



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

7<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff, Governors and Friends of New Hinksey,

Our art exhibition on Tuesday after school was a huge success. We had more visitors than ever and each class displayed an array of different art forms that were colourful, fun and of a high standard. Thanks you teachers, children and visitors. This event really demonstrated how well we deliver a broad, balanced, engaging and fascinating curriculum for all the children throughout the school.

**Sharing Assembly** – What a lovely sharing assembly by Year 2 this morning! They have learnt so much in fun and exciting ways and the great big willow and tissue butterflies were beautiful. Well done Year 2, Miss K and Sonia.

## **News from Classes:**

**Foundation Stage** – This week has been very much focussed on transitional activities. Elaine went to visit the new children coming from Lake Street Playgroup. We also had visits from the new ‘Duckling’ (Nursery) children. During this time the older Reception children had the opportunity to visit Mrs Nash in Year 1 to enjoy some creative activities. All the Reception children have also joined the KS1 children for their playtime. On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July Carl-Johann’s mother, Cathrin, has kindly offered to come in and some face painting with all the Foundation Stage children. If your child is allergic to face paints or you simply do not wish that your child in involved in this activity, please let one of the team know.

**Year 1** – Our trip to Boundary Brook Nature Park was the highlight of the week. Thanks to all the parents who were able to help on what felt like the hottest day ever! We enjoyed the pond dipping experience and managed to find frogs, newts, Ramshorn snails and leeches to name but a few of the fascinating creatures that landed in our nets. In maths we made pictograms and block graphs to show information such as our class pets or favourite fruit.

**Year 2** – We have been learning and using our 3 times table. We have been practising for our sharing assembly. We have been thinking about what seeds need to germinate and have various investigations going on in cupboards and fridges and on window sills. We have started sewing bookmarks, learning how to do cross stitch but not get cross!!

**Year 3** – We have been practising hard for our scene in The ‘Keymaster’ performance. In maths we have been learning how to solve complicated maths word problems. We have learnt about the progression between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age and the main changes. In art we have been preparing props and sketching Iron Age forts.

**Year 4** – Our trip to the Ashmolean was brilliant – we even handled artefacts that are 4000 years old! Into the future, we have been producing adverts for our invented gadgets. We also had a wonderful trip to The Playhouse where we watched ‘Children of the Night’. This is a modern day remake of Oliver Twist told through word, dance and live music and afforded the children an entertainingly educational experience.

**Year 5** – We had a great time at Oxford Spires Primary Science Day on Monday – we even used Bunsen burners for one of our investigations! We enjoyed part 1 of our in class athletics competition on Tuesday in the park. We have been learning about drawing and interpreting information inline graphs in our maths lessons. Some of the class (along with some Year 4 and Year 6 children) went to a performance of ‘Children of the Night at the Oxford Playhouse. See the Year 4 news above for more news on this.

**Year 6** – It’s all about rehearsals, prop making, and secondary school transition days this week in Year 6! We have managed to squeeze in a bit of maths problem solving, art and science too. The children were given their SATs results, verbally on Tuesday. Whatever their results, I (Mrs Sumser) am very proud of them for all their hard work: many children exceeded expectations.

**After School Club and Wrap Around Bills** – the invoices for June were sent home earlier in the week via book bags and are also in ParentPay. The deadline for payment is Friday 14th July. Thank you.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Sports Day** – We will be in Hinksey Park with the children from Year 1 – 6 on Tuesday morning (11th) starting as close to **10am** as we can make it. We should be finished by about 11.30am. We will decide whether to have running races after the carousel of activities on the day depending on weather/heat conditions and on the timing. Please can every child have in school that day a PE kit, trainers, sun hat and plenty of water in a named bottle that they can carry around the activities. Spectators welcome.

**Foundation Day Sports on our playground on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 9.15am** – spectators welcome.

**Message from Parent Governors** - *Many thanks to the parents and teachers who gave up their time for the Q&A session last Tuesday. There was a relatively low turnout of parents, but this did not affect the conversation which included a wide range of questions and a stimulating discussion on the changes to classes from September.*

*The governors and teachers reassured parents that New Hinksey remains an attractive school due to its highly experienced teaching staff, the small community and its pastoral care. This won't change when we go to mixed year classes and, as pupil numbers currently stand, class sizes will remain under 30.*

*New Hinksey is fortunate to have very experienced teachers who have taught combined classes in the past, including at New Hinksey which had mixed classes until a few years ago. The children will still receive a broad and balanced curriculum which will be differentiated appropriately for each child in the school.*

*As many of the teachers noted, they already teach a mix of ability and ages in their classes; these changes mean that the range will be slightly widened. Many other local schools already teach in this way, therefore New Hinksey should not suffer by comparison with others.*

*Most parents were reassured by the response from the teachers to their questions. Where there are areas that parents still have concerns about they are continuing that discussion with the head teacher and governors. If you would like more detail on specific areas, or have any remaining queries, please do contact one of us so we can bring it up with the governing body, or speak with any teacher who will pass it on.*

*Many thanks*

*Harmonie Limb, Ollie Raikes, Olivia Selinger, James Webber,  
Parent Governors*

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Haynes

### **Dates for Diaries**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Sports day in Hinksey Park (morning) and reports due home at end of day**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Swap Around Morning (children spend time in their new classes)**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July – 2.20 to 2.45pm – meeting for parents of children moving from Reception to Year 1**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Key Stage 2 performance at 2pm in the school hall**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Key Stage 2 performance at 2pm in the school hall**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly at 9.15am** (parents please try to ensure every child has a guest in the audience to hear their speeches)

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July – End of Year day out at SOAP** (packed lunch needed by all children Reception – Year 6)

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – End of Term at 1pm**

Come and see Chase and Marshall on the 1st August 2017, Broad Street Oxford.

To celebrate kids go free\* with the Oxford Tube, the heroic pups will be making appearances at intervals throughout the day from 11.30am.

Come along and see your favourite PAW Patrol characters, as seen on Nick Jr. and explore one of our Oxford to London coaches. Pick up a children's activity pack and set of colouring pencils for your next trip to the capital on board the Oxford Tube.

\*Free travel is based on up to 2 children aged between 5 - 15 travelling with one fare-paying adult between Oxford and London. T&Cs apply, visit [oxfordtube.com](http://oxfordtube.com) for details.

