

Houghton Primary School

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Headteacher: Georgina Young, B.Ed, M.Ed, NPQH

Deputy Head: Frances Smith, B.Ed

School Business Manager: Sue Jordan

School Administrator: Glynis Armstrong



Working hard to achieve our best

10th February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy half term in school. I thought I'd put together a photographic review of the term so far.



The term kicked off with the news that the Houghton and Wyton Timebank team had taken the winning logo designs created by our children and used them to make their new official logo. We think it looks amazing and are very proud to have helped with the design.



In the same week we were presented with the GOLD Award for the national School Games Mark 2015-16. The Award was presented to us in assembly by Sue Ager from the Hunts Schools Sports Partnership. Another very proud moment for our children and staff.



I began a weekly session for girls in Key Stage 2 focusing on positive friendships. The girls have met with me for 5 sessions so far. They have worked in lots of different groupings to discuss ideas, play games and think about how actions can impact on others. We will be continuing after half term.

Last term the school raised £1,880 for the British Heart Foundation in the sponsored Jump Rope Skipping event. The BHF were so pleased with our efforts that they sent some special jump ropes with electronic counters in the handles for all the children who raised over £50 in sponsorship in recognition of their fund-raising for the charity. We presented the special ropes in an assembly.





This term we have introduced a Certificate of Achievement Award which is presented every Friday to children who have achieved something particularly special in their work and learning during the week.



And as part of a focus on 'taking pride' we introduced a new 'Tidiest Cloakroom' Award which has resulted in incredibly tidy cloakrooms everyday!



Our Football teams go from strength to strength. After 2 exciting tournaments this half term we are now through to the regional finals in the Eastern Schools Football Association Cup competition. We are so proud of the team and grateful to the coaches; Mr Johnson, Mrs Taggart and Mr Dean.



Proudly showing off our new 'Houghton' kit.



We continue to engage in as much PE and sport as we can. Hunts Schools Sports Partnership came and led a team building afternoon with children in Kestrels' Class. We enjoy mixing the children up into their House teams for our regular sports afternoons. The focus was on team work and problem solving.



A focus on Reading in Key Stage Two is paying dividends. The current average DAILY engaged reading times for each class is:

Owls	42 minutes
Kestrels	40 minutes
Eagles	47 minutes
Hawks	59 minutes

6 children have achieved 'millionaire readers' awards having read and quizzed on over a million words since September. Well done Caitlin, Evie B, Evie M, Henry, Joey and Ed. Amazing achievement!

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Being outdoors and active is really important... even when the weather makes everything wet and muddy. We started 'Welly Fridays' so that the children can play on the school field in this damp weather. Mrs Taggart has started a 'ball games' lunchtime session on the front playground.

The School Council is also using the school's 'cut' of the proceeds of the sponsored skip to order some new outdoor play equipment for each class.



60 parents and carers came to our 'Come and Try It' session, taking the opportunity to work alongside the children in their mathematics lessons and to find out a bit more about we teach mathematics in school.



The school was successful in their application for the 'Tesco Bags of Help' scheme, aiming to help raise more funds for our Tree House Classroom project. We are currently being represented in 8 stores around Cambridgeshire. The collection boxes are open until 25th of February.

Our fund raising efforts for the Tree House Classroom were boosted by a kind donation from Mick and Liz George.



We had an Open Afternoon last Friday. Thank you to everyone who contributed cakes and who made donations for refreshments. £159.89 was raised during the afternoon event.



And this week we held a 'Come and Try It' evening for parents of children in Years 5 and 6 to give them a 'hands on' opportunity to try the end of Key Stage 2 SATS papers. It helped us to share how we help the children to prepare for the tests within the context of a broad and rich curriculum.



The school is now closed for half term. It will also be closed on Monday 20th February for a staff Professional Development Day.

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 21st February... and to seeing the results of the Big Clear and progress towards the Tree House Classroom when we return to school.

Have a lovely half term.

Best wishes,

Georgina Young