
Welcome Back to Houghton Conquest Lower School

7th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to everyone and a big welcome to all our new children and parents. We are very excited about the year ahead. It is great to see all the children and staff settling back into school; the school already has a lively and engaging feel and the children are certainly enjoying getting to know their new teachers and classmates. It was also fantastic to see so many children looking smart in their school uniforms; it really helps them to feel part of the Houghton Conquest school family.

Staffing

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a new member of staff to Houghton Conquest Lower School this year. In our Year 2 class (Owls), Mrs Blake will be supporting the teaching and learning each Thursday and Friday, whilst I further conduct headship duties. Mrs Blake and I will be working closely together, to utilise our best qualities to provide Owls class with an enriching educational experience. We are very pleased she has joined our team, as Mrs Blake truly brings a wealth of experience.

Following on, we are delighted to announce that over the summer holidays Ms Harvey got married and will now be known as Mrs Allen. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Allen.

Learning

All the teachers have been busy creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere in each of their classrooms, alongside following the government guidelines. This year we will be working hard to build resilient learners and will be ensuring pupil wellbeing is at the heart of our teaching, as academic achievement will only take place when our children feel safe and happy in our learning environment. Once we have fostered an environment where every child's mental health and wellbeing is supported, we will prioritise our curriculum which will identify gaps in our children's learning, enabling class teachers to set goals going forward. We will also continue to dive deeper into evaluating and enhancing our curriculum we have to offer, as we always strive to improve.

Uniform

The strong community ethos of the school is reinforced by the school uniform we ask the children to wear. We take pride in the children representing our school by dressing in the correct attire. All children must wear regulation uniform and PE kit, some of which needs to be purchased from our school shop via our partner company Prestige Design and Workwear Ltd. Uniform can be ordered either on-line via their website or by visiting their store.

Our essential school uniform is as follows:

- Sweatshirt/cardigan or knitted cardigan/sweater **with** school logo (maroon)
- White polo shirt, **with** school logo. *We have noticed that over time children are not wearing the correct school polo shirt. Please note that with effect from September 2021 this will again become a compulsory uniform item. Please bear this in mind when you replace school uniform over the coming year.*

- PE kit with plimsolls/trainers (white t-shirt **with** school logo/maroon shorts & nylon PE bag)
- Black school shoes (shoes should enclose the foot, have a strap around the ankle, a t-bar or be Velcro/lace-ups, to ensure the shoe remains securely on the foot)
- Grey or black skirt/trousers or pinafore dress (during the summer months children can wear shorts or a red gingham dress).

Further information can be found on our school website, under the 'Parents' tab. Many thanks for your ongoing support with this.

Please also ensure that your child has their water bottle with them every day and that they have a coat with them as they do go out to play in all weathers.

Autumn Term Dates

We will be sending out information regarding Autumn term events in the near future. Our usual Autumn term events consist of our annual 'Information Evening' and parents' evenings. These dates will be released in due course; I am sure you can appreciate due to the current circumstances, additional planning and risk assessing are required before we confirm any arrangements.

Contacting the school

Please remember that we are here to help, and our office staff are on hand to sort out any issues or answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need to. Our dedicated office number is 01234 740202 and email address is office@hcschool.org.uk.

- If your child is going to be absent from school or late please remember to contact the school each morning by phone or email.
- If someone other than a parent is collecting your child please ensure you let us know in advance. Forms are available in the school office if this is a regular arrangement.

I will always make time to talk with parents, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any issues or ask questions.

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support. I look forward to seeing what the new term brings us all.

Take care.

Yours sincerely



Miss J Heaslip
Acting Headteacher