

# Houghton School Newsletter



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## THE HOUGHTON WAY, EVERY DAY

Dear families

Over the first few days of term, we have revisited our **Expected Behaviours** with the children and reminded them what it means to be a member of the Houghton community. I have already seen many examples of children demonstrating these behaviours, and I have shared some of these on page 2.

At Houghton, we want our children to do the right thing because it is the right thing to do, not simply because someone is watching. We recognise that true character is often shown in the moments that go unnoticed and we will continue to celebrate those children who quietly and consistently make positive choices every day. Throughout the year, we will be making a special effort to recognise those children who live out our values both in and out of the classroom.

Over the summer, we reviewed and updated our Behaviour Policy. Our approach remains firmly rooted in our Christian vision and values, particularly Jesus' commandment to *"love one another as I have loved you."* The revised policy reflects our commitment to creating a school where everyone feels valued, respected and able to flourish. It places a strong emphasis on teaching positive behaviour, just as we teach any other aspect of learning

Of course, when children make unexpected choices, there is also a clear and consistent process that staff will follow to support them in making better decisions in the future. We believe in high expectations, clear boundaries and helping children learn from their mistakes. A summary of this process can be found on **page 3** of this newsletter and includes how we contact parents if children have shown 'unexpected' behaviours.

The policy has been developed using Trust guidance and evidence-based research, and once it has been formally approved by Governors it will be available on our school website. The Trust is also currently reviewing and updating its behaviour framework, so there may be some further refinements to our policy once this work is complete.

I look forward to sharing and celebrating the many successes that this year will undoubtedly bring. Together, we can help every child develop the confidence, character and self-discipline needed to thrive both within our school and beyond.

Best wishes

Ali Woollerson

Headteacher



I always say please and thank you.



I always knock on the door and wait for permission before I enter the office.



I always open doors for adults.



I always walk back to my classroom in line order and in silence at the end of play.



I always line up quietly and in line order after the second bell or whistle.



Who have we noticed modelling the 'expected' behaviours?

I always exit Collective Worship silently.



I always sit with 6 feet on the floor and chair tucked in.

# 'Unexpected' Behaviour

At Houghton, we teach, recognise and celebrate positive behaviour through our **Expected Behaviours**. When a child makes an unexpected choice, staff will first provide reminders and support to help them get back on track. We believe that, just like learning in the classroom, positive behaviour is something that can be taught and developed. Our focus is always on helping children understand expectations, repair relationships and make positive choices.

If a child needs a third reminder or more, they will be given a short period of **reflection time** to consider their actions, understand the impact of their choices and think about how they can make a better choice next time. For serious incidents of behaviour, adults have the authority to miss out steps, proportionate to the severity of the behaviour.

A restorative conversation forms part of this process. If reflection time is required, parents will be informed by the class teacher, either through a conversation at the end of the day or via Dojo. For example, **you might receive a message to let you know that your child had reflection time for 5 minutes because they were disrupting learning by calling out during class teaching.**

In the rare event that behaviour is more serious or continues despite support, a child may be asked to work in a different space for a short period of time so that learning can continue successfully for everyone. If concerns continue, we will work closely with families to identify any support that may be needed and may arrange a meeting to discuss strategies that will help the child be successful.

For some children, additional personalised support may be required. In these circumstances, we may develop an individual behaviour plan with specific targets and strategies tailored to the child's needs. Parents and carers will be closely involved in this process. These plans are designed to recognise individual challenges and provide children and staff with the support needed to achieve success. Staff will also consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to the sanction in response to any SEND need the pupil may have. Staff will seek to identify and understand the underlying causes of behaviour and how these can be managed

Our aim is not simply to manage behaviour, but to help children develop responsibility, self-discipline and the skills they need to thrive both in school and beyond.



## PUPIL LEADERSHIP

Pupil leadership is an important part of life at Houghton and is not limited to our Year 6 pupils. Many children across the school take on roles and responsibilities that help our community to thrive. Your child may already have come home and told you about serving on a lunchtime duty, helping at the salad bar, supporting younger children in the Foundation playground, or applying for one of the many leadership opportunities available throughout the year. The Office Prefect role is always a particularly popular one!

During the first week of term, four pupils were selected to become our new **Collective Worship Leaders**. After a brief induction, they quickly stepped into their roles and carried out their responsibilities brilliantly, building on the excellent work of last year's team.

