



# Houghton School Newsletter

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So good to be back!

## A Fresh New Year!

We are delighted to see everyone back in school today, and looking smart and ready for a busy new term. Do remember to come and talk to us if there is anything you'd like us to know, or anything which is worrying you.

The staff have made a flying start too, with two very productive trainings days. Yesterday, teachers were part of a Trust training session which will lead into work on helping children take greater ownership of their learning and build

efficacy in staff and pupils.

On Friday, the whole staff met together to discuss our approach to managing behaviour and relationships in the school. We will be focusing as much as possible on the positive behaviours of all children – and hope parents will start to see this recognised through notes home over the coming weeks! This is the beginning of a full review of our policy, which we look forward to consulting with parents and children.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Jan Knox (Headteacher)

## Access To School

If you pop into school this week, you will I am sure be very impressed with our beautiful new fire doors and decorated walls. Most of our classrooms are now lockable, and in the interests of security and data protection, we will be doing this more often after the school day. This means we are requesting that **parents do not wander through the school unaccompanied or try to access classrooms to collect forgotten items after school.** If it is an essential item such as medication we will of course help you out. Likewise, **if you are collecting your child from a club, please wait in the entrance lobby until the club leader opens the door to you.** This will help us keep everyone safe.

### Dates for your diary...

#### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

–Meet the Teacher sessions after school for Y1, and Y2.

#### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September

– visiting theatre group (cost £3.50 per child)

#### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September

–Meet the Teacher sessions after school for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6.

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>

September – Y3 Visit to Bosworth Battlefield.

#### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

at 2:15pm – Harvest Festival in Church.

#### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>

September – HSH Autumn Fair.

**“Be willing to be a beginner every single morning.”**

– Meister Eckhart



## School Priorities 2019-2020

The whole school improvement work this year will be focused on the following aims:

- ❖ **To holistically review the Behaviour Policy, engaging with all stakeholders, and ensuring the wider aspects of our Christian vision, manners, learning behaviours and relationships are considered alongside rules, rewards, sanctions and processes;**
- ❖ **To develop a cohesive, coherent, structured curriculum offer, underpinned by knowledge, skills and wider opportunities, and which ensures deep learning and mastery of subjects;**
- ❖ **To improve the progress of all pupils, especially those at risk of falling behind, by ensuring the promotion of independence, metacognition and positive learning behaviours, supported by effective, timely intervention and support.**

We look forward to keeping you updated on our professional development and progress towards these aims.

## PARKING!

*Please make a new resolution for the new school year and allow time to park at the Black Horse car park and walk to school, for the safety of all the community. Cars should never enter the staff car park (including those dropping off at Breakfast Club!) and are not permitted on the zigzag lines or across the school entrance. Please also avoid parking on pavements.*

## Cover Supervisors

Following a recruitment process last term, we are delighted to let parents know that Mrs Joyce and Miss Ward have both been promoted to the role of Cover Supervisors. This means that they are eligible to cover short term absences of teachers, such as short courses and emergency illness, by delivering work planned by qualified teachers. We are confident that this will provide greater continuity for classes. We will continue to book supply teachers for longer absences, and of course Mrs Bradley also provides regular cover in her role as Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

## Office Staff Workload

To help our busy office staff, please note the following:

- Requests for medicine administrations should be scheduled for 11:00, 12:00 or 13:00 only.
- From Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September onwards, school uniform sales will take place on Tuesdays and Thursday only.
- The office hatch closes at 4:00pm, after which time we cannot guarantee to be available to deal with enquiries.

Thank you 😊

## Allergies

Please be aware that we have five children in school for whom contact with nut products is life-threatening. **Any food suspected of containing nuts (e.g. Nutella) will be confiscated as the risk is too great.**

Please do take care!

May I also remind you that the only permitted morning snack is fruit (dried or fresh) and not biscuits, crisps or chocolate!

