

Houghton Conquest Lower School and Pre-School

Newsletter 4 (24th November 2017)

Value of the Month: Friendship

Owls Stoke Bruerne Visit

Owls class had an exciting day at Stoke Bruerne. Children had an opportunity to open and close the lock gates. This was a wonderful experience for the children to understand more about man-made waterways and how they managed the hilly countryside. The children also got to learn more about canal life in the museum and learnt about the clothing the children would have worn, and some children even had the opportunity to dress up!

We would particularly like to thank our volunteers for the day who did a fantastic job in leading a group of children and ensuring they had a fun and safe time at the canal.



On Monday Helen and Erika from the Greensand Trust visited school for an assembly about the ways animals prepare for winter called HONK, HUDDLE & SNORE. We learnt about one special animal that hibernates, the Dormouse.

Dormice make beautiful round woven nests of leaves, bark strips and grasses about the size of a tennis ball. The nests are sometimes visible this time of year in hedgerows, or tucked in brambles or bushes. A few of the children helped weave a giant Dormouse nest that has been created by a local craftsperson, and is being added to by schoolchildren from several schools on the Greensand Ridge as part of the 'Learning through the Landscape' project. The nest will be featured in a Greensand Country Festival in May 2018.

Dormice are endangered in Britain and legally protected but there are some local woodlands where dormice are known to live so maybe there are more.

They are very shy creatures and difficult to monitor and record so if you think you have seen a Dormouse nest Helen and Erika asked that you don't touch it but take a photograph and let them know.

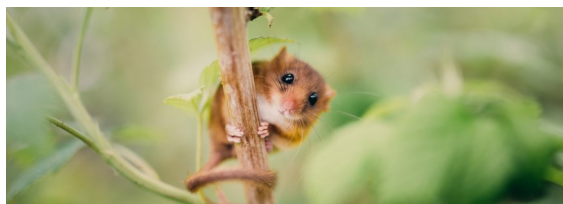
info@greensandtrust.org

mammal-group-secretary@bnhs.org

More information about Dormice can be found at:

www.beds-mammal-group.co.uk

www.ptes.org



Diary Dates *(new items in bold)*

November 2017

28th French Club (4.15-5.15)

30th Marston Vale Middle School delivering a lesson to Year 4 children

December 2017

2nd Friends Christmas Fayre, Village Hall, Houghton Conquest - 2-5pm

5th French Club (4.15-5.15)

6th Assembly by Rev Toze

8th Pre-School, Robins, Doves and Owls opening the Christmas Tree Festival at 6pm - All Saints Church.

8th - 10th Christmas Tree Festival, All Saints Church, Houghton Conquest

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

15th Year 4 Residential 2018 instalment due via WisePay

18th KS2 Christmas Performance at 6pm - information will follow to KS2 parents on how to get tickets

19th Christmas Jumper Day (organised by the Friends)

19th Pre-School Christmas Party 11am—2pm

19th French Club (4.15-5.15)

19th Christmas Nativity tableau at 2pm on the playground - all invited to watch.

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

12th Year 4 Residential 2018 instalment due via WisePay

February 2018

2nd Year 4 Residential 2018 final instalment due via WisePay

School Lunches

Due to increased costs we are having to increase the cost of our school dinners from £2.20 to £2.30 with effect from the 1st January 2018. The last increase took place in January 2015 for the school and February 2015 for pre-school children.

KS1 Multi-Skills Festival

On Friday 3rd November 12 children from Owl Class took part in the multi-skills festival at Wootton Upper School. The multi-skills festival is a fun, inter-school event where the children work as a team to score points by participating in a variety of activities. This time we practised our throwing, balancing, target practise and agility. All the children tried their hardest and had great fun. It was lovely to see them using the value of friendship to encourage those who were finding a particular activity tricky, giving them the confidence to have a go. Well done to all the children who took part, scoring lots of points in a very tight competition



"It doesn't matter where we come, as long as we all try our best" - Zoe Robinson



Pre-School News

This month we also celebrated World Nursery Rhyme Week by learning some new rhymes we have never heard before, to help enhance our language skills.

The Pre-School Team would like to say a massive thankyou to the Friends of Houghton Conquest for their continuous annual contributions that have made the installation of the grass a possibility. We are very excited to be able to access the area and put up the slides. Many thanks for your patience during this time.



Before...



During...



After!

A very big welcome to Abdullah and Maximus and their families. We hope you enjoy your time here with us at Houghton Conquest Pre-School

Dates for the diary:

Saturday 2nd December: Pre-School family photographs. Shell and the team will be opening up the pre-school and taking family photographs in order to raise funds for the pre-school. If you would like to book an appointment please do so with any of the pre-school team.

Thursday 14th December: Pantomime for school and pre-school children. All pre-school children are invited to join us at the village hall for the pantomime. If your child is in session on that afternoon then staff will chaperone your child there. If your child does not attend this session then they are still welcome to come and join us, but they will be required to have an adult supervising them at all times.

Tuesday 19th December: Pre-School Christmas party . All children registered at pre-school are invited to join us for a Christmas party from 11am until 2pm. We hope you can provide food, a list of items needed will go up nearer the time. At 1pm we will have a visit from Santa. At 2pm all parents are welcome to come and join us on the school playground for the Christmas Nativity tableau. Pre-School children will be opening the tableau with some traditional Christmas carols.

Reminders and Information

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

Thank you to everyone that either donated a shoe box or contributed towards one. Your support is very much appreciated. Next year's charity will be decided upon by the children.

