement.

There will also be 'meet the teacher' events after school. These sessions are a valuable opportunity to learn about key aspects of your child's class and year group. We do have some changes to our teaching staff (see the next page), and further details about class teachers will be shared with you as soon as we can.

Finally, pupils will have the chance to spend time with their new teacher in their new classroom before the end of the summer term and this includes time for our Year 6 pupils to visit their new schools.

Parents play a vital role in supporting these transitions, and we are very grateful for your support in attending meetings and ensuring your child is in school for these important opportunities.

Best wishes

Ali Woollerson

Headteacher



A Fond Farewell to Mrs Foster and Mr Feeney

Change happens and we are sad to say that we are saying goodbye to two valued members of staff, Mrs Foster and Mr Feeney.

Mrs Foster has been a valued member of the Houghton team since 2008 and will be a significant loss to the school. I have known for several years that her retirement was approaching, so you can imagine how relieved I was when she previously chose to reduce her hours rather than retire fully. She has now reached a stage where she would like to spend more time with her family and friends. While she will undoubtedly leave a gap that will be difficult to fill, her creativity, knowledge, kindness, and fun-loving spirit will live on in the many adults she has worked alongside and in the children she has supported. There is very little that Mrs Foster could not turn her hand to, and she never needed an excuse to dress up or take on a new character! She will be greatly missed by us all.



Mr Feeney joined us as an Early Career Teacher, and one of the key reasons for his appointment was our confidence that he would fit seamlessly into Team Houghton. He has certainly fulfilled that expectation, working diligently not only on the academic aspects of school life but also in supporting pupils' pastoral needs. His caring and kind nature is one of his greatest strengths. He has also led Science with confidence and expertise, drawing on his prior experience in industry. Mr Feeney has decided to pursue a new opportunity and will be moving to an independent SEND provision. We wish him every success in the next stage of his career.

Don't we look smart in our Year 6 hoodies! Thank you to HSH for their g contribution towards the cost

These are important roles within our school, and the staff who are leaving will certainly be hard to replace. However, please be reassured that we are committed to finding the right people to step into their shoes and continue the excellent work already in place.

Although the teaching position was only advertised just before half term, we were delighted by the strong level of interest. The quality and number of applications has been high, and it has taken considerable time to carefully shortlist candidates.

Interviews will be taking place soon, and once everything has been confirmed, we will share with parents and pupils who their new teacher will be. Do bear in mind that this may not always be a direct like-for-like replacement—for example, the new teacher may not necessarily be in Year 4. We will let you know as soon as everything is finalised.



GOVERNOR UPDATES

Last term, parents were invited to stand as a school governor. Lis Morrison, who was already serving in this role, reapplied and was unopposed. We are delighted that she will continue, as she has been a strong advocate for SEND and serves as the link governor for this area.

We are sad to say that Mr Roger Bettles is stepping down as a governor. However, we are pleased that he will continue his involvement as a volunteer in the school. He has been a governor for many, many years and has witnessed significant changes in education, including the move to academy trust status. Throughout this time, he has been knowledgeable, considerate, and supportive.

On a personal note, he has supported me on many occasions, always offering calm and thoughtful advice. We will miss him greatly in his role as a governor but feel fortunate that he will remain an active member of our school community—attending collective worship, listening to readers, and, no doubt, continuing to share his wisdom over a cup of tea in the staffroom.



A Helping Hand in Our Garden

We are very fortunate to have so many volunteers supporting our school. Last term, Mrs Jasmat, a parent of two of our pupils, kindly approached me to offer volunteer hours through her workplace, Hays.

As there are always jobs to be done around the school, we suggested spending some time in our Circle of Life garden. The team came in during half term and laid matting and bark along the path. This will make the area much easier to use and will also help us keep on top of the weeds.

If your workplace offers opportunities like this, please do get in touch with us—we would love to hear from you.

A huge thank you to Mrs Jasmat and the team for making such a positive difference.



Small change did make a big difference!



Before half term, children were asked to bring in their "cup of coins" not just to mark Numeracy Day, but also to raise money for LOROS, the charity that the Trust is supporting this year. The day was a huge success. Teachers reported that simply handling money was a valuable learning experience, as using physical coins is becoming less common due to the many digital ways we now pay. The plastic cups that were sent home to collect coins were returned filled to the brim with 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2 coins—and even some notes!

The money was used as part of Numeracy Day activities, as well as lessons on financial literacy. This included discussions about how children might spend their money. For example, if they had savings for a bike, would they choose to buy a second-hand bike and save money, or buy a brand-new one? These are important life skills. While financial education will become a focus in the new curriculum in the coming years, we believe it is essential to begin developing an understanding of money from an early age—so there is no better time to start than now.

After counting up the coins, we estimate that we have raised around £800, with additional money still coming in after the event—an excellent achievement. This has also helped to reinforce the message that even small-value coins can add up to a significant amount.

We also shared the important work that LOROS does in supporting families during challenging times, helping pupils understand that they have played a meaningful role in raising money for a very worthwhile cause. Thank you so much for your support and for helping to collect the coins.



Dates for the Diary

June

Wednesday 3rd-Friday 5th June

Year4 trip to Beaumanor

Monday 8th June

SEND Parent Forum at Cafe Fifty=Five
@9.30-10.30am

Monday 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- more details to follow

Wednesday 24th June

Year 3 trip to Bosworth Battlefield

Thursday 25th June @ 7pm

Friday 26th June @ 2pm tbc

Year 6 Performance

Monday 29th June @ 3.10pm

Transition meeting for parents
(For the parents of pupils who are moving
into Year 5, and 6)

Tuesday 30th June @3.10pm

Transition meeting for parents
(For the parents of pupils who are moving
into Year 1, 2, 3, 4)

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

Monday 6th July

Visiting new classrooms- transition day for
pupils

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.

Please also remember that for children
who have 10 sessions or more
unauthorised absence, usually linked to a
5-day holiday, the LA may consider fining
parents.

**SPORTS DAY

For those parents who have been with us for more than a year, you'll know that Sports Day is very much dependent on the weather. This is due to safety considerations rather than a reluctance to get wet, as all events take place on the school field.

The weather certainly keeps us on our toes! We aim to inform parents on the morning of Sports Day if it cannot go ahead; however, there are occasions when a decision has to be made later in the day. If we do need to postpone, we will make every effort to arrange an alternative date. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. Let's keep our fingers crossed for sunshine on the 8th and 15th of June!

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	11
W	12	13	14	15	16	17
T	18	19	20	21	22	23
F	24	25	26	27	28	29

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

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	11
W	12	13	14	15	16	17
T	18	19	20	21	22	23
F	24	25	26	27	28	29

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

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	11
W	12	13	14	15	16	17
T	18	19	20	21	22	23
F	24	25	26	27	28	29

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	11
W	12	13	14	15	16	17
T	18	19	20	21	22	23
F	24	25	26	27	28	29

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