



Houghton Conquest Lower School and Pre-School

Newsletter 12 (20th July 2018)

Value of the Month: Joy

Important Information about the 'Schools for the Future'

Central Bedfordshire is an area that will grow. Up to 43,000 new homes are expected by 2035. This means that the local authority needs to plan for school places.

The local authority already have a plan for school places on a five-year basis but given this scale of growth, they need a longer-term, strategic plan for education across the whole of Central Bedfordshire for the next 15 – 20 years. They have been working closely with all schools to ensure that they can provide **the right school places, in the right locations, delivering the best education.**

Schools now have more freedoms to change their age range. Around a quarter of schools in Central Bedfordshire have done so which means we now have a very complex mixture of schools. Central Bedfordshire has historically been a three-tier school system with lower, middle and upper schools. However, this has been changing more recently as schools have changed the age range they cater for, effectively becoming a primary or secondary school. Most of the UK operates on a two-tier school system with primary and secondary schools.

Houghton Conquest has a business plan with the aim to become a Primary School with potentially our first Year 5 intake in September 2019 with Year 6 in September 2020. We are working with our local schools and the local authority to enable this to be successful, competitive and attractive proposition to all parents and pupils.

We understand that the current mixture of schools is confusing and changes taking place can create problems for parents. We will be doing our best to keep you informed of the changes in Central Bedfordshire.

Currently Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) are working with each cluster (groups of schools organised geographically) to help create local plans detailing how we meet future school places that will be required to meet our housing growth. Our school is in the Cranfield Cluster but we also work alongside the Wootton Pyramid of Schools (because this historically has been our main feeder route through via Marston Vale and then onto Wootton Upper School). These schools are in Bedford Borough.

The CBC plans will include details of where schools may expand, where any new schools will be built and the structure of schools in the local area. Once they are completed and where any change is identified, we will work with the local schools **to consult widely so that current and future generations of parents have the opportunity to inform future plans.**

The latest information to report from CBC is:

'Taking the area as a whole, the programme has established that a clear majority of schools have either already converted to primary / secondary schools, want to change their age range to this model, or are open to exploring a change to a primary / secondary or an extended secondary model.'

More information can be found via the CBC website.

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school/schools-future/progress.aspx>

Additionally below you will find a link to take you to where you will find the agendas and minutes of the meetings concerning education across Central Bedfordshire. You may find it useful to register for updates as there is a council meeting during the summer holidays.

<https://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=650&MId=5603&Ver=4>

The Governing Body and staff will continue to keep you informed of the changes and will endeavour to meet with any parent individually who may have any further questions in the Autumn term.



Values Summer Challenge



This summer we are sharing a values enhancing challenge for all children to take part in. This is an exciting opportunity for your child to share their values learning experience with you, as well as their academic tasks from their report.

This fun and exciting set of challenges will reinforce our holistic curriculum in the home environment. The most exciting or interesting presentation of meeting these challenges will receive a prize in the new term.

Rise to the challenge and we look forward to seeing what you have achieved in September.

A copy of the challenge leaflet has been given to your child today and has also been emailed out to parents.

Fun – Responsibility – Cooperation – Teamwork – Friendship – Kindness – Trust – Love

We are delighted to tell you that Marianne Wesley (Maz) has been nominated as a finalist from nearly 100 women from around the county who have inspired others and helped to safeguard those living in Bedfordshire.

The event is part of the Police and Crime Commissioners Celebration of 100 years since women got the vote. Maz has worked with a Community Dance Group for 14 years called UFM, all children can get involved (see below and see Maz's advert). It is from her work at this community project that Maz was nominated initially. We are tremendously proud to be working with Maz, she is constantly focussed on making a difference to the lives of children and is always championing the rights of children and supporting families in our school too. Maz will attend the special event in the summer and we all congratulate her on this wonderful achievement.

For new parents we want to let you know that Maz Wesley is the Emotional Well-being Partner for our school, supporting children and families with any difficulties, upsets, changes or concerns that they may be facing. Maz strives to get the best outcome for everyone involved, either by using fun interactive activities and coping techniques in nurture sessions and sunshine circles for the child, to getting the right help from outside services for children and their families.

Maz would also like to encourage any pupils who love to dance, to come along to UFM, to be part of something very special! It's awesome and an amazing opportunity to have the 'chance to dance' locally in Bedford. UFM recently performed at the River Festival - it was an amazing day and they were all so proud of themselves! There were some magic moments by the dancers and lots of proud parents and families! To find out more please call Maz on 07922494908.



Friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School



Dear Parents & Carers

We have now reached the end of the academic year. The year 4s, including my daughter, are preparing for their next journey through middle school, as younger children from the pre-school prepare for Robins class in the Lower School and all the years in between will move to a new class and a new teacher. What an exciting time for all of them!

We've just had the privilege of watching the year 4 leavers' assembly, and what a wonderful show that was. The finale performance of This Is Me, from The Greatest Showman, blew me away, well done everyone!

