

Robins Review

So we made it through our very first term at Houghton Conquest Lower School, and what a term it has been. I must say I am so happy to have met my first class here at Houghton Conquest. The children are so welcoming and responsive, and so ready to learn!

Through this newsletter I hope to give you more insight into what exactly we have been learning in Robins so far this year and a sneak peek at what is yet to come.

Before you do continue on I firstly wanted to **thank you** all for your support throughout the last term, from volunteering on local visits to providing costumes for our Nativity Tableau and Harvest Festival as well as the kind words during the difficult time I had with my own child. The support and partnership of working together is vital in ensuring your child's learning journey gets off to the best possible start. Please remember my door is always open, if you ever need to discuss anything I am more than happy to speak to you, whether it's a quick chat at the gate in the morning or you need to book a meeting with me - just let me know, or send an email to the school office.

Mr Macinnes

Tricky Word cards:

Remember, tricky words are to be practised every day for reading. Once your child is confident reading these, practise writing the words too. Once they are secure with both of these steps they can move on to the next set!

Have you ever thought about becoming a parent helper? Speak to Mrs Browne in the office if you are interested in supporting in Robins.



Robins Newsletter

Spring 2018



Phonics so far...

Each term I will aim to provide guidance on phonics sounds and spellings that have been taught in order to allow you the opportunity to continue practising these at home.

So far we have completed Phases 2 and 3 of Letters and Sounds:

Graphemes (The sound as it's written): s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, h, r, b, l, ll, f, ff, ss, j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er.

We are now focussing on revising and applying these sounds into our writing before moving on to phase 4 where we will learn more about consonant blends, where two sounds are together in a word (e.g. string,) and working on reading and writing polysyllabic words, such as 'farmyard' or 'surfing'.

The Robins have clearly put a lot of effort into developing their blending and reading skills and you should be very proud of your child's effort in this area- I know I am.

In order to continue to support your child one skill which you could support with at home is the ability to read back an entire sentence once you reach a full stop. Because children are often decoding each word some at least one or two in a sentence, it is common that, by the end of the sentence they have forgotten the first few words they have read. Read back the sentence in the book to the child, or ask them to retell you the sentence. This will not only build their fluency in reading but help develop their understanding of the words and stories they are reading.

In The Moment...

As you know, in Robins we do not have a set list of topics to cover each term or half-term. We utilise your child to aid and instruct the planning process, integrating learning needs into interest based areas and focussing on specific developmental milestones for a group of pupils each week.

So far this year we have seen a wide range of topics covered, for example one week saw a vets' office set up in the class to support communication and mark making skills in the context of role play and using animals as a theme of interest. Another week we saw Space as a theme for engaging pupils in cooperative play and talk, as well as expanding their own knowledge of the world and space. The classroom environment is ever changing and pupil's engagement in learning seems to be very high. Utilising your knowledge of your child in a way that allows learning to take place and progress in a very discrete manner is fantastic. We hope to be promoting a very strong love of learning and enthusiasm for coming to school. The smiles I see on the faces of your children each morning tell me that this all seems to be working.



Robins

Attendance Ted

Robins class attendance currently sits at 96.59%

We were very close to winning the Attendance teddy for this half term. Please do your best to keep in school and we may get another shot next half term!

Important dates for your diary:

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 6th
February

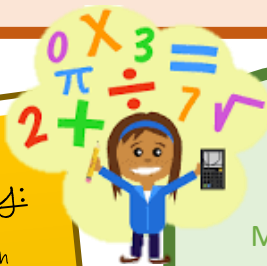
Robins Class Assembly - Thursday 8th
February: 9:15am (parents of children in
Robins Class welcome to join us)

Half Term
Saturday 10th Feb - Sunday 18th June

Parent Consultations:
Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd
February

STEM Week- 12th-16th March

Easter Holidays - Friday 30th March -
Sunday 15th April
(Monday, 16th April INSET Day - School
and pre-school closed)



Magnificent Mathematics!

Maths, in the Early Years, is a very key subject area. With such a large focus on phonics and reading it is sometimes easy to forget how hard our children are working in other areas.

Last term we carried out lots of work on different Maths topics. We have learnt to count to 100, developed our understanding of place value and number bonds to 20 as well as understanding addition, subtraction, patterns and doubling.

Over the next term we will deepen our understanding of digits representing a value and use this strengthen our ability to manipulate and use number as a tool for learning. We will also begin to look at money and number patterns such as counting in 2's and 5's. All of Robins seem to be enjoying the practical approach to Mathematics and are working hard to develop their recording skills well.