

Houghton Conquest Lower School and Pre-School Newsletter 2 (29th September 2017)

Value of the Month: Responsibility

Thursday, 5th October - amendment to lunch menu

Thursday, 5th October is **Census Day**; this is when the Government take a snapshot of information about our school including the number of school dinners eaten on that day which in turn determines how much money the school receives to fund the Universal Free School Meals (UFSM). If you do not choose to take a meal on this day **The school** loses funding, so every child is affected.

It is vitally important to have as many pupils as possible counted in. With this in mind, to encourage as many children to have a school dinner as possible on this day we have changed the menu to something we think all children will enjoy (these will be the only options available on this day).

Spaghetti Beef Bolognese with garlic bread or Lentil & Sweet Potato Curry with rice
Chocolate Crispie Cake

If your child does **not normally** have a dinner on this day and would like to have one, please let us know by **Monday, 2nd October** (children in Hawks/Eagles class will also need to pay £2.20 per child).

**Please help make a difference and take up the dinner on the 5th October.
Thank you for your support and cooperation.**

Mrs Wilson (Caterlink) & Miss McCarthy (Headteacher)



School Open Morning

for parents who have children joining or looking to join our school in September 2018

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2018 we would be delighted to welcome you to our school on **Tuesday, 31st October 2017** between 9.30am and 10.30am. This will be an informal opportunity to look around the school and see it in action, ask questions and meet members of the Senior Leadership Team and Governors.

If you would like to attend, please contact the School Office on 01234 740202 or email office.hcls@cbc.beds.sch.uk so we have an idea of numbers attending.

Diary Dates *(new items in bold)*

Oct 2017

- 3rd French Club (4.15-5.15)
- 4th **Harvest Festival box collection by Friends at 8.45am on the school gate**
- 5th **Census Day (see front page article)**
- 5th Harvest Service at All Saints, Houghton Conquest at 2pm (parents invited to join us)
- 6th Tempest Photography in school - individual and family photographs
- 6th **Harvest Boxes being delivered in village by Year 4 children and Friends**
- 10th French Club (4.15-5.15)
- 17th French Club (4.15-5.15)
- 17th Parent Consultations (from 5pm)
- 18th Marston Vale Middle School delivering a lesson to Year 4 children
- 18th **Marston Vale Middle School staff available to talk to at 3.15pm near Y4 classroom.**
- 19th Parent Consultations (from 3.30pm)
- 20th Bible Exhibition for Year 4 in school
- 20th Last day of half term
- 30th INSET day - school and pre-school closed
- 31st First day of half term
- 31st School Open morning for parents which children starting school in September 201
- 31st French Club (4.15-5.15)

Nov 2017

- 7th **French Club (4.15-5.15)**
- 8th **Assembly by Rev Toze**
- 9th **Open Evening at Marston Vale Middle School (6.30pm)**
- 14th **French Club (4.15-5.15)**
- 21st **French Club (4.15-5.15)**
- 28th **French Club (4.15-5.15)**

December 2017

- 5th **French Club (4.15-5.15)**
- 6th **Assembly by Rev Toze**
- 12th **French Club (4.15-5.15)**
- 19th **French Club (4.15-5.15)**
- 19th **Last day of Autumn Term**



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Marston Vale Middle School

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EXCITING NEWS FOR Y4 PARENTS AT HOUGHTON CONQUEST LOWER 18TH OCTOBER AT 3:15PM

Your children will have a fantastic opportunity of experiencing an exciting planned lesson led by teaching staff from Marston Vale Middle School.

