

Houghton Conquest Lower School and Pre-School

Newsletter 5 (19th December 2017)

Value of the Month: Sharing

Staffing Update

All staffing arrangements have been finalised for January 2018. I am pleased to confirm that Miss Hill will be the class teacher for year 1 with cover provided during Wednesday afternoon by Miss Tobin. Year 4 will now be a job share between Mrs Brown and Miss Tobin. We are delighted that the children will be working with staff they already know well.

The arrangements we have made in the pre-school will continue until we update you of our potential new leader. We will also be recruiting a new Teaching Assistant with a specialism in ASD to work across both sites. We will let you know in the new term when these new appointments have been successfully filled.

We wish both Mrs Blake and Shell Taylor, who are leaving us today, the very warmest wishes for the coming year.

Upper School Update: Please can I draw your attention to a consultation document on a proposed change of age range at Wootton Upper School. As this is part of our pyramid of schools we would appreciate you becoming involved in the consultation process.

Please click here: www.woottonupper.co.uk/agerange to view the consultation on proposed changes to age range and admissions at Wootton Upper from 2019. You have the opportunity to submit your views via the website.

Christmas Events

Thank you so much to everyone involved in all of the special events leading up to the Christmas holidays. The 'Friends' Christmas Fayre was so well attended, organised and such an enjoyable afternoon for all. The teamwork and cooperation between parents, staff and the wider Houghton Conquest community is a wonderful testament to everyone's commitment to improving the quality of educational opportunities for the children of Houghton Conquest now and in the future.

Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church

On Friday the 9th of December some of Robins and KS1 helped open the Christmas Tree Festival in the church by singing some of their songs from the Nativity tableau. The children sang beautifully and they were all a credit to the school. Thank you to everyone who supported this community event. The church looked stunning with all the decorated Christmas trees and having the children sing just added to the Christmas feel.



Christmas lunch

All the children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch last week and all looked fantastic in their Christmas hats. The winners were announced at the end of lunchtime on the playground and finished with the children singing 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas' to all the kitchen staff and helpers as a special way of saying thank you. See picture of winners with our Chair of Governors, Dr S Burton. Thank you also to Mrs Litherth for judging the competition.

Wow! What an amazing performance from all the children. They tried their very best throughout the performance and what a success it was. They have all worked hard to learn lines, songs as well as those all-important stage directions! We are so very proud of them and know from the applause at the end of the performance that their efforts were very much appreciated.

Nativity Tableau

Thank you to the EYFS and KS1 team for putting on such a fantastic performance this afternoon. Thanks also go to Mrs Walker for providing the hay bales, Mrs Regan for the giant star and to the Friends for the tea and coffee.

All the children have been working really hard rehearsing for today. I am sure you will agree they did an amazing job - well done to everyone.

All that remains is for us to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

All School Children: Please take the time to look at the new menu for January (see below - a copy will also be on our notice board and can be found on our website). Once you have done this, please complete a new School Meals Booking Form (available from the school office and on our website) and return it to school on Wednesday, 3rd January.

Hawks and Eagles Classes - Lunch Money for after half term: Please ensure money is brought into school on our first day back – Wednesday, 4th January. The cost is £2.30 per day; £11.50 per week; £64.40 for the half term; £13.80 for the Roast Wednesday for half term and £13.80 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**. Thank you.

Mrs Wilson – Kitchen Manager

ALLERGY INFORMATION: If your child has an allergy or intolerance please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child.

