

Houghton Primary School Newsletter

Issue 1

Friday 9 September 2022

Welcome Back!

It was lovely to welcome families and pupils back to Houghton Primary for the start of the new academic year this week. We hope you all had a fantastic summer break and we look forward to working with you over the next three terms.

This week we have had a number of new children join the school and next Monday will see our Early Years pupils join us for the first time – we are very excited to greet our new pupils and families and extend a warm welcome as they join the Houghton community.

This newsletter will be the first of many across the school year where we will share class updates, news on school development and parent/carer information each fortnight. Each issue will be sent to you as a PDF via email on a Friday and will also be uploaded to the school website.

Queen Elizabeth II

Like the rest of the nation, I was saddened to hear the news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II yesterday evening and share the sentiments and condolences of those already expressed in memory of Britain's longest reigning monarch.

This morning we shared a whole-school assembly reflecting on the life of Elizabeth II and teachers shared some learning and discussions with pupils across the school. We are expecting more updates from the DfE and Local Authority soon and I will keep you informed about how plans and arrangements will affect schools.

Welcome to New Staff

This term we welcome two new members of staff: Mrs Sam Bavester joins us as Deputy Headteacher and Year 5 class teacher and Mrs Elaine Dellar joins our support staff team.

We are delighted to have both ladies join us and look forward to working with them in the weeks and months ahead.

School Development

Last Thursday and Friday we spent the Inset sessions covering Child Protection training and exploring adaptations to our methods for assessment across the school. This Wednesday's staff meeting continued along a similar thread of assessment and we were joined by our school improvement adviser to share aspects of this learning with us.

Parent Information Evening

Next Wednesday we will be hosting Parent Information sessions so that teaching staff can share key messages with you for the year ahead.

As previously circulated, there will be two identical sessions at 1800 and 1830 and these will be held in your child's classroom.

The gates to the playground will be open ahead of these sessions and we ask that you use the external doors you use for drop-off to access the classrooms. We look forward to welcoming you to school next week!

School Pick Up

Yesterday you may have seen the email from Mrs Bavester regarding our changes to logistics for collection at the end of the day.

From Monday, all pupils must be collected from classroom doors by their authorised parent/carer/adult and details of where to collect from were shared in Mrs Bavester's communication.

For all Year 5 & 6 pupils who will be walking home alone, it is important that we have written permission for this returned to school by Monday.

Autumn Term Learning

I have been incredibly impressed with the way that our pupils have settled back into their learning this week as they immerse themselves in their topic work for the Autumn Term.

The classrooms have had a wonderful buzz of learning around them and pupils have talked to me so enthusiastically about the work they have been doing this week.

It has been amazing to see how well settled our Year 1 children have been on their return and Mrs MacLennan shared the following photos with me this morning:



Diary Dates

Please be aware of the following dates for your diaries:

Parent Information Evening: Weds 14 September (1800)

Open Evening: Thurs 20 October (1800 – 1900)

Harvest Festival: Fri 30 September

Half-term: 24 – 28 October

Parent Consultations: Tues 8 and Thurs 10 November

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Andrew Spencer

Headteacher