
Welcome Back to Houghton Conquest Lower School

14th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

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.

Senior Leadership Team

Our school's vision and development are driven forwards by the Senior Leadership team. I would like to welcome two new members, joining myself and Mrs Allen, to the senior leadership team; Mrs Blake and Mr Hetherington will be joining the team to support the ongoing work the school strives to achieve. They are passionate practitioners, who will be responsible for leading and delivering the curriculum for their key stage and further support the strategic vision of our school.

Learning

All of the children have jumped straight in to some exciting learning activities. In Robins, they have been busy learning their new routines and have been building strong friendships. In Doves, they have been exploring different emotions and expressing feelings through writing and art. In Owls they have been busy thinking about what they want to achieve this year and how they plan to do that, whilst also diving deep into their new topic 'Splish, Splash, Splosh'. In Hawks the children have been starting to learn about their topic Ancient Egyptians and have created an Egyptian mask using pastels. Finally in Eagles they have been busy learning about their new topic World War II and are beginning to learn about the Blitz.

This year we will continue to work 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. We will also be working hard this year to allow our children to experience some exciting and stimulating enrichment activities, which they have dearly missed in the recent years.

Dates for the dairies

Virtual Class Information Meetings: Wednesday, 22nd September

This will provide you with an opportunity to learn all about your child's new class, providing you with valuable information about the year ahead. The meetings will take place as follows:

- Pre-School – 6pm
- Robins – 6:20pm
- Doves (Y1) and Owls (Y2) – 7pm
- Hawks (Y3) and Eagles (Y4) – 6:40pm

Prior to the event you will receive a meeting request from your child's teacher inviting you to the virtual meeting.

Autumn Term Parent Consultations: 19th and 21st October 2021

This provides you with an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher on a 1-1 basis to see how your child has settled into the new academic year and to gain an understanding of your child's attainment levels.

We very much hope that we can hold these on the school premises once again this year; however this will be reviewed nearer the time. Information on how to book will be shared with you in the lead up to the event.

Open Afternoon events for children starting school in September 2022

We are holding two open afternoons for families who have children starting school in September 2022. They will take place on **Tuesday, 5th October** and **Monday, 8th November** between 3.30pm and 5pm (tours at 3.30pm, 4pm and 4.30pm).

This will be an informal opportunity to look around the school, ask questions and meet members of the team. Given the Covid-19 pandemic, we are currently unable to offer tours during the school day to help keep our pupils and staff, as well as our visitors safe. Visitors will be required to book place in advance so we can manage the number of people on our site at any one time. If you would like to attend or require further information please email us at office@hcschool.org.uk.

Harvest

This year we will be celebrating harvest in school in a number of ways.

- We will be holding a special harvest assembly in school for all our children on Thursday, 7th October. Unfortunately as COVID case numbers continue to be high in Central Bedfordshire we have taken the difficult decision not to invite parents into school for this event.
- Leading up to the 7th October the children will be participating in team afternoons, where they will have an opportunity to work collaboratively with other members of the school family to build a scarecrow which will be displayed on the school playground together with their harvest art and crafts for parents to see when they collect their child at the end of the school day.
- Once again we will be supporting the 'Need Project' in Central Bedfordshire, by helping to supply them with food donations for their foodbank. We will, from **Friday, 1st October until Thursday, 7th October**, be placing a box outside the green gate where we would welcome your support in donating items for the project.

Items they request need to be non-perishable for example

- ✓ Tinned goods e.g. vegetables, meat, fruit, custard, rice pudding, soup
- ✓ Jars e.g. pasta sauces, jam, curry sauces
- ✓ Packet e.g. tea, coffee, biscuits (with good sell by dates on), rice, soup

We appreciate and thank any form of donation, as every little contribution will go a long way in supporting those in need in our local area.

Keeping everyone safe

We ask all visitors to be very mindful of how they can keep themselves and others safe during any visit to the school. Hand sanitiser is always available, and we ask, in line with guidance we have received from Central Bedfordshire Council, that where possible, visitors

wear face masks whilst moving around the school buildings and ask that adults and young people aged 11 and over undertake a LFD test prior to attending an event at school. We do ask that you keep as much distance from individuals where possible to support reducing the ongoing transmission rates.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Heaslip". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miss J Heaslip
Headteacher