

Houghton Conquest Lower School and Pre-School Newsletter 6 (26th January 2018)

Value of the Month: Unity

Forest School

Forest School has continued with great success through some of the very cold and wet weather! No doubt you will have seen the children departing the school field covered in mud where they have been exploring mud painting with natural materials, digging in the ground, or falling in the mud from the slack line where they have been experimenting with balance and moving like a chimpanzee!

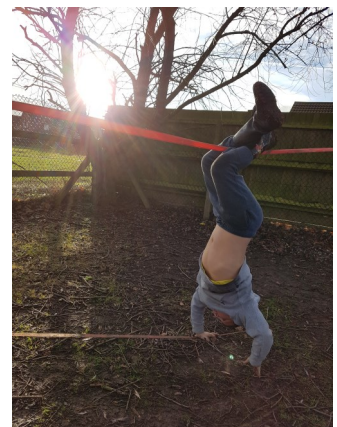
There has been some amazing den building occurring using the various things in and around our newly fenced area! Hay bales, long tree branches, string and rope...the creative juices have been flowing in all our different age groups. They should all be proud of the teamwork and effort they exhibit.

Fire-lighting proved tricky for some of the children. However, they persevered and eventually all in our Year 4 group lit their very first fire using a flint and steel! Many of the skills the children learn in forest school require patience, perseverance and self-belief. Their resilience grows each time they practise something new and their self-esteem brims to its fullest when they successfully accomplish the task at hand. It is always wonderful to see their smiling faces and the encouragement they also share with one another after seeing each person's successes.

A big thank you, again, to the Williamson family who assisted us in putting up the beautiful willow hurdle fencing which creates safe boundaries for all the children. We just need to install the three gate entrances, and then the area should be complete. I hope to celebrate this occurrence with an official Forest School opening where all parents and children from our school will be invited to view the area and even try out some of the tasks that the children will be doing in their sessions each year as they progress throughout the school.

The children love to have parent guests at their sessions where they can show off what they are doing. So if you are able to join us to help out at a session from 1-3 p.m. (Tues, Wed or Thurs) even if it is only one time, I strongly encourage you to do so - please let the school office or myself know if you are available. We are lucky to have Forest School being provided to such an extent at school. It truly is a privilege for the kids who attend...and it could be for you too!

Linsay Regan
Forest School Leader



Year 4 Job Advert

Pupils in year 4 have been invited to become the 'telephone voice' of our school phone. All pupils interested need to listen to our current message, write down the message and then practise! They will need to record themselves, listening back to see how they can improve. Then finalise their entry voice! Applicants will need to submit a recording of their voice and message by Monday, 19th February at midday. The chosen voice will be recorded and used in the Spring and Summer terms.



Feedback regarding recent Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent survey regarding the possibility of Houghton Conquest Lower School becoming a primary school in the future. We received 46 responses.

The overall feedback about becoming a primary school was very positive. However, although parents, particularly year 4 parents, would definitely choose to stay at the school through years 5 and 6, parents were concerned about investment in facilities for upper KS2 (years 5 and 6). Parents like the idea of primary rather than the transitions that have to take place because of the 3 tier system.

Unfortunately, in Central Bedfordshire there has been no funding to build or transform into a primary school, whereas Bedford Borough did grant their schools additional funding. We will be presenting your feedback to our cluster of schools and to Central Bedfordshire Education Department for consideration. This would be to highlight your views and wishes for the future for your child's education in this area.

If you missed the survey but have something important to add, please email the school by 8am on Monday, 29th January. We will be taking your responses (anonymous) to a meeting on Monday at 10am to the rest of our lower schools in this area. On the 6th February we will be continuing discussion with all schools (middle and upper) in the Wootton Pyramid.

Parent Consultations School

Bookings for the Parent Teacher Consultations will be open from **Monday, 29th January** at 8.45am. You can pop into Reception, send an email (office.hcls@cbc.beds.sch.uk) or phone the office to make your appointment. Time slots are only available between the following times for all classes:-

Tuesday, 20th February: appointments available from 5pm until 7pm.

Thursday, 22nd February: appointments available from 3.40pm until 5.40pm.

