

# Houghton Primary School Newsletter

Issue 7

Friday 9 December 2022

Our pupils have been involved in a whole array of exciting events and activities both in and out of the classroom over the last fortnight. Please read on for a roundup of our most recent news...

## School Council & Logo Competition

This week, our School Council met to discuss a competition for designing a Houghton Primary School logo. At present, the school does not have a single, identifiable logo and we would like our pupils to design something which will represent Houghton Primary on everything from letterheads to the school website.

The competition is open to all pupils and a winning entry will be chosen by the School Council in the New Year. Entries are open until Friday 6 January and should be completed on the template provided by school. These are available in class and I will ensure a digital copy is also sent out so you can print at home if you wish.

## School Development

During this week's staff meeting, teachers spent time collating their writing assessment data on to Insight, our new progress and attainment tracking system. Last week, subject leaders used the development time to monitor standards within each of their curriculum areas.

This Thursday, we held our half-termly Governing Body meeting and were joined by three new members of the committee. The meeting covered a review of all aspects of school development planning and allowed discussion around the Governing Body's reports from their recent monitoring visits. The next meeting will be held on February 2.

Our Year 1 children have had a wonderfully busy fortnight

## Busy Wrens

rehearsing for the upcoming Christmas performances and have completed some beautiful work in the classroom. It was a real pleasure to read some of the work they had produced about the Big Bad Wolf, they had so much fun exploring this story!

This week, the children were visited by Father Geoff who came to talk to them about the Christmas story. Father Geoff was thrilled when the children began an impromptu rendition of Little Donkey when he came into the classroom! Well done, Wrens!

## Year 6 Visit Hunstanton

On Thursday, Year 6 wrapped up warm and headed to Hunstanton to look at coastal defences, erosion and land use as part of their Norfolk Geography topic.



During the visit, they created sketches of the cliffs and sea defences and listed all the businesses they could see, deciding if they were seasonal and noting if they were open. It was a beautifully bright and crisp day and the fieldwork really helped to consolidate their geographical knowledge from the half term.

## Frosty Kingfishers



Our Kingfishers have also been out and about in the frosty weather this week. They spent time looking at ice and talked about melting and evaporating. The children were also using the weather forecast to explore positive and negative numbers.

## Salt Dough Topography

Our Year 4 children have been studying the Italian landscape and created these incredible topography maps from salt dough:



The maps included mountain ranges, land height and the major Italian cities.

## Owls Visit Flag Fen

Last week, Year 3 spent time at Flag Fen for a day of Stone Age Survival. They handled real and replica prehistoric artefacts and learnt some skills their prehistoric ancestors needed to survive. This included a hands-on wattle and daub activity which caused much amusement – the children also created some rock art using natural paints.



The class became experimental archaeologists, making a Bronze Age pot and sat around a fire in a Bronze Age Roundhouse to listen to a legend. A busy, enjoyable, full-on day where the children learnt lots!

## Try-A-New-Sport Club

This term, children from Years 2 - 6 have been trying a new sport each week in their after-school club. They have had fun and tried a variety of sports including archery, orienteering, volleyball, basketball, boccia, cup stacking and table tennis.

## Year 3/4 Futsal Competition

7 children represented Houghton in the HSSP Futsal Competition recently. The children showed great teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the tournament and were fabulous ambassadors for the school. Each match was fast paced and the children's confidence built over the afternoon. By the end of the afternoon, the team finished with two victories and two defeats. A super effort by all.

## Penalty Shootout

Our Y5/6 girls football team took part in a knock-out match in the Henson Cup recently with the game ending in a thrilling sudden-death penalty shootout which saw the Houghton team progress to the next round! Well done for holding your nerve, girls, you displayed a fabulous team spirit and made us all very proud!

## Diary Dates

**Robins Christmas Performance:** Tues 6 December

**Year 6 Trip to Hunstanton:** Thurs 8 December

**KS1 Christmas Performance:** Weds 14 & Fri 16 December

**FoHPS Disco:** Fri 16 December

**KS2 Carol Concert:** Mon 19 December

**Final day of Term:** Weds 21 December

**Inset Day (School Closed):** Weds 4 January

**School Reopens:** Thurs 5 January

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Andrew Spencer

Headteacher