Already, they have helped to set up collective worship, shared greetings and sending words, led parts of worship, read prayers and lit candles. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and commitment develop so quickly.

I am looking forward to working alongside them throughout the year and watching them grow further in their roles as leaders within our school community.



Glad to be back with friends!

## Mobile Phones and Smart devices

In line with Department for Education guidance [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#), our school is a mobile phone-free environment. Pupils must not use mobile phones or other smart devices e.g., smart watches that can send messages, receive notifications or record audio/video. These must not be used during the school day and includes before registration, during lessons, at breaktimes, lunchtimes and while moving around the school site. We only allow our Year 6 pupils to bring a phone onto the school site as this allows them to feel safe on their journey to and from school but as soon as they enter school, the phone must be switched off and handed over to a member of the Year 6 staff. It is then returned to the child at the end of the school day. Failure to comply with this expectation may result in the device being confiscated and returned in line with the school's behaviour policy. Reasonable adjustments will be made where the use of a device is required for medical, SEND or safeguarding reasons.





## Houghton School Helpers



One of our greatest strengths as a school is the partnership we have with our parents and families. We know how fortunate we are to have such a dedicated team of volunteers in the Houghton School Helpers (HSH). Over the years, they have not only raised an enormous amount of money for the school but have also organised a wide range of events and activities that have enriched the experiences of our children.

This year, several key members of the committee are stepping down. On behalf of the entire school community, I would like to personally thank **Mrs Godsmark, Mrs Kirk and Mrs Howard** for the countless hours of planning, organising and hard work they have contributed to the success of Houghton School Helpers.

While many of us see and enjoy the wonderful events that take place throughout the year, there is an enormous amount of work that happens behind the scenes. From attending meetings and managing finances to coordinating volunteers, liaising with suppliers and ensuring every event runs smoothly, much of their contribution goes unseen. Their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment have enabled HSH to raise thousands of pounds for the school whilst creating lasting memories for our children and families. We are grateful for everything they have done and know that their contribution will have a lasting impact on our school community for many years to come.

The success of the HSH also relies on many other volunteers who generously give their time both behind the scenes and on the day itself. Whether it is setting up and clearing away, staffing stalls, serving refreshments or helping with practical tasks, this additional support is invaluable. Quite simply, many of these events would not be possible without it. As several long-standing committee members step down, we are therefore looking for parents, grandparents or other family members who may be interested in becoming more involved. If you would like to find out more about joining the committee or helping at future events, please do come and speak to me. I am sure that Mrs Godsmark, Mrs Kirk and Mrs Howard would be more than happy to share their experiences and offer guidance to help make any transition as smooth as possible.

You may have noticed on the dates-for-your-diary page that we have taken the decision to pause the Autumn Fair for this year. Following careful consideration and given the short turnaround at the start of the academic year together with changes within the HSH committee, we felt it was better to take a break this year. We do, however, still have the Christmas Tree Festival to look forward to (apologies for mentioning Christmas quite so early!). We are hoping to recruit a team of volunteers to help make this year's event another great success and would be delighted to hear from anyone who is able to support us. Please speak to me on the school gate or message me on dojo. I look forward to hearing from you!

# DATES FOR THE DIARY

We know many families like to plan ahead, so here are some important dates for your diary. Please be aware that some events are yet to be confirmed and others, including cross-country competitions, may be subject to weather conditions. It is also worth highlighting that we return to school on **Tuesday** 27<sup>th</sup> October after the half term break, not the Monday.

## Class Assemblies

These will start at 9am and will finish by 9.30.

**YEAR 6:** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November

**YEAR 2:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

**YEAR 4:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March

**YEAR 1:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March

**YEAR 5:** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

**YEAR 3:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May

**FOUNDATION STAGE:** Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May



Here are the dates for the term Learn Academies Trust - Term Dates



**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> September**  
Swimming starts for Yr 2

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**  
**During school time**  
Cross Country for Yrs 3- 6

**Wed 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
**@2.30pm**

Parent meeting for  
Year 6 residential

**Wed 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September**  
Year 6 residential to Mount Cook

**Mon 21<sup>st</sup> September**  
SEND parent forum @9.30am  
Venue and time tbc- more  
details to follow

**wc 28<sup>th</sup> September**  
Parent meetings for parents of  
children who have a SEND IEP

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**  
Harvest Festival @9.10am (tbc)  
St Catharine's Church