Spring Silver Menu 2018

caterlink
feeding the imagination

| | | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| Week 1 | Main | Hot Dogs with Homemade Tomato Sauce and Homemade Jacket Wedges | Wholemeal Ham and cheese Pizza with Baked Potato | Roast Turkey & stuffing with Roast Potatoes and Gravy | Beef Goulash with mash potato | MSC Breaded Fish With Chipped Potatoes, Tomato Sauce |
| | Vegetarian | Chinese vegetarian spring roll with oven baked new potatoes | Lentil and vegetable curry with rice | Cheese & Pepper Whirl with Roast Potatoes | Macaroni Cheese with Tomato topping | Glamorgan Sausage with Chipped Potatoes |
| | | Sweetcorn Green Beans | Cauliflower Peas | Carrots Shredded Cabbage | Sweetcorn Mixed Peppers | Baked Beans Garden Peas |
| | Dessert | Fruit Yoghurt and Shortbread | Peach Crumble and custard | Apple, Cheese and Biscuits | Pineapple upside down Cake with Custard | Pear & Ginger Muffin |
| Week 2 | Main | Chicken Chow Mein | Macaroni Pasitsio with Garlic bread | Roast Chicken & stuffing Roast Potatoes and Gravy | Beef meatballs in a tomato sauce with Rice | MSC Battered Fish Chipped Potatoes, Tomato Sauce |
| | Vegetarian | Vegetable Wholemeal Pasta Bake | Wholemeal spinach & Tomato Quiche with new potatoes | Mixed Vegetable Loaf with Roast Potatoes and Gravy | Creamy Vegetable Pie with Mash Potato | Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Chipped Potatoes |
| | | Tomato & Red Onion Slaw Green Salad | Roasted Vegetables | Broccoli Sliced Carrots | Baked Tomatoes Sweetcorn | Baked Beans Garden Peas |
| | Dessert | Apple and Raisin flapjack | Pear sponge with custard | Vanilla shortbread with Natural Yogurt | Wholemeal Peach Crumble & Custard | Chocolate and Orange Brownie |
| Week 3 | Main | Beef Burger in a Bun with Oven Baked New Potatoes | Turkey & Leek Pie with Mash Potato | Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes and Gravy | Beef Tortilla stack with Herby diced potatoes | MSC Salmon Fish Fingers with Chipped Potatoes, Tomato Sauce |
| | Vegetarian | Potato and courgette layer bake | Mixed Bean Cassoulet with Mash Potato | Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes | Chick Pea Aloo Chaat with Rice | Cheese Tomato & Spinach Frittata with Chipped Potatoes |
| | | Broccoli Sweetcorn | Cauliflower Green Beans | Shredded Cabbage Carrots | Roasted Vegetable Medley | Baked Beans Garden Peas |
| | Dessert | Lemon drizzle cake | Jelly with a side of Mandarins | Rice Pudding | Plum and Vanilla crumble crumble and custard | Lemon & Cucumber Cake |

Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings (where advertised)
Bread freshly baked on site daily
Daily salad selection

Available Daily

Diary Dates *(new items in bold)*

January 2018

- 2nd INSET Day (School and Pre-School closed)
- 3rd First Day of Spring Term
- 5th Perform workshops taking place in school (please see letter sent via email regarding voluntary contribution)
- 9th After School French Club starts (see article in newsletter)
- 12th Year 4 Residential 2018 instalment due via WisePay**
- 15th National closing date for Starting School and Transfer to Middle School 2018 admissions rounds.** *Please ensure you apply in time otherwise your application will be considered late and processed in the late allocation round in April.*
- 18th KS2 Athletics Festival (letters to follow to selected children)**
- 29th KS1 Multiskills Festival (letters to follow to selected children)**

February 2018

- 2nd Year 4 Residential 2018 final instalment due via WisePay**
- W/C 12th Half Term**

All things Chocolate!!

Hawks Class have been doing all things chocolate this half term and to end the topic they have been designing and making their own chocolate bars and putting together a persuasive advert to help sell them.

The money raised from the sale of Christmas Cards in Hawks class paid for this wonderful curriculum enhancing activity to take place.



Behaviour for Learning

As part of our Governance duties, Governors regularly visit the school during its normal working day, to monitor performance in a number of key areas. This half term, a number of us conducted a "learning walk" where we visited every class, to observe behaviour and the learning environment. I wanted to let you know how impressed we all were with what we saw. It was a pleasure to see all the children happy, focused on working hard and most of all, enjoying their learning. We saw lots of wonderful values being demonstrated and all the children that we spoke to were keen to tell us about the work they were doing.

I also recently had the pleasure of attending the open morning for parents and carers of prospective new pupils. I wanted to let you know that we received excellent feedback from those who visited and especially how impressed they were by the children, who represented the school and your families beautifully. Thank you all!

Sue Burton, Chair of Governors

Reminders and Information

Year 4 Residential 2018: Just a reminder that the December instalment was due on Friday, 15th December. If you have not already done so, please log onto your WisePay account to make this payment. Any problems please speak to Mrs Brown or the School Office. Thank you.

Values Education Cycle for 2018 and 2019

For your information, please find below a draft copy of Values Education Cycle for the next two years which we are reviewing within school. Please take a few moments to look at it yourself and provide us with any feedback you may have either in writing for via email (office.hcls@cbc.beds.sch.uk).

Last time we made changes to include the fundamental British Values enjoyed by all who live in Britain; Liberty and Democracy and we already covered mutual respect and tolerance. Our Values Cycle allows us to focus our assemblies and supports our behaviour policy. It also fits with the calendar of events for example, Peace and Friendship are the values during the month when we think about Armistice. Forgiveness and Courage focus as we think about events of the Easter period.

| 2018 | | 2019 | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| January | Unity | January | Co-operation |
| February | Liberty | February | Democracy |
| March | Courage | March | Forgiveness |
| April | Patience | April | Trust |
| May | Caring | May | Honesty |
| June | Appreciation | June | Tolerance |
| July | Joy | July | Understanding |
| September | Respect | September | Responsibility |
| October | Hope | October | Perseverance |
| November | Peace | November | Friendship |
| December | Love | December | Sharing |

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.**

Please ensure you update the school should your contact number change.

Pre-School News

We have been enjoying our new grassed area outside, even in the colder weather.

