

Houghton Conquest Lower School and Pre-School Newsletter 3 (20th October 2017)

Value of the Month: Perseverance

Our Harvest Celebrations



A big thank you to everyone who was part of our harvest celebrations this week. The performances by the children in the church were amazing and the children's work that was on display was of a high standard, including the fabulous Pre-School combine.

Our Harvest boxes were, once again, full of your wonderful and generous donations. On Friday morning, our Eagles class delivered our Harvest box donations to elderly members of our community. We had a lovely walk through the village, and took the opportunity to greet our residents and share our harvest celebrations. Thank you to everyone who helped put these amazing boxes together.

It was wonderful to see staff generating a 'fun' element to the celebrations with the fancy dress costumes; well done to Mr Macinnes and Michelle Taylor and the Pre-School team for bringing smiles and joy to the proceedings. Thank you, once again to the Church, Rev Toze and in particular to Margaret Tyler and Margaret Liderth for enabling everything to go smoothly on the day. We raised £104.73 for the church funds - thank you.

Awards were as follows

Robins

1st: Amelia Kealey
Highly Commended: Dylan Edwards

Doves

1st: Niamh-Marié Furey
Highly Commended: Thomas Spencer

Owls

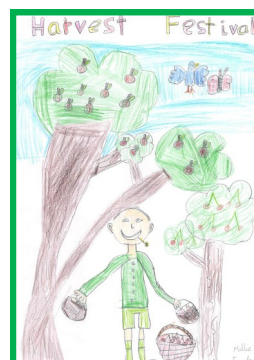
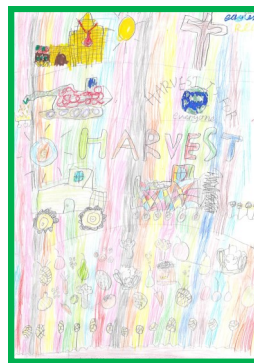
1st: William Middleton
Highly Commended: Ivy Gravener

Hawks

1st: Leo Graves
Highly Commended: Katelyn Pestell

Eagles

1st: Jamima Fraser
Highly Commended: Reece Worts



As you will have seen, Eagles winning pictures were proudly displayed on the front of our Harvest Programmes. The winners were Danielle Guinness, Faith Poultney, Holly Vaughan, Millie Gibson and Reece Worts.

Diary Dates *(new items in bold)*

Oct 2017

- 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 with children starting school in September 2018 (9.30 - 10.30am)
- 31st French Club (4.15-5.15)

Nov 2017

- 2nd Wendy Briggs working with children in years 2 and 4 on art ideas for the new village hall notice-boards**
- 3rd KS1 Multi Skills Event (letters sent to participating children)**
- 7th French Club (4.15-5.15)
- 8th Values Assembly by Rev Toze
- 9th Open Evening at Marston Vale Middle School (6.30pm)
- 9th Photography Session in school hall by Forget-Me-Not Photography from 3.15pm. Booking form in school reception**
- 10th Last day for shoe boxes to be in school**
- 14th French Club (4.15-5.15)
- 17th Children in Need Friends activities (see Friends October newsletter)**
- 17th Year 4 residential - instalment 1 due via WisePay**
- 21st French Club (4.15-5.15)
- 28th French Club (4.15-5.15)

December 2017

- 2nd Friends Christmas Fayre, Village Hall, Houghton Conquest - 2-5pm**
- 5th French Club (4.15-5.15)
- 6th Assembly by Rev Toze
- 12th French Club (4.15-5.15)
- 13th Christmas Lunch**
- 14th Jack and the Beanstalk Panto in the village hall kindly organised by the Friends**
- 19th Christmas Jumper Day (organised by the Friends)**
- 19th French Club (4.15-5.15)
- 19th Last day of Autumn Term

January 2018

- 2nd INSET Day (School and Pre-School closed)**
- 3rd First Day of Spring Term**
- 5th Perform workshops taking place in school**

Tag Rugby Festival: 11th October 2017

What a fantastic display of rugby we were treated to by all the children who attended the tag rugby festival. This festival encourages not only participation but also the display of 6 core values; determination, teamwork, passion, honesty, respect and self-belief. The children from Hawks and Eagles demonstrated all of these values throughout the festival.

The enthusiasm for the game both on and off the pitch was great to see, everyone wanted to be involved in each game but also appreciated the need to let others have their turn. The more experienced children provided encouragement to team mates and the children took turns to lead the team.

Well done to all who took part, we were treated to lots of magic moments from great tries, to fantastic runs, determined tagging but most of all persevering and never giving up.



Ms Thompson

Sports Premium Champion

Pre-School

We have been enjoying the autumnal weather collecting lots of resources and using them in our craft activities.