Perform Workshop Doves Class – The Great Fire of London



Our workshop began with a visit from Samuel Pepys, the diarist of the Great Fire of London. He invited us to join him in his time capsule and head back to 1666, where we found Thomas Farrynor, baker to the King, in his bakery on Pudding Lane. After a long day's baking, Thomas was keen to head to bed and accidentally left one of his ovens alight – and so began the Great Fire of London!

Through movement and sound, we imagined the fire and how it would have spread through the close wooden houses of the city. We imagined what we would bury to save from the fire – PS4s and iPads first and foremost! We visited St Paul's Cathedral and heard how the fire burnt it to the ground, smashing the stained glass windows and melting the lead on the roof.

In the grand finale, the whole class took a role in acting out the story of the Great Fire of London, from Thomas Farrynor's early night through to the re-building of the city.

The children were exceptionally well behaved throughout the workshop and thoroughly engaged with the story. They have produced some excellent work in class following the workshop, that you will have the opportunity to see at the upcoming Parent Consultations.

Diary Dates *(new items in bold)*

January 2018

- 29th KS1 Multiskills Festival
- 29th Bookings for Parent Consultations Open (8.45am)**
- 31st Values Assembly by Rev Toze**

February 2018

- 2nd Year 4 Residential 2018 final instalment due via WisePay
- 5th Y4 Residential parent/child information meeting (3.30pm)**
- 6th Safer Internet Day**
- 8th Robins Class Assembly at 9.15am** (parents of children in Robins Class welcome to join us).
- 8th Hawks Roman Day (more information to follow)**
- W/C 12th Half Term
- 20th Kempton Fire Service visiting Y1**
- 20th Parent Consultation from 5pm**
- 21st KS2 Swimming Festival** (letters to follow to selected children)
- 22nd Parent Consultations from 3.40pm**

March 2018

- 1st World Book Day**
- 1st Dance Coaching Session with an external provider**
- 6th Y3 Bikeability** (please return permission slip by 31st January)
- 7th Y4 depart on Residential
- 8th Y4 on Residential
- 9th Y4 return from Residential
- 12th STEM Week culminating in a STEM Day on Friday 16th March**
- 22nd Gymnastic Coaching with external provider**
- 29th Last day of Spring Term**

April 2018

- 16th INSET Day** (School and Pre-School closed)
- 17th First day of Summer Term**

Year 4 Residential 2018: Reminders

2nd February: Final instalment due. Please ensure you make your payment via WisePay by the due date. Thank you for your co-operation.

5th February: Parent/Child information meeting at 3.30pm in Eagles Classroom. Please return your reply slip on Monday if you have not already done so. Thank you.



KS2 Sportshall Athletics

On Thursday 18th January 12 children from Hawks and Eagles took part in the Sportshall Athletics competition at the Bunyan Centre. The children competed against 13 other teams in a variety of field events including javelin, speed bounce and vertical jump. Both our girls and boys teams showed the value of unity throughout, supporting each other and working as a team. The children then took part in a variety of relay races, the teams worked really hard and we had some very close races; they were really proud of their achievements. The overall scores were really close between the teams, the top three schools all scoring the same points! Houghton Conquest came 8th which is a great achievement considering some of the larger schools we were competing against. Well done to all the children who took part and represented the school, I know they had great fun.



Caterlink

Change to menu

Due to deliveries, on the first day back after half term (19th February) there will be a change to the menu as follows:-

Monday: Wholemeal ham and cheese pizza with baked potato or Lentil and Veg Curry followed by crumble and custard.

Tuesday: Hot dogs with tom sauce or vegetable spring roll with oven baked new potato followed by shortbread.

Lunch Money

Hawks and Eagles Classes - Lunch Money for after half term (Spring Term 2): Please ensure money is brought into school on our first day back – Monday, 19th February.

The cost is £2.30 per day, £11.50 per week

£13.80 for the Roast Wednesday for half term £13.80 for the Fun Friday for half term.

Hawks: £66.70 for the half term

Eagles: £59.80 for the half term (due to residential)

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

Celebration Assemblies

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

Friday, 5th January 2018

Star of the Week for:

Robins: Arthur Middleton for fantastic French speaking skills.

Doves: Dylan Partridge for giving clear instructions in computing.

Owls: Zoe Robinson for writing a beautiful fairytale.

Hawks: Grayson Collins for writing a great recount.

