



Houghton Conquest Lower School and Pre-school Newsletter 1 (28th September 2018)

Value of the Month: Respect

Welcome

Welcome back to a new academic year and to our first newsletter. As before, our newsletters will be produced on a monthly basis with the next one being published on Friday, 2nd November. Our newsletters aim to provide you with an insight into what goes on in school, provide you with information throughout the year and a list of important dates for your diary so you don't miss anything. Remember you can always download or check previous newsletters on our website (www.houghtonconquest.beds.sch.uk). If you require further information please remember to talk to the School Office who will be happy to help or point you in the right direction.

Open Evening and Parent Teacher Consultations

The whole staff community thank you for attending our first major event of the school year last week.

We hope you enjoyed looking around the School and Pre-school and have benefited from meeting your child's class teacher(s) and Pre-school staff. As always any feedback would be appreciated – please either email office.hcls@cbc.beds.sch.uk or use the suggestion box in the School Reception. We hope you agree that the school environment looks amazing and you were able to see how much work your child has already completed in the first weeks of term.

All information discussed and presented is included in a class information booklet which was handed out and will be available next week to download from our website. If you were unable to attend and collect a copy yourself, you will have found a copy in your child's book bag.

We appreciate that a minority of parents were unable to attend for various reasons. The next formal opportunity for parents of school children to meet your child's class teacher will be at the Parent Teacher Consultations in October. **Bookings will be open from Wednesday, 3rd October.** You can pop into Reception, send an email or phone the school office to make your appointment. Time slots are available between the following times for all classes:-

Tuesday, 16th October from 5pm – 7pm
Thursday, 18th October from 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Diary Dates

Oct 2017

- 3rd Bookings for Parents Evening open - see article opposite
- 4th Year 4 Sports Leadership Training at MVMS (letters sent to participants)
- 4th Census day and menu change
- 8th Phoenix trip to Bletchley Park
- 8th Maths Celebration Event - 6pm—7pm - see page 2 for more information
- 16th Parent Consultations (5pm—7.30pm)
- 18th Parent Consultations (3.30pm—6pm)
- 19th Pilgrim's Progress Bible Exhibition for Phoenix Class

November 2018

- 2nd Flu Immunisations taking place in school (for those parents who have signed and returned a consent form)
- 6th Individual and family group photographs by Tempest

You are cordially invited to attend the First ever Houghton Conquest Lower School

Maths Celebration Evening!

Date:

Monday 8th October

Time:

6-7pm

Join us for an evening of Celebration and information regarding our Mathematics teaching methods and exciting curriculum developments!

The evening will entail:

...A short information session on the Maths Mastery approach to teaching...

...An open look at Mathematics across the school...

...Maths Whizz helpdesk and training centre...

...Our first MathsWhizz Prize Giving!...

We really look forward to seeing you all here on Monday 8th October from 6-7pm

Pre-school News



A big welcome back to all our parents both old and new to the new school year. All of our new starters have settled in well, as have our existing children, it is amazing to see how much they have grown over the holidays!

Our pet snails, Mr Macinnes and Marshall, have been well cared for over the holidays (thank you Lola). The children have been learning how to look after them this term, particularly by feeding and spraying them over the past few weeks.



We have enjoyed going over to the field and collecting conkers.



Thank you to all that attended the Parent's Information Evening, it was lovely to see so many of you coming to hear about Pre-School and looking at your children's work, like our self portraits pictured here.

Julie
Pre-School Leader

Whole School Writing Days

Big write days are planned three times a year and are designed to excite the children and provide meaningful context to inspire children to write. On these days, learning is centred on one theme and each year group plans their writing based around this theme.

This term the theme was character description. All children spent three lessons with a teacher from the school listening to the teacher's favourite story and carrying out a range of exciting activities in relation to the story. Children chose from titles decided upon by different teachers; *The Gruffalo*, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* or *the Twits*. They then worked with the teacher in their room during the related activities.

This was a wonderful experience for all pupils to engage in learning across the year groups, with children from Robins working in groups with children from across the school, right up to Phoenix class.

Next Friday (5th October) you will receive your child's Writing Progress book in their school bag. You will be able to share your child's writing experience with them and make comments or provide feedback in the book before returning it to school.



Sinclair Sports Coaching

Sinclair Sports Coaching will be returning to Houghton Conquest Lower School after half term. They will be continuing with their after school multi sports clubs for KS1 and KS2 (years 1-4). Booking forms will follow as soon as we receive them from Sinclair Sports Coaching.

New for this year, they will be organising and running 3 lunchtime clubs a week (*more information on these to follow*). In addition, each half term they will be delivering high quality PE lessons to each Key Stage on a Wednesday afternoon, starting with Phoenix class.



Governor Vacancies

We are seeking to fill our current Governor vacancies - if you have skills in finance, legal, health, HR or education sectors then please do contact us for more information about the role of Governor. If you do not have any of the above skills but have a passion for ensuring children obtain the best quality education and are supportive of our values and ethos, please do get in touch with the school office in the first instance. Governance is very rewarding.

Houses of Parliament

Houghton Conquest Lower School had a special afternoon assembly from Miss Kilby-Smith, Education and Engagement Officer, Houses of Parliament. The assembly taught the children about elections, law – making and the government. Following on from this, Phoenix Class enjoyed a workshop experiencing the process of creating a political party, controlling a budget and how members of parliament are elected through voting.



Trim Trail

Our new trim trail was officially opened last Friday for the children to enjoy. All the children have been enjoying it during their lunchtimes and with their class teacher. Although some have found it challenging in parts, they have shown amazing perseverance and courage to complete the circuit. All staff have been trained on the use of the trail.