Year 4 Residential 2018: Just a reminder that the next instalment was due on Friday, 17th November. Please log onto your WisePay account to make this payment. Thank you.

Journey through the Bible Exhibition

On Friday 20th October, Eagles class were taken on a 'Journey through the Bible' by volunteers from the Bible Exhibition. The children listened with interest as the volunteers acted out different parts of the Bible; they asked very interesting and thought-provoking questions. Following the exhibition the children completed a quiz to demonstrate what they had learnt. Mr Hicks visited on Tuesday last week to present prizes to the children who answered all of the questions correctly. A big well done to Faith Poultney, Samuel Matthews, Gene Tobin and Blaise Barlow, who each won a Bible story book. Mr Hicks and all of the volunteers commented on how well behaved and keen the children were during the exhibition. Well done Eagles!

Christmas Card Orders

Thank you to all of you who purchased Christmas cards, posters, mugs, labels and thank you cards featuring your child's Christmas artwork. The finished products looked stunning – we hope you are as pleased with them as we are. Between the school and pre-school we raised a grand total of £124.00 in commission. This will be shared between the classes and pre-school budgets. Thank you again for your wonderful support.

Art Workshop

As you may be aware, the Houghton Conquest Parish Council has commissioned artist Wendy Briggs to design and make new notice boards for the village. On Thursday 2nd November, Owls and Eagles classes were joined by Wendy to share their ideas for the project. Each child created a beautiful stained-glass effect picture featuring wildlife and plants that they have seen in and around Houghton Conquest.



W.Briggs 2017

The children's work is on display on the notice board near the hall so please do have a look when you are next in school. Individual artwork will be sent home in the new year.

Forest School

Forest School has continued this half term with half of the Robins class and half of the Doves class with much success. The children are embracing the weather (even when it's damp and cold!) and are really engaging in the activities that have been planned. We have done everything from making mud pies and creating our own potions, decorating magic wands and decorating our tree trunks by gluing beautiful autumn leaves with naturally made glue!

Much of these activities have taken place at our brand new mud kitchen which was lovingly made and donated by Andy Williamson and his family! Thank you soooooooo much for your generosity, Andy. We are so lucky to have such wonderful people in our community who take great pride in what this school can offer our children and are willing to enrich these experiences with such selfless generosity.



Keep an eye out for the children at the end of each Wednesday and Thursday to see how mucky these kids get experimenting with the science of outdoor materials, while improving their balance and climbing skills on our rope ladders, swings and hammocks as well as outdoor exercise in the mud! Don't you want to be a kid again and experience Forest School?

Linsay Regan
Forest School Leader



Celebration Assemblies

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

Friday, 3rd November 2017

Star of the Week from:

Miss Thompson: Hannah Starr for showing excellent motivation and enthusiasm at the rugby festival.

Miss Granelli: Leo Gravener for trying hard in maths all week.

Mrs Sebborn: Taylor Riley for amazing hard work in phonics.

Golden Certificates: Conner Peach, Rex Laundon, Zoe Robinson, Isaac Barral and Andrew Puplampu.

Values Awards: Emily Brett for always taking care of her friends.

Reading Rewards: Niamh Davis and Laura Guinness

Headteacher Awards:

Paul Sebborn: being Pioneer of the Week at Houghton Pioneers.

Friday, 10th November 2017

Star of the Week for:

Robins: Kyran Bates for excellent reading all week.

Doves: Laura Guinness for producing beautiful work in her writing A lovely caption about camping.

Owls: Joshua Gruzelier for preserving with his maths work this week.

Hawks: Nathan Davis for fantastic work in maths.

Eagles: Lily Burton for outstanding scientific knowledge.

Golden Certificates: Faith Poultney, Scarlett Curl, Leo Graves, Kian Hope and Kimberley Crowe.

Reading Rewards: Olivia Pilsbury, Jasmine Robinson, William Middleton, Ben Vaughan, Katherine Birch, Brooke Bailey, Lily Burton and Joshua Blake

Headteacher Awards

Ella Walker - swimming 5m

Freddie Walker - swimming ducklings 3.

Friday, 17th November 2017

Star of the Week from:

Miss Granelli: Callum Curl for trying hard all week in maths.

Mrs Sebborn: Dylan Partridge for trying really hard with his reading.

Miss Dancer: Niamh-Marie Furey for always trying her hardest in her writing.

Golden Certificates: Jamima Fraser, Evie Busbridge, Katherine Birch, Holly Lane and Eden Suddaby.

Headteacher Awards:

Jamima Fraser: Hour of code certificate (understanding basic concepts of computer science).

Friday, 24th November 2017

Star of the Week for:

Robins: Lily Davies-Smith for fantastic effort with reading.

Doves: Evie Busbridge for being very brave and persevering with her poorly finger.

Owls: Luca Higgins for his amazing sewing skills in DT.

Hawks: Leo Graves for persevering with his maths work.

Eagles: Paul Sebborn for excellent effort to learn the 24 hour clock.

Golden Certificates: Blaise Barlow, Niamh Davies, Cerys Sebborn, Holly Lane and Faye Lovell.

Headteacher Awards:

Scarlett Curl: An amazing performance at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable.

Cameron Stean: Swimming, learn to swim 1.

Cery Sebborn: "La Star du Club" at Le Club Français.

Reading Rewards: Evie Sheridan, Jason Starr, Taylor Riley, Lily Burton, Lucas King, Cerys Sebborn and Amelia Sutton.

Ways to get in touch or find out information

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

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