Eagles: Reece Worts for sharing some really interesting information about rainforests.

Golden Certificates: Evie Sheridan, Sophie Spencer, Barney Money, Millie Gibson and Tony Starr.

Reading Rewards: Rex Laundon and Jack Simpson.

Headteacher Awards

Evie Busbridge: completing a 5K walk in support of Jasmine's World Challenge.

Friday, 12th January 2018

Star of the Week from:

Miss Granelli: Isaac Barrall for working hard all week during intervention.

Mrs Sebborn: Niamh-Maire Furey for outstanding abstract art making the Great Fire of London.

Miss Dancer: Chloe Macredechian for producing a fantastic fire dance in PE.

Golden Certificates: Thomas Spencer, Reece Worts, Olivia Pilsbury, Ellie Bailey and Mikey Bathers.

Values Awards: Rex Laundon, Dylan Partridge, Taylor Riley and Laura Guinness for showing the value of unity in a group fire dance.

Reading Rewards: Cody Riley, Evie Busbridge, Laura Guinness, Niamh-Maire Furey, Callie Edwards, Ruby Dobson, Laila Peck, Joshua Blake, Jack Fuller, Abbygail Fisk, 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.

Headteacher Awards:

Cerys Sebborn: Pioneer of the week at Houghton Pioneers.

Finer Diners: Kyran Bates, Dylan Edwards, Issac Barrel, Cerys Sebborn, Rex Laundon, Charlie Brown, Eliza-Beth Semple, Joshua Gruzelier, Holly Vaughan, Anthony Starr and Niamh Davis.

Friday, 19th January 2018

Star of the Week for:

Robins: Leo Gravener for a fantastic effort and improvement in handwriting.

Doves: Grave Exworth for enthusiasm in maths lessons.

Owls: Sophie Spencer for describing a setting using brilliant objectives..

Hawks: Tony Starr for fantastic descriptive writing.

Eagles: Jamima Fraser for a beautiful detailed drawing of a rainforest animal.

Golden Certificates: Luke Worts, Rosie Davies-Smith, Jasmine Robinson, Sam Matthews & Andrew Puplampu.

Reading Rewards: Scarlet Curl, Jason Starr, Katelyn Pestell and Lily Baker.

Headteacher Awards

Barney Money: Swimming, Ducklings 4.

Max Williamson : Swimming, Learn to Swim 4 and 100m.

Scarlett Curl: Swimming, Water Skills 2.

Sophie Spencer: Amazing Street Dancing.

Cerys Sebborn: Le Club Francais - Star Certificate.

Zoe Robinson: Swimming, Learn to Swim 4.

Chloe Macrechian: Swimming, Learn to Swim 2.

Jasmine Robinson: Star of the Week at Judo.

Finer Diners: Barney Money, Kian Hope, Scarlett Curl, Jack Simpson, Thomas Spencer, Callista Edwards, Katherine Birch, Kaitlyn Shade, Andrew Puplampu, Hannah Starr, Reece Worts and Millie Gibson.

Friday, 26th January 2018

Star of the Week from:

Miss Granelli: Esme Stewart for working hard with her phonics.

Mrs Sebborn: Cody Riley for trying extra hard in phonics.

Ms Thompson: Grayson Collins for his excellent effort and trying new activities at the Sportshall Athletics.

Miss Dancer: Nathan Davis for working really hard in his times tables during intervention.

Golden Certificates: Immanuel Puplampu, Ruby Dobson, Charlie Brown, Reece Worts and Leo Gravener.

Headteacher Awards:

Lily Baker: Pioneer of the week at Houghton Pioneers.

Katherine Birch: Swimming, Water Skills 3.

Esme Stewart: Swimming, Water Skills 1.

Katherine Birch: Player of the week at Judo.

Reece Worts: Swimming, Water Skills 5.

Abbygail Fisk: Swimming, Learn to Swim 3.

Grace Exworth: Pioneer of the week at Houghton Pioneers.

Finer Dinners: Rosie Davis-Smith, Amelia Kealey, Chloe Macdrechian, Madalyn Whitfield, Sophie Spencer, Amelia Sutton, Jack Fuller, Grace Lane, Paul Sebborn, Gene Tobin, Lily Whitfield and Callum Curl.

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