

Houghton Conquest Lower School and Pre-School Newsletter 11 (2nd July 2018)

Value of the Month: Joy

Doves Class trip to Woburn Safari Park

Wow! What an amazing day the Doves spent yesterday at Woburn Safari Park! We started by exploring the Road Safari, seeing giraffes, bears, lions and rhinos up close. The monkeys proved to be very cheeky, hitching a ride on the top of the coach. We thought we might bring one back to school! The children were so excited and thoroughly engaged, learning about the animals from our on-board guide.



After a quick snack we started our Foot Safari and headed straight to the lemur enclosure for our keeper talk. The lemurs were very inquisitive to find out what we had in our rucksacks – they got a little closer than we had expected! While some of the group decided to enjoy the penguin keeper talk instead, a few brave children persevered and learnt about these fascinating creatures from Madagascar.



After a picnic lunch (where we were joined by a group of nosy chickens – Doves class proved very popular with the animals!), we headed inside for the sea lion show. We found out how the sea lions are trained and the differences between sea lions and seals. Unfortunately the 3D movie was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances (a sea lion refusing to let his friend out of the water!) so the group enjoyed a walk around the Australian Outback before enjoying an ice lolly in the shade.

The final highlight of our day was the meet and greet session with the elephants. We watched an interesting demonstration about how the elephants are taken care of at Woburn before having the opportunity to touch the 'star of the show' as she walked around the enclosure. The children waited patiently for their turn and were absolutely thrilled to have a chance to interact with these incredible creatures.



It was a truly amazing day and the children were a credit to the school, showing their values and manners at all times. The trip has really enhanced this term's topic of Wild and Wonderful and we look forward to sharing photographs from the trip with relatives of children in Doves class during our class assembly on Tuesday 10th July.



Thank you to parents for the voluntary contributions that enabled this trip to take place. A big thank you also to the volunteers who gave up their time to accompany the trip; Miss Thompson, Mrs Regan, Mr Anderton and Mrs Browne. I must also mention Mrs Sebborn and Miss Dancer and thank them for their help. The support provided ensures we are able to continue to offer incredible learning experiences to the children.

Miss Hill

Doves Class Teacher

Friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School



Summer BBQ

The Friends Summer BBQ last weekend was a great success, I've had lots of positive feedback from parents that they had a lovely time, the children enjoyed themselves and it was generally a chilled, family oriented occasion that they'd love to have again next year.

We raised about £460 after expenses, which is really great, so thanks to everyone who supported the event.

We were able to add to the fun and raise even more money for the school thanks to Mark Dobson of Hartwell Plc who donated £200 towards the cost of hiring the bouncy castle, so thank you very much, Mark, for your generosity, the children loved it.

I'd like to say a special thank you to Vicki Exworth (Vice Chair) for her hard work in helping to organise the event, and her husband Mark as they were up super early on the day collecting supplies and putting up balloons and banners, as well as putting in a huge amount of work during and after the event too. I'd also like to thank Emma Wadsworth for helping to organise it, and also her husband for putting up with the heat from the BBQ to flip burgers and sausages all afternoon. My own husband Ed also helped with the BBQ, before and afterwards, even taking the rubbish bags to the tip, thank you.

Alex Bluck, our Treasurer, did a sterling job of managing all the floats. She also helped before, during and after the event on all manner of things, thank you. Thanks also to Marc Riley, the caretaker, who let us in early on a Saturday, opened the school building for us to use the facilities, and also helped us wherever he could throughout the event. There were many other volunteers who helped with first aid, face painting, running stalls and serving refreshments. Thank you all.

Finally, I'd like to thank the weather, which I'm sure also made a huge contribution to everyone's enjoyment.

Sports Morning

You may have seen some of the Friends serving refreshments at the school's sports morning this week, we also gave all the children a free freeze pop because of the hot weather.

Ice Lolly Sales

You may see us on Fridays selling ice lollies, so keep an eye out for the notices, these are often last minute due to volunteers availability.

Enjoy the summer

From the Friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School

Lunch Al Fresco

You may have already heard but on Friday last week, due to wasps taking up residence in our school hall, the school children dined 'Al Fresco' with the Pre-School children having their lunch delivered to Pre-School.

The children really enjoyed the 'continental' experience - thank you to all the **school and kitchen staff** for making this possible.

Lunches returned to normal today, following a visit on Friday afternoon by a professional company who removed the wasps/nest.



HAVE FUN IN FRENCH THIS SUMMER!