The children have been getting into the Christmas spirit, wrapping boxes, making cards, calendars and decorations, and using lots and lots of glitter!

They all enjoyed the pantomime last week; except for the giant (he was scary!). They are all now very excited and very much looking forward to a visit from Santa.

We would like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

On a personal note I would like to say a massive thank you to you all for your help and support during my time at Houghton Conquest Pre-School.

It has been a pleasure to get to know you all and work alongside your children. I will miss everyone so much.

Special thanks to the team: Chris, Carole, Danielle and Tracy. I couldn't and wouldn't have done it without you.

I wish you all the best for the future.

Shell

French Club at HCLS

Do you want to give your child the chance to enhance their language learning skills in a fun and interactive environment after school?

Le Club Français is open to new members and has sessions here at HCLS every Tuesday from 4.15 - 5.15pm. You can take advantage of the school's own afterschool club until 4pm (HCLS's own afterschool fee applies) and then your child comes straight to the club for a snack and a drink before the French session commences. The cost is £5 per session, payable termly in advance, with a one-off £11 Le Club Français membership fee.

The next block of 11 sessions starts Tuesday 9th January 2018.

To enrol your child/ren please contact Catherine Tobin, your LCF Area Organiser, at lcfbedfordshire@gmail.com or on **07568154087** as early as possible as spaces are limited.

For more information on Le Club Français visit www.lcfclubs.com

Celebration Assemblies

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

Friday, 1st December 2017

Star of the Week from:

Miss Granelli: Barney Money for trying hard all week during phonics.

Mrs Sebborn: Grayson Collins for trying really hard to learn the Christmas songs for our play.

Miss Dancer: Niamh-Marie Furey for listening to instructions carefully when making gingerbread men.

Golden Certificates: Faith Poultney, Thomas Spencer, Brooke Bailey, Katelyn Pestell and Esme Stewart.

Values Awards: Gene Tobin for always being a good friend to others.

Reading Rewards: Cody Riley, Emily Brett, Evie Busbridge, Niamh-Marie Furey, Scarlett Curl, Millie Gibson, Paul Sebborn, Grace Lane, Tony Starr, Andrew Puplampu, Leo Graves and Charlie Brown.

Headteacher Awards:

Lily Baker: Pioneer of the week at Houghton Pioneers.

Jasmine Robinson and Lily Baker: Judo Kids SHO2 Certificate of Achievement.

Ruby Dobson: Pioneer of the week at Houghton Pioneers.

Laura Guinness: Award Certificate for being really brave at the dentist.

Ben Vaughan: Player of the match - Amptill Rugby U7s.

Friday, 8th December 2017

Star of the Week for:

Robins: Kyran Bates for always going out of his way to help others.

Doves: Tommy Spencer for writing a brilliant set of instructions.

Owls: Amelia Sutton for an encouraging attitude to mathematics.

Hawks: Katelyn Pestell for writing a brilliant persuasive advert.

Eagles: Reece Worts for being a great role model to others while using the apparatus in PE.

Golden Certificates: Jason Starr, Ivy Gravener, Faye Lovell, Millie Gibson and Grayson Collins.

Reading Rewards: Brandon Thomas, Chloe Macrdechian, Niamh Davis, Max Williamson, Katelyn Pestell, Sian Thomas, Harry Exworth and Mikey Bathers.

Headteacher Awards

Holly Lane: swimming 15m.

Niamh-Marie Furey: Winter Wonderland and Pet Challenge Rainbow badges.

Emily Brett: Taking her promise and earning her Rainbow badge together with a Pet Challenge and Winter Wonderland badge.

Joshua Blake: for being brave during your test.

Leo Graves: Player of the week at Judo.

Friday, 15th December 2017

Star of the Week from:

Miss Granelli: Kyran Bates for excellent effort during the singing rehearsal.

Mrs Sebborn: .Evie Sheridan for always being helpful and caring towards.

Golden Certificates: Paul Sebborn, Max Williamson, Lily Baker, Immanuel Puplampu and Leo Gravener.

Reading Rewards: Eliza-beth Semple, Maddy Whitfield, Paul Sebborn, Sam Matthews, Nathan Davis, Ellie Bailey, Isaac Barral, Kyran Bates, Callum Curl, Lily Davies-Smith, Rosie Davies-Smith, Dylan Edwards, Leo Gravener, Kian Hope, Amelia Kealey, Faye Lovell, Arthur Middleton, Barney Money, Lilah O'Gorman, Cameron Stean, Esme Stewart, Eden Suddaby and Freddie Walker.

Values Award: Conner Peach for always being prepared to share his time to help others in computing and Lily Burton for participating in the food bank advert scheme.

Headteacher Awards:

Evie Busbridge: swimming duckling 4.

Cerys Sebborn: earning her Pet Challenge Rainbow badge.

Tuesday, 19th December 2017

Winning Team: Yellow Team

All children in the yellow team received a selection box to take home.

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