

High Street  
Houghton Conquest  
Bedfordshire MK45 3LL

**Telephone:** 01234 740202  
**Email:** [hconquest@hcschool.org.uk](mailto:hconquest@hcschool.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.hcschool.org.uk](http://www.hcschool.org.uk)



**Houghton Conquest**  
Lower School  
Growing together

**Headteacher**  
Miss C A McCarthy

Value of the month: Patience

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Re: Keeping in touch!**

I hope you are all staying safe and looking after each other. We all miss you very much and hope that we will all be back together again soon; and I will endeavour to inform you when this may be, as and when I receive information from the government. I currently **do not** have a return date to school.

Before we break up for Easter, I just wanted to write to you to 'keep in touch' and share a few more pieces of information.

This week, the children at school have added to our 'window of hope' by creating a golden sunshine next to their colourful rainbow.

We hope you have enjoyed learning from home over the last couple of weeks and have managed to experience some alternative ways to learn. We are approaching the Easter holidays, and I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that there is no expectation for children to complete learning activities over the Easter period (w/c 6<sup>th</sup> April and w/c 13<sup>th</sup> April); however, I completely understand if you choose to continue with a variety of activities to keep a routine in place. Do also take this opportunity to spend quality time with your loved ones.



Houghton Conquest Lower School will remain open during the Easter holidays, excluding the bank holidays; our wonderful staffing team are going the extra mile to provide care for those children of critical workers and those children who need additional support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staffing team again for their continued efforts and dedication during this time. With this in mind, class teachers may not respond as frequently to your emails over the Easter period, as I am sure they too will be spending some quality time with their loved ones.

### **Future Home Learning**

Home learning has been a new adjustment for many families in the country. As a school we are committed to supporting our families with new ways to continue learning at home, whilst also wishing not to provide any undue pressure to our children during this complicated and difficult time.



**New home learning resources** will be provided after the Easter holidays, and a communication will be sent out on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April to inform you about these. Class teachers are working hard to ensure the work provided is suitable, as well as, developing essential life skills and supporting families to complete daily tasks.

I would like to reiterate we do not expect parents and guardians to become teachers, or for formal lessons to take place at particular times of each day. Teaching is a profession for which our team have trained and developed experience over a number of years. As a team we will ensure we adapt to our pupil's educational needs on their return to school, reflecting this within the curriculum.

I would also like to thank you for continued support of your child's learning, offering them brand-new learning experiences they can forever hold onto. We realise how demanding this is for parents and really appreciate all your efforts.

With your permission, we would love to be able to share what the children are getting up to at home with their learning on our website's news feed. Please feel free to send pictures of what your children are getting up to, to your class email address.

### **Free School Meals**

We are continuing to provide a Free School Meals (FSM), as a daily packed lunch for collection during the Easter period for those who are entitled to FSM (*excludes universal infant free school meals*). If the school is still closed from the 20<sup>th</sup> April, we will be providing the FSM as a weekly hamper for collection on a Monday.

With the ever-changing situation unfolding, it is important to highlight this facility to our community once more. If your family circumstances change due to factors beyond your control and your family is now in receipt of one of the benefits listed on the webpage below, then your child may now be entitled to the Free School Meal.

If you feel your family does need this support and you qualify for the facility, then please follow this link: [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/4/free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/4/free_school_meals)

At times of change as drastic as these, it is important to reach out for help where you can. This system is a 'safety net' for our families that ensure children can be kept healthy and families can be supported through difficult times. Accessing help when it is needed is a real sign of strength and determination to ensure the wellbeing of your family.

Please do contact us if you need any more guidance or support with this or any other related matter. If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call 0300 300 8306.

When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- Dates of birth for your children
- If you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

### A note from your class teacher

Hello Robins,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe. I miss all your cheeky smiles and talking to you about the fun things you get up to. Keep having fun and learning new things and I'd love to hear about your adventures. I'm keeping myself busy too and am enjoying going for long walks in the beautiful weather we have had. Hoping to see you all very soon! From, Miss Heaslip

Dear Doves,

I hope you are enjoying all of your time with your families and have been doing lots of wonderful work. I would love to hear from you and learn what you've been up to. Please feel free to email me photographs, maybe you could even have a go at writing an email yourself! I miss seeing you every day so would love to hear from you. I have been busy looking after my new puppy,

Monty, and taking him on lots of walks. I cannot wait to see your photographs. I know that we are going to have so much fun when we are back at school! From, Miss Mitchell

Hi Owls,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Please feel free to email, I would love to hear what you have been up to. I have been keeping busy and have been running every day. School hasn't been the same without you all here. I hope you are enjoying being with your families. Stay safe and I will see you soon. From, Mr Hetherington

Hi Falcons!

I hope you are all having fun at home with your families and taking care of yourselves. I can't wait to hear what you've been up to! Please do feel free to send any photographs of activities you're doing or work you are proud of. I have been going out for walks every day and trying to keep active. I look forward to hearing about your activities and seeing some photos!

From, Mr Birchall

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is and will always remain a priority for us. If you have anything you wish to discuss, please contact the school line on 01234 740202 or email the [office@hcschool.org.uk](mailto:office@hcschool.org.uk) and Miss Heaslip will get in touch with you as soon as possible.

To make an immediate referral use the access and referral hub: **0300 300 8585**

Again, I would like to thank you all for your continued support during this time. I hope you have a lovely (if different) Easter holiday at home together and can enjoy the extra family time.

I will be in touch again after the break. Stay safe, keep well and take good care.

Yours sincerely



Miss J Heaslip

**Acting Headteacher**