Join Le Club Français Summer sessions to do games, cooking, crafts and many fun activities and learn French at the same time!

6th - 10th August, 9am - 3pm, at Stewartby United Church Hall. £18 per day (£15 for LCF members) with discounts for full week booking and siblings.

Please contact Catherine Tobin (LCF Area Organiser)
lcfbedfordshire@gmail.com or call 07568154087

Thank you...

Sports Day

I am sure you will all agree that having a member of Team GB at our Sports Day last week was a very special moment.



A **huge thank you** must go to everyone who has returned their Great British Athlete Sponsorship Form. We are in the process of counting all the money and we will update you in our special Sports Day inset which appear in our final newsletter of this academic year.



A big thank you to Mr Sam Anderton for helping out all school last week. The children really enjoyed his music assemblies.

Wear it Green Day

Thank you to everyone that took part in our Wear it Green Day in aid of The Forest of Marston Vale - we raised £77.

Diary Dates *(new items in bold)*

July 2018

4th	KS1 Multiskills Event (letters have been sent to participants)	16th	Year 4 Leavers Assembly at 2pm (parents and grandparents from Eagles class welcome to join us (2pm)
5th	Owls Class Assembly: parents and grandparents from Doves class welcome to join us (9.15am)	17th	Step-Up Day (all children including those in the Pre-school who are starting with us in Sept 18)
6th	Transition Day for Y4 children joining Wilstead Primary in Sept 18	17th	Transition Day for Y4 children joining Marston Vale Middle School in Sept 18
10th	Doves Class Assembly: parents and grandparents from Doves class welcome to join us (9.15am)	18th	Transition Day for Y4 children joining Marston Vale Middle School in Sept 18.
11th	Year End Reports to Parents	20th	Last day of Summer Term
11th	Values Assembly by Rev Toze	<u>September 2018</u>	
13th	Transition Day for Y4 children joining Alameda Middle School in Sept 18	3rd	INSET Day (school and Pre-school closed)
		4th	First Day of the Autumn Term



Thank you

On Friday afternoon, the rejuvenated area outside of Doves class was officially opened to the children. They now have a writing area, sand tray, water tray and play house to call their own. The area is nicely shaded in the afternoon and is our own outside learning space. The children of Doves class and Miss Hill would like to say a HUGE thank you to Mrs Liderth and Mrs Busbridge for all of their hard work and perseverance to put this together for us. You are our Superstars of the Week!



Pre-school news



Last week we said goodbye to our frogs, they have gone to their new home. The children have really enjoyed watching them change and grow over the last couple of months



Next week we have our animal week, we are looking forward to welcoming visitors to pre-school. We have been planting sunflowers for both the pre-school garden and for the children to take home.

We have come to the end of the "letter of the week" for this academic year, and had lots of lovely "Z" for zebras as you can see!

Julie Mahoney, Pre-School Leader



Sports Festival Update - Tennis

On Monday 18th June 8 children from Hawks and Eagles participated in the Tennis Festival at Flitwick Tennis Club. In the run-up to the festival 14 children joined the lunchtime tennis club in preparation for the event. It was really encouraging to see the enthusiasm to improve and the extra practice at home was evident. Unfortunately we could not take all these children to the festival but they all need a special mention for showing their values of determination and perseverance as it is a tricky sport to master.

During the festival it was great to see how far the children had come. We won or drew the majority of the matches and there were some very close games. The children played with skill and accuracy; but most of all they enjoyed the day and were so proud of their achievements in the matches. We did not make it through to the semi-finals but it was very close, there were only three points between Houghton Conquest and the school in first place!! The children should be really proud of themselves and we hope they continue to enjoy tennis.

Miss Thompson, Sports Champion

Celebration Assemblies

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

Friday, 8th June 2018

Star of the Week for:

Robins: Esme Stewart for fantastic co-operation and patience.

Doves: Brandon Thomas for excellent concentration on his writing.

Owls: Amelia Sutton for amazing confidence in her reading this week.

Hawks: Nathan Davis for super effort in literacy lessons.

Eagles: Holly Vaughan for her amazing spelling.

Pre-School: Abdullah Qureshi for always being smiley and friendly.

Values Award: Cody Riley, Luke Worts, Tommy Spencer, Jack Simpson and Maddy Whitfield for super co-operation to solve a tricky puzzle.

Golden Certificates: Immanuel Puplampu, Lilah O’Gorman, Keagan Smith, William Middleton and Sam Matthews.