It was good to see those of you who attended the stay and play sessions. The children enjoyed being able to show you around the pre-school and what they like doing when they are with us. Thank you for taking the time to come and see us.

Next term we will be beginning **Balanceability**.

We will initially be doing this on a Friday afternoon, and will rotate this on a termly basis so that we ensure all children are able to participate at some point during the academic year. Balanceability is a scheme based around improving the children's balance. Giving them confidence to develop their physical skills. We will start off by exploring different ways of moving and will progress to using equipment including the balance bikes up at the school. This will also help with coordination and spatial awareness.

School Open Morning

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

The 31st October, as previously mentioned, the **school** will be holding an open day, 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.

This is the perfect opportunity to look round the school prior to the closing date for "2018 starting school applications" on the 15th January 2018.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a happy and safe half term! See you on Tuesday 31st October!

Pre-School Team

Reminders and Information

Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal - School and Pre-School.

You will have found a letter in your child's bag/tray this week regarding this year's Shoe Box Appeal - shoe boxes can be handed into school or the pre-school between Tuesday, 31st October and Friday, 10th November. Thank you for your support.

Headlice

We have had a couple of cases of Head Lice come to our attention within school. Please can you ensure that you check your child, whether they be in school or the pre-school and treat as necessary. Thank you for your co-operation.

November 2017 Lunch Money for Hawks and Eagles

Hawks and Eagles Classes - Lunch Money for November 2017: Please ensure that money is brought into school on our first day back – Tuesday, 31 October and thereafter on a Monday if you pay weekly. The cost is £2.20 per day; £11 per week; £85.80 for the half term; £15.40 for the Roast Wednesday for half term and 15.40 for the Fun Friday for half term.

Money should be in a sealed envelope with your child's name and also the days they will require lunch and given to the child's teacher. Please do not hand money into the School Office. Cheques need to be made payable to: **HOUGHTON CONQUEST LOWER SCHOOL.** *Please note that we can no longer take the old style £1 coins.* Thank you.

Forest School

Forest School has successfully launched this half-term with the Hawks and one-half of the Doves class! Each group have worked together to create a wonderful combined experience of teambuilding with games, problem solving, creating art using simple tools and natural materials, safe whittling, knot tying and even engineered several projects by creating pulley systems or making their own hammock. A few were even lucky enough to light a fire using a flint and steel! It has been amazing to watch the children's confidence grow each week as some climbed trees for the first time, and their classmates cheered them on celebrating their success!



The Forest School experience encourages children to lead their own experience, be creative, and follow pursuits that truly interest the individual. It has been a pleasure to be a part of their experience. I was amazed each week with not only the unique ideas they came up with but by their grit and determination to make them work. So often they persevered after initial failure, never giving up and on many occasions gathering the support of their classmates to approach the situation differently until success happened.

The children have also learned about wildlife, identification of trees, built fairy houses, made bird feeders out of pine cones, and more....

A gigantic thank you to our committed parent helpers and volunteers who have made this all possible! THANK YOU to Sheila Wilson, Sharon Williamson, Vicky Exworth and Mark Riley! I hope you have enjoyed the experience as much as I have.

If you are interested in volunteering with our sessions, please contact the school and register your interest. High adult to child ratios is a must for Forest School, so parent volunteers are priceless. I guarantee you will enjoy yourself!



Linsay Regan, Forest School Leader



open college network
WEST MIDLANDS

This is to certify that

Linsay Regan

has achieved the following Qualification

**Open College Network West Midlands Level 3
Certificate in Forest School Programme
Leadership**

This certificate is accompanied by a unit transcript which shows the unit achievements



Christine Assheton
Christine Assheton
Chief Executive Officer
Open College Network West Midlands

Regulated by
Ofqual
For more information see <http://www.ofqual.gov.uk>



Congratulations to Linsay who has received her Level 3 Certificate in Forest School Programme Leadership. The staff and pupils are 'over the moon' by the partnership between us to enable the fundraising by the Friends to be used for this brilliant opportunity for all the children of Houghton Conquest Lower School.

A message from Bedfordshire Police

As Halloween approaches Bedfordshire Police is reminding parents and guardians to keep their children safe.

If possible, parents and guardians should go out trick or treating with their children, sticking to well-lit areas and only knocking on the doors of people they know. Some people may have 'No trick or treat' posters up at their doors and we ask that these are respected.

Bedfordshire Police is also reminding children and parents to be mindful that some of the more vulnerable or elderly members of the community may feel intimidated by people calling at their doors and appeals to all residents to look out for their neighbours who may feel frightened during this time.