In addition, the Marston Vale Middle School Senior Leadership Team will be available at the end of the school day for a "Year 4 parent drop in" session at Houghton Conquest Lower School. They will be delighted to answer any questions you may have on applying for a school place when your child transitions to middle school prior to attending the **Open Evening on 9th November**

MEET THE TEAM

Senior Leadership Team



Claire McMaster
Headteacher



Julia Cave
Deputy Head



Carl Belle
Deputy Head



Anna Burnham
Assistant Head



Christina Guiney
SENDco

Extended Senior Leadership Team



Victoria Ayres
Teaching and Learning Lead



Russ Pitts
Behaviour Lead

www.marstonvalemiddle.co.uk

@MVM_school

@marstonvalemiddleschool

Governor

We have a vacancy for a Governor to join our School Governing Body. Governors can be parents of children in either the school or pre-school, grandparents can also apply. We are ideally looking for a candidate with skills and experience of education / teaching and learning, HR and/or Finance, or similar skill sets to complement our existing team.

This is a very rewarding role which would support the school's continued success. Governor experience is not essential as training is available.

Please email your interest and an overview of your skills to the School Office by Monday, 9th October 2017.

Office.hcls@cbc.beds.sch.uk

Our Harvest Festival - Thursday, 5th October

We are busy preparing for our Harvest Service and we hope as many parents/grandparents as possible are able to join us at All Saints, Houghton Conquest on Thursday, 5th October at 2pm. During the service we will be having a collection with proceeds going toward the church funds.

At the end of the service parents are welcome to take their children home after signing them out with their class teacher/pre-school staff. All other children, including those attending After School Club will be walked back to school/pre-school.

Pre-School children who are in session on Thursday afternoon will be accompanied down to the church. If your child is not in session they are more than welcome to come and meet us at the church, however they will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

Help walking to the Church

We need help walking the children down to the church for a rehearsal on Wednesday, 4th October (at 1.20pm) and again on Thursday, 5th October (1.30pm). Please let the school office know asap if you are able to help.

Harvest Box Food Collection

Just a reminder that donations are being collected by the Friends on Wednesday, 4th October at 8.45am at the school gates. Team points will be awarded for each item donated.

Harvest Boxes

As part of our Harvest Celebration each year, we fill Harvest Boxes full of goodies which are then delivered to residents around the village by our Year 4 children and the Friends as part of their citizenship learning. This is a lovely activity for the children and is always well received by the residents.

Pre-School and Robins Class Competition

Just a reminder that Pre-School children and Robins Class have been invited to take part in a fancy dress competition, using the theme "Scarecrows and Farmers". These pupils can wear their costume for the entire school day, including during our festival performance at the church. Children in years 1 - 4 are taking part in competitions within school and their work will be exhibited in the church for everyone to see.

Reminders / Information

Parent/Teacher consultations for school children: A reminder that bookings for parent consultations open on Monday, 2nd October 2017. You can pop into Reception, send an email or phone the school office to make your appointment. Time slots are only available between the following times for all classes:-

Tuesday, 17th October from 5pm – 7pm

Thursday, 19th October from 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Contact Information: In order that we can always contact you in an emergency please ensure that you tell us should you change any of your contact details, for example, your phone number and address if you have moved house over the holiday, any change in email address or mobile phone number.

End of Day Collection: A reminder that if you are unable to collect your child, or have made arrangements for someone else to, please ensure you let the school know in advance. This can be done by telephone, email or completing a form available from reception.

If you would regularly like a different person to collect your child from school please complete a blue "End of School Day Collection 2017/2018" form from the school office. This will allow the named adults to collect your child at any time should you not be able to do so.

Eagles Trip to Bletchley Park

Eagles children enjoyed an exciting trip to Bletchley Park on Monday 18th September. The children took an enjoyable train journey to travel back in time to the exciting world of wartime code breakers. They took the opportunity to look around the various exhibits and rooms of the museum, sit in a 1940s classroom, dress up in 1940's clothing and crack codes using the methods of the wartime code breakers and their own problem solving skills.

The highlight of the trip had to be the children were given the opportunity to touch a real Enigma machine and learn their secret agent code as well as finding out how many different combination the machine has.

