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Houghton Conquest
Lower School

Growing together

Headteacher
Miss C A McCarthy

Value of the Month: Understanding

18th July 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

I wanted to take this opportunity at the end of the school year, to thank you for your continued support to the school, which is very much valued and appreciated.

We do not yet know when our Headteacher, Miss McCarthy will return, but we will keep you updated. During this time, Miss Julie Heaslip will remain as Acting Headteacher. As you may remember from my previous letter, this is an official role and Governors have appointed Miss Heaslip on an Acting Headteacher contract that will run for the duration of Miss McCarthy's absence.

All the school staff have worked together to ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the school and have supported Miss Heaslip in her new role. As a result, we end this academic year with many positive outcomes that I would like to share with you and which truly reflect our School Motto of "*Growing Together*":

- Our continued focus on the quality of teaching across the school as given us very positive results across our year groups:
 - In Year 1, our children achieved a 91% pass rate for the national phonics screening check.
 - In Year 2, our children's KS1 results in reading, writing and maths were all higher than the Central Bedfordshire average.
 - In Year 4, our KS2 results in writing and maths were above Central Bedfordshire average.

We are very proud of all our children and that their outcomes remain in the top 10% in the UK!

- As a school, we have had a focus on maths this year, which has resulted in our children making greater achievements at greater depth in maths this academic year. The implementation of Power Maths has already begun to show its impact on children's ability to answer more complex, word-based problems, as borne out by our results in the SATs reasoning paper. This scheme will be further embedded next year in all classes. We have also completed the Enigma Maths Hub training which will set us on our way to promoting maths mastery in our school.



- In Pre-School, our new Room Leader, Sophie, has already made a huge impact and we look forward to more amazing work by her and her team, with the youngest children in our school, next year.
- Our Forest School grows from strength to strength, with all the children enjoying the opportunity to learn in a creative and fun way outdoors. We can see the positive impact this has when they come back into the classroom.
- We were awarded the Bronze School Games Mark, in recognition of the work we have done in evaluating our PE provision and developing an action plan for future progress. We will continue to support this and our staff development with Mr Jake Hetherington embarking on a Level 5/6 professional vocational qualification in Primary School PE Specialism and PE Subject Leadership.
- We are supporting more of our amazing staff in their development too, with two of our TA's embarking on their Primary teacher training next year.
- We achieved the highest level of assurance when the Local Authority came in to carry out an Internal Audit and Risk Report, reflecting the hard work done by the office team, headed up by Ms Harvey, who also gained her Level 5 Diploma in School Business Management (DSBM) this year.

Parent Forum

From September, we will be launching a Parent Forum where you will be able to come in to school and meet informally with the Senior Leadership Team, including members of the Governing Board. Our aim is that this will enhance communication between parents/carers and staff/governors, providing an opportunity for us to share ideas and where you can give us your views, raise any concerns and make suggestions for improvement. We will send more information on this early in the new term.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a very happy and relaxing Summer Holiday and wish all our Leavers the very best for the next stage of their education, at whichever school they are moving on to. I hope that they will remember their time at Houghton Conquest Lower School with happiness.

Best Regards,



Dr Sue Burton
Chair of Governors