Extra patrols will be on hand over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period to ensure that the evenings can be enjoyed safely. If you do have any concerns during Halloween, it's important that you call 101 in order to keep 999 free for genuine emergencies - 31 October is one of the police's busiest nights of the year!

For more advice about Halloween please visit www.bedfordshire.police.uk

A message from Bedfordshire Fire Service

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service want everyone to enjoy a safe and spooky Halloween, but every year many adults and children are injured when lit candles come into contact with trailing costumes and wigs.

At the moment these costumes are classed as toys and therefore, are not subject to the same requirements as children's clothing. It is important to be aware of the danger this poses and that costumes are kept away from open flame. It is also important that children know what to do if their clothing is set alight. You can make a game of teaching your children to "Stop, drop, cover and roll" if their costume does catch light. This means having them practice stopping still, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.

Use of the pirate ship out of school hours

Following the change of the end of school collection arrangements last term, we have noticed over time that the number of children using the pirate ship out of school hours has greatly increased. Whilst it is wonderful to see our pirate ship being used by so many children (under direct parent supervision), we do need to be mindful of the risks involved.

The pirate ship has been built and designed for children aged **4-10 year olds under direct adult supervision, with a maximum of 20 children at any one time**. If we allow school children to use the pirate ship out of school hours under parental supervision it is very difficult to stop younger siblings also using it. Consideration also needs to be given to the weather conditions, as the pirate ship should not be used in wet conditions or if it is wet following dew or rain.

With all of this in mind, the pirate ship should not be used by any children, out of school hours until further notice. This will be discussed at the next Governors meeting. If you have any feedback or comments to add to the discussion please email the school on office.hcls@cbc.beds.sch.uk asap. Thank you for your cooperation.

Celebration Assemblies

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

Friday, 6th October 2017

Star of the Week for:

Robins: Kyran Bates for fantastic effort and wonderful singing during the Harvest Festival.

Doves: Scarlett Curl for being very brave to sing a solo in our Harvest Production.

Owls: Ben Vaughan for focusing and working really hard during our maths lessons.

Hawks: Grace Lane for excellent independent maths work.

Eagles: Sway Hyndman for excellent effort in mathematics.

Golden Certificates: Lilly Whitfield, Sophie Spencer, Lilah O’Gorman, Maddy Whitfield and Andrew Puplampu.

Headteacher Awards

Hannah Starr and Jason Starr: Successfully climbing to the top of the Kids Play climbing wall.

Luke Worts: Swimming, Water Skills 1.

William Middleton: Swimming, Learn to Swim 1.

Friday, 13th October 2017

Star of the Week from:

Miss Granelli: Lily Davies-Smith for always trying hard during phonics.

Miss Dancer: Jason Starr for always showing his values during his school day.

Golden Certificates: Reece Worts, Chloe Macredechian, Joshua Gruzelier, Charlie Brown and Cameron Stean.

Headteacher Awards:

Katherine Birch: Swimming, Learn to Swim 3.

Joshua Blake: Swimming, Learn to Swim 3.

Friday, 20th October 2017

Star of the Week for:

Robins: Arthur Middleton for a fantastic effort in all that he does.

Doves: Evie Sheridan for always working hard in all areas of school.

Owls: Callie Edwards for working really hard on her letter joins to produce some lovely writing.

Hawks: Jack Fuller for working really hard in maths.

Eagles: Reece Worts, Lucas King and Conner Peach for super teamwork to make a buzz wire game.

Values Awards: Ellie Bailey for persevering after illness.

Golden Certificates: Luke Worts, Laila Peck, Faith Poultney, Callum Curl and Nathan Davis.

Headteacher Awards: Ruby Dobson: Swimming, Level 2.

Reading Rewards: Joshua Gruzelier, Callie Edwards, Zoe Robinson, Ivy Gravener, Luca Higgins, Sophie Spencer, Ruby Dobson, Laila Peck, Ella Walker, Brandon Thomas, Chloe Macrdechian, Cody Riley, Eliza-Beth Semple, Emily Brett, Evie Busbridge, Evie Sheridan, Grace Exworth, Niamh-Marie Furey, Scarlett Curl, Max Williamson, Sian Thomas, Harry Exworth, Jack Fuller, Cherry Edwards, Katelyn Pestell.



Team Points: The winning Team this half term were the **Blue** Team. Each child from this team received a pumpkin to take home. Congratulations.

School Mascot

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our new School Mascot will be spending the next half term in the class with the highest attendance for this half term. He recently arrived in school and has been making himself comfortable in Miss McCarthy's office.

In yesterday's assembly Miss McCarthy announced he will be joining Owls Class for Autumn 2. Owls attendance for the half term was 98.86%, above our school target of 97%, with 0% unauthorised absence.

Owls class... we hope you enjoy having him in your class, please look after him.



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