The trail was installed by Sovereign Play and we were able to replace the existing one using our Sport and PE Premium funding. PE and Sports Premium was first introduced in March 2013 and was allocated to all primary schools. The grant provides money directly to improve PE and Sports provision, carrying on the sporting legacy of the London 2012 Olympics. Last year the government doubled our grant through the introduction of the sugar tax levy and has meant we can improve PE and sports even further throughout the school.

The school would like to thank Mr Curl, Mr Busbridge, Mr Riley and Mr Brown for giving up their time to dismantle and remove the old trim trail ready for the new one to be installed.

The trim trail is not supervised by school staff before or after school and no children should be on the equipment during these times - thank you for your co-operation.



MathsWhizz

MathsWhizz has arrived at Houghton Conquest Lower School!!

All pupils from Year 1 to 4 should now have their log-in cards to access MathsWhizz! Robins will receive theirs in the next week.

This is a fantastic new resource we are using to support the progress of all pupils in an exciting and engaging way.

Maths Whizz responds to and adapts to individual pupils abilities as they progress through the lessons-making their learning journey truly independent!

Engagement in MathsWhizz lessons for at least 30-45minutes per week can support your child to progress their ability by 18 months across just one year!

Receive your parent log-in details for monitoring your child's progress from home at our Maths Celebration Evening on 8th October, 6-7pm!

Here you will find the awards that have been given out in our Friday Celebration Assemblies

Headteacher Awards: These certificates are given to any children who take part in activities outside of school (ie sports, drama, music etc). All children need to do to receive a headteachers award is bring their certificate/trophy into school to share in one of our celebration assemblies.

Friday, 7th September 2018

Star of the Week (teachers):

Pre-school: Abdullah Qureshi for making friends and playing nicely with them.

Robins: Jake Palmacci for excellent listening and always working hard.

Doves: Callum Curl for always being amazing at tidy up time.

Owls: Grace Exworth for brilliant effort in all areas of learning.

Phoenix: Eryn Tierney for a fantastic start to Houghton Conquest and Mikey Bathers for a great start to the term.

Values Award: The Whole School for showing respect for another child who was poorly.

Golden Certificates: Lyla Godwin, Tony Starr, Dylan Edwards and Niamh Davis.

Finer Diners: Vinnie Proctor, Isla Peck, Jasper Regan, Amelia Kealey, Lilah O'Gorman, Faye Lovell, Kallum Bhattoa, Grace Exworth, Tommy Spencer, Kimberley Crowe, Charlie Brown and Leo Graves.

Headteacher Awards:

Emily-Mae Furey: summer reading challenge.

Evie Busbridge: summer reading challenge and swimming 10 metres.

Ruby Dobson: completing 2 explorer challenges at Ampthill Park.

Chloe Macrdechian: swimming level 3.

Jasmine Stean: fantastic achievement of joining the MK Gymnastics development tumbling squad.

Niamh-Mairé Furey: summer reading challenge.

Jasmine Robinson: Judo Medal and Blue Peter badge.

Ruby Dobson: swimming 50m and learning to swim with a monotail.

Friday, 14th September 2018

Star of the Week (Teaching Assistants):

Pre-school: Archie Samuel for trying really hard to put his clothes on himself.

Mrs Jakins: Kimberley Crowe for caring for the younger children at play and lunch time.

Miss Granelli: Oliver Macrdechian for always showing his values and trying his best.

Mrs Sebborn: Tony Starr for fantastic concentration when practicing fine motor skills.

Miss Dancer: Katherine Birch for always showing her values in school.

Miss Wickenden: Amelia Kealey for always working hard and having a smile.

Golden Certificates: Archie Richardson, Thomas Spencer, Cameron Stean and Max Williamson.

Finer Diners: Blaine Mulvihill, Lyla Godwin, Delilah Al-Shaikhly, Phoebe-Rose Tierney, Leo Gravener, Callum Curl, Grace Exworth, Evie Busbridge, Chloe Macrdechian, Tony Starr and Leo Graves.

Headteacher Awards:

Tommy Spencer: 2 trophies for being 'top rugby player'.

Jasmine Robinson: trophy for Judo Player of the Week.

Evie Busbridge: passing her Pre-Primary Ballet exam with merit.

Cameron Stean: receiving a certificate from the Tooth Fairy on losing his first tooth.

Chloe Macrdechian: summer reading challenge.

Callie Edwards: swimming 20m and water skills 3.

Oliver Macrdechian: summer reading challenge.

Kian Hope: summer reading challenge, swimming 10m and outstanding attitude to football certificate.

Friday, 21st September 2018

Star of the Week (teachers):

Pre-school: Athena Al-Shaikhly for making new friends and growing in confidence.

Robins: Niamh White for always trying her best with her writing.

Doves: Arthur Middleton for brilliant reading and enthusiasm.

Owls: Evie Busbridge for working really hard during phonics.

Phoenix: Laila Peck for always trying her best when writing.

Golden Certificates: Jake Palmacci, Jasmine Robinson, Isaac Barral and Jason Starr.

Finer Diners: Lyla Godwin, Isla Peck, Hanna Hall, Lilah O'Gorman, Kyran Bates, Lily Davies-Smith, Dylan Partridge, Scarlett Curl, Cody Riley, Nathan Davis, Mikey Bathers and Joshua Gruzelier.

Headteacher Awards:

Isaac Barral: completing the NBRC summer cycling skills school.

Cody Riley: summer reading challenge.

Callie Edwards: receiving her classical ballet level 1 award.

Katherine Birch: player of the week at Judo.

Ways to get in touch or find out information

School and Pre-school Telephone: 01234 740202

Our Website: www.houghtonconquest.beds.sch.uk

Email address for parents (Mrs Browne): office.hcls@cbc.beds.sch.uk