Thank you to all of the parents of Eagles Class for the voluntary contributions that enabled this wonderful trip to take place. A very big thank you in particular to Mrs Anderton, Mrs Liddeth, Mrs Holmes and Mrs Vaughan for giving up their time to accompany us on the trip.

A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all.



New School Mascot

Following on from our letter dated 12th September and the publication of our new Attendance Policy we are very much looking forward to awarding the new School Mascot to the class with the highest attendance at the end of this half term.

Look out for him arriving in school very soon!



What happens when there is a School or Pre-School Closure due to extreme bad weather / emergency

State of Schools Portal (SoS)

Central Bedfordshire Council has a 'State of Schools' portal, known as SOS. If there is a potential forecast of extreme weather or snow to come, you would be able to see if the school is open or closed if you have already registered.

- We would like to advise all parents who have not already done so to sign up to the system to receive alerts.
- If you have already registered please take a moment to familiarise yourself on how the system works.

Parents should visit: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webapps/sos> to register, here you will also find access to a comprehensive user/ registration guide. We would like to promote this system to parents as we feel this is the best way to communicate school closures to everyone.

This system will allow us, the school, to login to automatically update the opening status of our school wherever we are. All parents that have signed up to the system will receive an immediate email alert to let them know the status of our school. This will also automatically update the Central Bedfordshire Council website at <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webapps/sos>. The radio stations will also receive email alerts and be able to monitor the website.

This will not replace our Text Alert system (**Groupcall**) - it is additional to. **Although we feel our text system works extremely well this allows us to make sure everyone is informed of the School and Pre-School status should there be an emergency.**

Celebration Assemblies

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

Friday, 15th September 2017

Star of the Week from:

Miss Granelli: Rosie Davies Smith for trying hard during phonics assessments.

Mrs Sebborn: Andrew Puplampu for listening very carefully to music instructions.

Miss Dancer: Nathan Davis for trying hard in phonics interventions

Values Award: Reece Worts for demonstrating commitment to his assembly music responsibility.

Golden Certificates: .Holly Vaughan, Ella Walker, Amelia Kealey, Eliza-Beth Semple and Cherry Edwards

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

Chloe Macrdechian and Niamh Marie-Furey: Summer Reading Challenge

Scarlett Curl: Swimming, Water Skills 1

Holly Lane and Grace Lane: Swimming, 10m and Learn to Swim 2

Abbygail Fisk: Winning first prize for a drawing/painting of an allotment

Dylan Partridge: Player of the week - Judo

Jack Simpson - Mini Strikers Player of the Week

Friday, 22nd September 2017

Star of the Week from:

Robins: Callum Curl for a fantastic effort in phonics lessons and wonderful writing.

Doves: Luke Worts for excellent independent maths work.

Owls: Ruby Dobson for focusing really hard on her writing during our literacy lessons.

Hawks: Max Williamson for super story writing this week.

Eagles: Samuel Matthews for logical thinking to solve a problem in maths.

Values Awards: Arthur Middleton for always helping his friends look after our classroom.

Golden Certificates: Cameron Stean, Hannah Starr, Jack Simpson, William Middleton and Nathan Davis.

Headteacher Awards

Lily Baker: Learn to swim 2

Katelyn Pestell: Attending a Pet Pals Activity Club and Summer Reading Challenge

Gene Tobin: Player of the week for Flitwick Eagles

Jack Fuller: Winner of the Royal Oak Fishing Competition 2017

Friday, 29th September 2017

Star of the Week from:

Miss Granelli: Barney Money for working hard all week in phonics and mathematics.

Mrs Sebborn: Tommy Spencer for trying super hard with key words.

Miss Dancer: Niamh Davis for working hard in her phonics.

Golden Certificates: Danielle Guinness, Callie Edwards, Taylor Riley, Harry Exworth and Dylan Edwards.

Headteacher Awards:

Evie Busbridge - Swimming, ducklings 2.

Amelia Sutton - Swimming, learning to swim 1.

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



Farewell Mrs Millington