The year 4 leavers' books, donated by the Friends, are a lovely keepsake.

With one final ice lolly sale, this year's Friends committee would like to bid you farewell until September. Officially, the committee will stand down and a new one re-elected at our AGM on the 27th September. We hope you can join us, either to elect those who keep the organisation running, or stand as a committee member yourself. There are many opportunities to meet new people, develop your skills and feel proud of a job well done when an event you've been involved in organising or helping at has been a success.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the current committee for all their hard work this year. Officially, Vic Ex-worth, Vice Chair; Alex Bluck, Treasurer; and Vicky Partridge/Anna Mohle, Secretary. Also the other non-official members, Anna Whitfield, Emma Wadsworth, Becca Shircore, Tracey Gruzelier, Marc Riley & Linsay Regan for their contribution to the committee through the year, as well as the many helpers at the events.

We hope you all have a lovely summer break.

See you in September!!

Lisa Guinness
Chair of the Friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School

Diary Dates *(new items in bold)*

September 2018

- 3rd** INSET Day (school and Pre-school closed)
- 4th** First Day of the Autumn Term
- 19th** Values Assembly by Rev Toze
- 20th** New Parents Meeting at 6pm - a detailed timetable will follow in September

October 2018

- 2nd** Flu Vaccinations being carried out by School Nursing Team (Letter to follow nearer the time)
- 8th** Maths Celebration Event at 6pm

November 2018

- 6th** Individual and family group photographs of school children by Tempest Photography

September 2018

A reminder that the school bell is rung at 8.50am and a teacher will open the gate so that all the children can come through into school. During the first week Mr Macinnes will also wait by the gate to meet and greet all the new children starting in Robins Class.

The school day ends at 3.15pm. During the first week however, children in Robin's class only, will be brought out by Mr Macinnes at a slightly earlier time of 3.05pm so that they can be collected by parents before the hustle and bustle of all the children leaving school.

New Class Name for Years 3 and 4

After a fantastic step up day, the mixed year 3 and 4 class voted for their new class name. By an overall majority the new class name will be - Phoenix Class. The children are excited to start their new journey in September.



JUMP TO THE BEAT!

For 3-5yrs Mondays (term-time)
4.30 to 5pm £2 a class

Movement and Music class for 3-5 yrs
Based on Street & Contemporary
Dance. Helps to build confidence,
team spirit, agility & co-ordination.

For more info call Maz:
 07922 494908 **UFM@229**

STREET AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE

   **6-7pm for 10-13yrs**
Advanced Intermediates

5-6pm for 6-9yrs
Intermediates

7-8pm 14-17yrs
Advanced Seniors

Mondays: Term-Time
£3.50 a class

 **UFM@229**

For more info call: Maz: 07922 494908

Music at Houghton Conquest Lower School

Inspiring Music

In an assembly this week Mrs Saxton a peripatetic music teacher from Inspiring Music performed a medley of musical pieces on the cello together with our current cellists.

If any children (KS2) would like to take up the cello or piano in September please visit Inspiring Music's website at www.inspiringmusic.co.uk. Further information can be obtained from school in September - just email office.hcls@cbc.beds.sch.uk.

Front Row Music

If anyone else would like to take up either guitar (KS2) or ukulele lessons with Front Row Music in September places may still be available. Please either return your completed form in September or email bedfordmk@frontrow-music.com.



Pre-school news



We had a very exciting animal week, with visits from a hamster, rabbit, dogs, ponies and chicks.

We have 2 new additions to Pre-School, Giant African Land Snails. This will be a great experience for the children who will learn to look after them. The children suggested many names for them, and have been voting for their favourite ones....so please meet Mr Macinnes and Marshall!!!

We say goodbye this week to 18 children off to school and wish them well, it has been a pleasure to be at the start of their educational journey.

Carole, Tracy, Danielle and I wish you all an enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to seeing you in September!

Julie



Multi-Skills Festival

On Wednesday 4th July children from Owls class represented the school at a multi-skills event held at Marston Vale Middle School. The event was held outside on the field, we enjoyed the sunshine whilst competing against other local lower schools. The children moved around a carousel of sporting activities aiming to score as many points as they could. Each station challenged them to use different skills that they have developed in PE including accuracy, speed and co-ordination.

The children worked very well as a team, supporting and encouraging each other and showing their values throughout the event. The children performed really well and we ended our final sporting event on a high with a well-deserved third place! Well done to all the children who took part and I am looking forward to taking the children to many more events next year.

Parking - Dropping off and Collecting Children

As a school right in the heart of the village community, and surrounded by residential properties we would ask that parents and carers to be considerate to our neighbours when parking.

As the school gets busier the issues around parking when dropping off and collecting your children, become all the more apparent. The school has received a concern from local residents.