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> and Wed 7<sup>th</sup> October**  
**3.30pm-6.30pm**  
Parent Meetings

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October**  
Individual photos  
*If your child has a pre-school  
sibling, they can come to school  
from 8am-8.30 for a family photo*

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> October**  
**9.30am- 10.30am**  
Open Morning for new starters '27

**Fri 16<sup>h</sup> Oct**  
Last day of term

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October**  
Return to school

# Let's celebrate!

We know that school is about much more than data and test scores. However, to ensure that our pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education, they take part in a range of external assessments throughout their time at Houghton.

Here is a snapshot of our end-of-2026 outcomes. We were delighted with the results, particularly the number of children who achieved the **Greater Depth** standard in the Key Stage 2 assessments. These outcomes reflect the hard work and dedication of our pupils and staff, and we are incredibly proud of what has been achieved.

The Trust also recognised the significant efforts of all staff in securing these excellent results, and we were honoured to receive a **Trust Achievement Award** this year.

This information, together with our ongoing internal monitoring and external reviews, helps to inform our school priorities for the year ahead. We look forward to sharing these priorities with you in our October newsletter.

## DATA SNAPSHOT

| ASSESSMENTS                                                                      | School Data              | National data          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| FOUNDATION STAGE PROFILE<br>GOOD LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT                            | 79%                      | 72%                    |
| YEAR 1 PHONICS                                                                   | 97%                      | 82%                    |
| MULTIPLICATION CHECK                                                             | Average score<br>19.9/25 | Average score<br>21/25 |
| KEY STAGE 2<br>READING, WRITING and MATHS<br>Expected standard +                 | 75%                      | 63%                    |
| KEY STAGE 2<br>READING, WRITING and MATHS<br>Greater Depth standard              | 6%                       | 8%                     |
| KEY STAGE 2<br>READING,<br>Expected standard +                                   | 88%                      | 75%                    |
| KEY STAGE 2<br>READING<br>Greater Depth standard                                 | 50%                      | 30%                    |
| KEY STAGE 2<br>Writing<br>Expected standard +                                    | 78%                      | 73%                    |
| KEY STAGE 2<br>Writing<br>Greater Depth standard                                 | 9%                       | 13%                    |
| KEY STAGE 2<br>Maths<br>Expected standard +                                      | 91%                      | 75%                    |
| KEY STAGE 2<br>Maths<br>Greater Depth standard                                   | 44%                      | 27%                    |
| KEY STAGE 2<br>Vocabulary, Punctuation and<br>spelling<br>Expected standard +    | 84%                      | 74%                    |
| KEY STAGE 2<br>Vocabulary, Punctuation and<br>spelling<br>Greater Depth standard | 63%                      | 30%                    |

# ADMISSIONS REMINDERS FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS AND NEW STARTERS 2027

Mid-term admissions are processed via LearnAt, but first-time admissions for both Foundation Stage and Secondary School must be completed through the Leicestershire County Council website:

## Secondary School Admissions

We encourage all parents to visit local secondary schools.

- 📌 You can apply for up to five school preferences.
- ✅ Use all five options—there's no guarantee your first choice will be allocated.
- 📅 Deadline for applications: **Friday 31st October** (Applications open 1st Sept)

Here is the link for more information:

[Apply for a secondary school | Leicestershire County Council](#)



## Foundation Stage Admissions (August 2027 Starters)

👤 If your child is starting Foundation in August 2027, applications must be submitted by:

📅 15th January 2026 (Applications open 1<sup>st</sup> September)

Here is the link for more information:

[Apply for a primary or junior school | Leicestershire County Council](#)

We're hosting open sessions for families to visit Houghton School:

**Wednesday 7th October 9.30-10.30**

**Friday 30th October 9.30-10.30**

**Monday 9th November 9.30-10.30**

**Thursday 7th January 9.30-10.30**



📞 To book a place, please book a place here or use the QR code  
[Houghton on the Hill: Open Day Open Day Registration](#)

📢 **Spread the Word!**

Please share these important dates with family and friends.

We still have a few places available in this year's Year 1, so if you know anyone who might be interested in joining our school community, please encourage them to call the office to find out more. All other classes are full.