

Houghton Conquest Lower School and Pre-school Newsletter 2 (5th November 2018)

Value of the Month: Peace

Our Harvest Celebrations

A big thank you to everyone who was part of our harvest celebrations. The performances by the children in the church were amazing.

Thank you, once again to the Church, Rev Toze and in particular to Margaret Tyler and Margaret Litherth for enabling everything to go smoothly on the day. We raised £150 for the church funds - thank you.



As you will have seen, Phoenix winning pictures were proudly displayed on the front of our Harvest Programmes. The winners were Olivia, Max, Eryn, Callie, Kimberley, Laila and Jasmine.

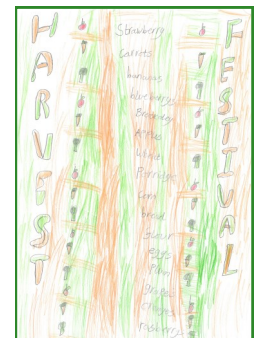
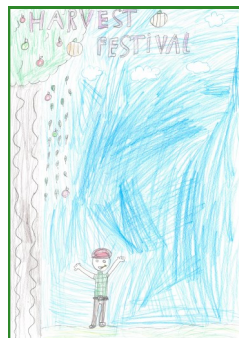
Thank you for all your amazing donations for our two wonderful harvest hampers. We raised an incredible £99. Phoenix Class have found it very challenging finding a local charity to support. However, after lots of research they have now found one and are in the process of writing to them to find more information about what they do and perhaps invite them into school to share the information with all the children in an assembly. We will keep you posted



The winners of the harvest hampers were:-

1st Prize Fiona Richards

2nd Prize Kayleigh Riley



School Open Morning Tuesday, 13th November

for parents who have children joining or looking to join
our school in September 2019

On Tuesday, 13th November the **school** will be holding an open day, between 9.15am and 10.15am. 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 Tuesday 15th January 2019.

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.

Pre-school News

A great 1st half term of the school year for our pre-schoolers, it's wonderful to see them getting used to our pre-school routines.

We joined in with the school's Harvest Festival celebrations. The children were so good on the walk down and in the church, it can be difficult for 2-4 year olds to sit for that long!

We made bird feeders to take home and hang in our gardens giving us the opportunity to talk about the world around us.

We have enjoyed mark making outside, using paintbrushes and water to make shapes and write our names.

We are looking forward to a busy 2nd half term with lots of seasonal activities planned!

Julie
Pre-School Leader



Diary Dates

November 2018

- 5th Festival of Light Assembly
- 5th KS1 Multi-Skills afterschool club starts (Sinclair Sports) - 4-5pm
- 6th Individual and family group photographs by Tempest
- 6th KS1 Multi Skills Festival (letter already sent to participants)
- 7th Peace Assembly by Rev Toze
- 7th KS2 Multi-Skills afterschool club starts (Sinclair Sports) - 4-5pm
- 9th Remembrance Assembly
- 13th School Open Morning for parents who have children joining us in Sept 19.
- 16th KS2 Inclusion Table Cricket (letters will be sent to invited participants)

December 2018

- 6th Safety around dogs Assembly by the Blue Cross
- 10th KS2 Sportshall Athletics Festival (letters will be sent to invited participants)
- 12th Panto being organised by the Friends (9am - 12noon)
- 13th Christmas Lunch
- 18th Christmas Performance by Robins, Doves and Owls (on school playground)
- 19th Pre-School Christmas Party (parents welcome to join from 1.30pm)
- 19th Last day of Autumn term

January 2019

- 2nd Training Day - School and Pre-school closed
- 3rd First day of Spring Term



Phoenix Trip to Bletchley Park

Phoenix Class enjoyed an eventful trip to Bletchley Park on Monday 8th October. The children took an enjoyable train journey to travel back in time to the exciting world of wartime code breakers. They took the opportunity to explore the various exhibits, dress up in 1940's clothing, crack codes and learn the incredible sacrifice of men and women during the war. The highlight of the trip had to be the children were given the opportunity to touch a real Enigma machine. Thank you to all of the parents of Phoenix Class for the voluntary contributions that enabled this wonderful trip to take place. A special thanks to Mrs Williamson, Mrs Exworth, Miss Dancer, Mr Birchall and Mrs Sebborn for all of their support on this trip.



Dear Parents,

We are delighted to announce our new Friends Team for this year:

Joint Chair and Secretary: Nickie Dilks and Donna Richardson Treasurer: Alex Bluck

These are demanding yet rewarding roles and we thank them for volunteering to help all of the children and our school in co-ordinating fundraising and fun events to keep the magic alive! For example, the recent Halloween Bake Sale Treats and the upcoming Christmas Fayre.