We would like to remind you that we have an arrangement with the village hall. We are asking that all vehicles are parked here safely and considerately when dropping off and collecting children to school.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Celebration Assemblies

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

Friday, 6th July 2018

Star of the Week for:

Robins: Callum Curl for amazing effort and consistency in all that he does.

Doves: Cody Riley for lovely sharing with his friends.

Owls: Katherine Birch for showing brilliant confidence during our class assembly.

Hawks: Jack Fuller, Abbygail Fisk and Max Williamson for fantastic concentration and perseverance in DT.

Eagles: Lily Whitfield for making great improvements in her work.

Values Award: Owls Class for sharing great joy and enthusiasm for learning through their assembly.

Golden Certificates: Niamh-Maire Furey, Abbygail Fisk, Olivia Pilsbury, Leo Gravener and Holly Vaughan.

Headteacher Awards

Dylan Partridge: Judo medal for completing a very good throw.

Jack Simpson: Wootton Rangers Football Club Trophies inc Most Improved Player

Callie Edwards: Brownies Badges

Sian Thomas: Orange belt in Judo

Finer Diners: Eliza-Beth, Luke Worts, Leo Graves, Andrew Puplampu, Kimberley Crowe, Cerys Sebborn, Paul Sebborn, Conner Peach, Freddie Walker and Rosie Davies-Smith.

Reading Rewards: Jack Fuller

Friday, 13th July 2018

Star of the Week from:

Mrs Jakins: Lily Burton for showing courage and friendship when visiting her new school.

Miss Granelli: Faye Lovell for always showing her values throughout the school.

Mrs Sebborn: Tony Starr for amazing pointillism in art.

Pre-School: Lola Peach for always being kind and caring.

Golden Certificates: Kimberley Crowe, Dylan Edwards, Kaitlyn Shade, Scarlett Curl and Lilly Whitfield.

Headteacher Awards:

Jasmine Robinson: Judo SHO4 award.

Lily Baker: Judo SH04 award.

Dylan Partridge: Judo SH04 award.

Lily Baker: Pioneer of the Week at Houghton Pioneers.

Madalyn Whitfield: Swimming - Learn to Swim 3.

Holly Lane: Swimming - Water Skills 2.

Leo Graves: Player of the Week at Judo.

Reading Rewards: Grace Exworth, Maddy Whitfield, Emily Brett, Scarlett Curl, Ruby Dobson, Callie Edwards and Jasmine Robinson.

Finer Diners: Joshua Blake, Joshua Gruzelier, Abbygail Fisk, Nathan Davis, Lily Davies-Smith, Lilah O'Gorman, Lucas King, Hannah Starr, Reece Worts, Jason Starr and Dylan Partridge.

Celebration Assemblies

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

Friday, 20th July 2018

Star of the Week for:

Robins: All of Robins for an amazing first year at school

Doves: Evie Busbridge for always being a great help around the classroom.

Owls: Sophie Spencer for working very hard on her story about a magical medicine.

Hawks: Cherry Edwards for consistently working hard.

Eagles: All of Eagles for a fabulous Leavers Assembly

Pre-School: Delilah Al-Shaikhly for always being so caring about your sister and Athena Al-Shaikhly for always being so excited about everything!

Golden Certificates: Tommy Spencer, Ruby Dobson, Kaitlyn Shade, Freddie Walker and Sam Matthews.

Headteacher Awards

Emily Brett: for taking part in a 5km Bubble Run and raising over £600 for charity - amazing.

Jack Simpton: most improved player at Kempston Rovers.

Sophie Spencer: Tenacity Dance award for amazing energy.

Kimberley Crowe: receiving a distinction in her Tap Dance Exam.

Leo Graverner: Tenacity Dance Award for most improved confidence.

Reece Worts: swimming 1500m.

Lily Burton: for completing her 'Paddle Power Passport' with Viking Kayak Club.

Finer Diners: Scarlett Curl, Dylan Partridge, Harry Exworth, Katelyn Pestell, Lily Baker, Laila Peck, Kian Hope, Lilah O'Gorman, Mason Shade, Lola Peach, Vinnie Proctor, Sam Matthews, Blaise Barlow, Lily Burton, Jamima Fraser, Millie Gibson, Danielle Guinness, Lucas King, Conner Peach, Faith Poultney, Hannah Starr, Holly Vaughan, Lilly Whitfield, Reece Worts and Paul Sebborn.

Reading Rewards: Sian Thomas, Harry Exworth and Katelyn Pestell.

Attendance Bear: Eagles Class.

100% attendance for the half term: Congratulations to all the children who received 100% attendance certificates this half term - they were all given a certificate in our celebration assembly.

100% attendance for the 2017/218 academic year: Lily Burton, Amelia Kealey, Callista Edwards, William Middleton, Jack Fuller and Blaise Barlow.

Team Point Winners: Congratulations to the Red Team who all enjoyed an ice cream from Miss McCarthy and Mr Macinnes' ice cream shop today.

Padian Award for Community Spirit was awarded to Holly Vaughan during our Leavers Assembly on Monday.



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