Headteacher Awards

Barney Money: swimming unaided for 11m during his lesson.

Amelia Sutton: Learn to Swim 3.

Callum Curl: Football - good football dribbling.

Joshua Blake: Learn to Swim 4.

Cameron Stean: Taekwondo - granted recognition as 1st Kub and received orange belt.

Finer Diners: Katherine Birch, Zoe Robinson, Niamh-Maire Furey, Scarlett Curl, Blaise Barlow, Lily Whitfield, Arthur Middleton, Faye Lovell and Andrew Puplampu.

Reading Rewards: Evie Busbridge, Eliza-Beth Semple, Brandon Thomas, Millie Gibson and Cherry Edwards

Friday, 15th June 2018

Star of the Week from:

Miss Granelli: Lily Davies-Smith for working hard to improve her handwriting.

Mrs Sebborn: Lily Burton for persevering in Dance.

Miss Dancer: Grace Exworth for always showing her values throughout the school.

Miss Thompson: Charlie Brown for showing commitment to improving his tennis skills.

Pre-School: Callum Adkins for always being a happy boy at Pre-School.

Golden Certificates: Laila Peck, Jason Starr, Freddie Walker, Lily Burton and Leo Graves.

Headteacher Awards:

Lily Baker: Taking part in the Marston Forest Junior 1K Fun Run.

Finn Wadsworth: Swimming Duckling 1 & 2.

Brandon Thomas: Football Tournament medal.

Jasmine Robinson: Judo Player of the Week.

Reading Rewards: Ivy Gravener, Zoe Robinson and Max Williamson.

Finer Diners: Ben Vaughan, Callie Edwards, Maddy Whitfield, Laura Guinness, Andrew Puplampu, Kaitlyn Shade, Faith Poultney, Millie Gibson, Rosie Davies-Smith and Callum Curl.

Friday, 22nd June 2018

Star of the Week for:

Pre-School: Lola Peach for always caring about living things such as snails and worms!

Robins: Kian Hope for returning to school with such a positive attitude after being poorly.

Doves: Scarlett Cur for a super letter to Greenpeace.

Owls: Cerys Sebborn for being a great role model during her peer work.

Hawks: Holly Lane for fantastic effort in maths.

Eagles: Conner Peach for such neat work and trying hard.

Golden Certificates: Dylan Partridge, Freddie Walker, Callie Edwards, Hannah Starr and Leo Graves.

Headteacher Awards

Scarlett Curl : Star of the week for Good Football Ability.

Katherine Birch: Gymnastics Proficiency Award 5.

Ruby Dobson: National Swim Award Level 3.

Grace Exworth: Pioneer of the week at Houghton Pioneers.

Finer Diners: Jack Simpson, Niamh Davis, Freddie Walker, Lilah O’Gorman, Laila Peck, Olivia Pilsbury, Paul Sebborn, Lily Whitfield, Harry Exworth and Abbygail Fisk.

Reading Rewards: Niamh Davis, Jack Simpson, Lily Burton and Abbygail Fisk.

Friday, 29th June 2018

Star of the Week from:

Mrs Jakins: Mikey Bathers for fabulous participation and perseverance on Sports Day.

Miss Granelli: Cameron Stean for always trying super hard in his phonics.

Mrs Sebborn: Tommy Spencer for always being a good role model in school.

Miss Dancer: Cherry Edwards for always looking out for her friends and showing the value of friendship.

Miss Thompson: Cody Riley for showing respect and co-operation during the school trip.

Pre-School: Jacob Poultney for doing so well at writing his name.

Golden Certificates: Eliza-Beth Semple, Ella Walker, Sam Matthews, Callum Curl, Andrew Pupilampu.

Headteacher Awards:

William Middleton: Learn to Swim 2.

Zoe Robinson: Gymnastics Proficiency Award 3.

Jack Simpson: Swimming 15 metres.

Dylan Partridge: Judo player of the week.

Delilah Al-Shaikhly: Certificate in Signing.

Athena Al-Shaikhly: Certificate in Signing and Swimming Ducking 1.

Reading Rewards: Ben Vaughan, Lily Baker, Kaitlyn Shade and Nathan Davis.

Finer Diners: Abbygail Fisk, Tony Starr, Lily Baker, Laila Peck, Freddie Walker, Lily Davies-Smith, Conner Peach, Hannah Starr, Immanuel Pupilampu and Taylor Riley.

Ways to get in touch or find out information

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

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