We would like to formally thank **Lisa Guinness** for her leadership of the Friends during the previous year with an amazingly healthy kitty of approximately £5000, demonstrating the generosity of local business and parents in supporting events and the hard work of the team and regular volunteers.

Moving forward the Team and the School are very interested in our parents views on how to utilise the raised funds, taking into consideration everyone's ideas and priorities for our children. Please do join in the conversation about this even if you cannot make the meetings.

An event already pre-planned is the pantomime booking in the village hall. As you can imagine the cost of theatre tickets these days and the costs of transporting the pupils to a venue make this impossible. So this is a wonderful solution that has been supported by the Friends and parents for so many years now.

We really look forward to working with the Friends and hope everyone can pull together and continue the wonderful legacy of previous Chairs and Committees who have made the school extra special.

Thank you to everyone past and present who has made it happen.

Miss McCarthy, Headteacher



Houghton Conquest
Pre-School



Houghton Conquest
Lower School
Growing together

It is with regret that we share with you the sad news that Mrs Valerie Salter died last week. Before retirement she worked at Houghton Conquest Lower School for many years and subsequently volunteered at the school. More recently she helped the school each year with our Harvest Festival. Our condolences to her family.



We emailed a letter to all parents on the 19th October regarding Christmas at Houghton Conquest Lower School and Pre-School. If you did not receive a copy please email office.hcls@cbc.beds.sch.uk.

Breakfast Club at Houghton Conquest Lower School

(8am—8.50am)

Monday	Get your creative brain on! Come along every Monday and get your creative brain on and make different seasonal arts and crafts
Tuesday	Done and Dusted Any homework to finish? Reading to catch up on? Come and along and get your jobs done
Wednesday	Games Day Come and join our games Wednesday. Get your dance moves out and your games head on
Thursday	Maths Whizz Come and along on a Thursday to take part in Maths whizz. You can work hard to win a certificate in celebration assembly
Friday	Fun day Friday Love to have fun? Join us every Friday for a dance and games

After School Club at Houghton Conquest Lower School

(3.15pm - 4pm)

Monday: Board Games.

Join us every Monday for board game fun. If you have a favourite then bring it in to share!!

Tuesday: Maths Whizz

Come along on a Tuesday to take part in some Maths Whizz fun. You could work hard to win a certificate in celebration assembly.

Wednesday: Creative Crafts

Bring your creative minds to life with themed creative crafts.

Thursday: Done and Dusted

Got homework to finish? Reading to catch up on? Come along to Done and Dusted to get the job done.

Friday: Friday Fun-day

Love to dance and play games? Join us every Friday.

Book direct via Wisepay accessed through our website:

<http://www.houghtonconquest.beds.sch.uk/wisepay>

(Suitable for our school children from Reception to Year 4)

Values Ambassadors - Autumn Term 2

In last Wednesday's Assembly Miss McCarthy presented our two Values Ambassadors, Kian Hope and Zoe Robinson, with their Ambassador badges.

What is the role of a Values Ambassador?

The Values Ambassador's role is to represent all of our school values and uphold these in all that they do, as well as supporting and acknowledging the values represented by their peers.

A Values Ambassador takes on their role for a whole half-term after completing the winning entry to our new half-termly values challenge.

During their time as ambassador the children will be given additional duties around the school, such as the responsibility of giving out a Finer Diner token each day to someone around the school who has displayed their values well. In addition, to support the children to demonstrate their values clearly the Values Ambassadors will be allowed the choice to sit at the Finer Diners table each Friday lunchtime while they are an ambassador. They will also have special chairs to sit on during assemblies. The role will continue to grow and develop throughout the year.

If your child is interested in becoming a Values ambassador for the first half of the Spring Term 2019 then keep your eyes peeled for the next Values Challenge....

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.

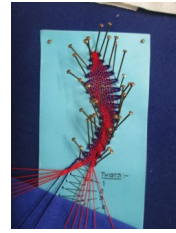
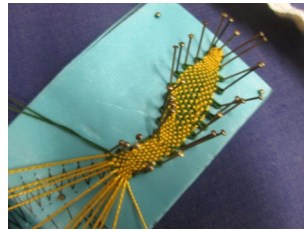
This system will allow us, the school, to login to automatically update the opening status of our school wherever we are. All parents that have signed up to the system will receive an immediate email alert to let them know the status of our school. This will also automatically update the Central Bedfordshire 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.



Lunchtime Lace Club



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

Headteacher Awards: These certificates are given to any children who take part in activities outside of school (ie sports, drama, music etc). All children need to do to receive a headteachers award is bring their certificate/trophy into school to share in one of our celebration assemblies.

Friday, 28th September 2018

Star of the Week (Teaching Assistants):

Pre-school: Amber Moynes for making new friends at Pre-school.

Mrs Jakins: Rex Laundon for being an excellent role model for younger children on the sensory circuit.

Miss Granelli: Libby Exworth for making an excellent start with her reading.

Mrs Sebborn: William Middleton for fantastic effort making your model war plane.

Miss Wickenden: Jacob Moynes for great effort in class, real sense of being part of his new class.

Ms Thompson: Ella Walker for showing excellent leadership in tag rugby.

Golden Certificates: Madalyn Whitfield, Lilah O’Gorman, Finn Wadsworth and Tony Starr.

Finer Diners: Jake Palmacci, Finn Wadsworth, Juliette Bluck, Amelia Kealey, Kian Hope, Rosie Davies-Smith, Rex Laundon, Jason Starr, Katherine Birch, Olivia Pilsbury and Mikey Bathers.

Headteacher Awards:

Isabella McCafferty: swimming ducklings 3.

Dylan Partridge: Player of the week at Judo.

Friday, 5th October 2018

Star of the Week (teachers):

Robins: Hanna Hall for amazing effort in Phonics work this week.

Doves: Lily Davies-Smith for a brilliant attitude to learning all week.

Owls: Cody Riley for great effort in class all week.

Phoenix: Ella Walker for being a great role model.

Values Award: Jasper Regan for showing so many of our values during a maths lesson (caring, sharing and friendship).

Golden Certificates: Charlie Brown, Laura Guinness, Lyla Godwin, Jacob Moynes and Arthur Middleton.

Finer Diners: Jasper Regan, Ben Witney, Delilah O’Gorman, Dylan Edwards, Laura Guinness, Max Williamson, Cody Riley, Emily Brett, Esme Stewart, Cameron Stean and Cerys Sebborn.

Headteacher Awards:

Katherine Birch: Judo player of the week.

Jasmine Stean: Stage Coach star of the week.

Cerys Sebborn: Pioneer of the week at Houghton Pioneers.

Max Williamson: swimming 800m.

Friday, 12th October 2018

Star of the Week (Teaching Assistants):

Pre-school: Niall Wadsworth for settling in at Pre-school.

Mrs Jakins: Laura Guinness for showing the values of friendship and caring.

Miss Granelli: Blaine Mulvihill for trying his best and showing an amazing effort during phonics this week.

Mrs Sebborn: Harry Exworth for overcoming stage fright at the Harvest Festival.

Miss Dancer: Phoenix Class for an amazing Harvest Festival performance.

Miss Wickenden: Lily Davies-Smith for trying really hard all week and having school dinner

Ms Thompson: Joshua Gruzelier for excellent progress in tag rugby.

Golden Certificates: Archie Richardson, Laila Peck, Arthur Middleton and Niamh Davis.

Finer Diners: .Jacob Poultney, Dexter Riley, Delilah O’Gorman, Dylan Edwards, Laura Guinness, Max Williamson, Tommy Spencer, Callum Curl, Barney Money, Zoe Robinson and Amelia Sutton

Headteacher Awards:

Leo Gravener: Street Dance star of the week.

Faye Lovell: 1st place in a running race.

Callum Adkins: receiving a medal for completing a year at Dance School.

Friday, 19th October 2018

Star of the Week (teachers):

Robins: Mason Shade for a fantastic effort in phonics and maths all week.

Doves: Isaac Barral for a great attitude to learning all week.

Owls: Niamh Davis for having a great attitude towards her learning.

Phoenix: Amelia Sutton for amazing effort in her lesson.

Golden Certificates: Luke Worts, Hanna Hall, Ben Witney, Amelia Kealey and Kaitlyn Shade.

Finer Diners: Juliette Bluck, Jasmine Robinson, Delilah O’Gorman, Dylan Edwards, Laura Guinness, Max Williamson, Cody Riley, Eliza-Beth Semple, Rosie Davies-Smith, Leo Gravener, Tony Starr and Katherine Birch.

Headteacher Awards:

Joshua Gruzelier: Judo player of the week.

Handwriting Stars: Madalyn Whitfield, Jacob Poultney, Eryn Tierney & Lilah O’Gorman

Maths Whizz Gold Progression Certificate awarded to: Luke Worts, Oliver Macrdechian, Callie Edwards and Barney Money

Handwriting Stars: Madalyn Whitfield, Jacob Poultney, Eryn Tierney and Lilah O’Gorman



Congratulations to the **Red Team** for gaining the most team points this half term.
They all received a pumpkin on the last day of half term.

Attendance Bear: Congratulations to Robin’s Class for winning the attendance bear last half term - please take care of 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