



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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

It has been good to get to the end of the first full week of school. The children are now all used to their new classes and new routines.

**Attendance** - Thank you to those families who have been punctual and here every day with children ready for learning. May we remind everyone that children are expected to attend school every day unless genuinely too ill to come to school or if waiting for a clear 24 hours after any diarrhoea or vomiting. Very occasionally there may be an exceptional circumstance when a short absence (half day or day) may be authorised, for example attendance at a funeral, hospital appointment or eye test. Holidays, days out, long weekends, hair-cuts, shopping trips and days off to recover from late nights and parties will not be authorised. Please do all that you can to ensure good attendance at school so that your children do not miss out on learning opportunities. It is a parental responsibility to inform the school of the reason why a child is absent. Please phone the school (not between 8.30am and 9am please) or email.

**This Term's Topic** – *Fabulous Forests* is up and running in Key Stage 1 and 2. Already many of the classes are being transformed with forest themed displays. If you think you have any resources or expertise in any of the areas outlined in the topic plans do mention it to the class teacher as we are always pleased to supplement the learning with talks, workshops and borrowing books and objects of interest.

## **News from Classes:**

**Foundation Stage (Ducklings and Robins)** – The new Robin and Ducklings classes have continued to become more settled and they are quickly learning our daily routines. All of the children in the Robin class are able to take home a book each day from our collection. We really encourage every Robin child to have a book bag to carry their books to and from school and they are also very useful for newsletters and other pieces of information going home. Book bags cost £4.50 each. If you have not yet bought a book bag please talk to Mrs Haynes or Tracey – we have bags in blue, red, green, yellow and purple.

**Finches** – Many thanks to all the parents who accompanied the Finches around the park and into the allotment to gather sticks, leaves and fir cones. Inspired by the book, 'Not a Stick', we used the sticks to imagine what else they might be and wrote a list of ideas and added descriptive words. Our other inspiring book this week has been 'Leaf Man' and we used our lovely leaves to create lots of different creatures as well as leaf men and leaf women!

**Owls** – We have started our guided reading and writing sessions and comparing 2-digit numbers in maths. We have been learning about plants in the rainforest in science and recreating them in dance. Our rainforest display is developing well.

**Doves** – We have begun to work hard on place value in maths lessons. In English we have completed woodland story endings and learnt about the 6 types of noun. In science we have investigated rainforests, temperate forests and boreal forests.

**Woodpeckers** – We have been enjoying the story of 'The Jungle Book' by Rudyard Kipling. We have been listening to the story and also watching parts of the film and discussing the differences. (The film is a PG rating with Ms Christensen acting in loco parentis). We have also been finding out about the animals that feature in the book, writing factfiles about them and drawing them.

**Kingfishers** – We kicked off our first full week by learning where temperate forests are located globally. For English we are listening to 'Sky Hawk' and examining the story's setting and characters. We have worked hard reading and ordering 5 and 6 digit numbers in maths and we have rehearsed French words for colours through fun games.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**School Website** – Our updated website is now live and contains lots of information about the school, photos and a virtual tour. Do take a look at [www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk). Googling New Hinksey Primary will also usually bring the website up as the first hit.

### **Reminders and Notices for the Start of the Year:**

- Children with long hair should have it tied back every day in school. Plaits, ponytails, bunches are all fine.
- Please make sure that children who wear earrings in school do not wear dangly or hooped earrings. If earrings have to be worn they should be the smallest, plain studs. Thank you.
- All children are expected to be on the playground in lines **ready to walk straight into class when the bell rings at 8.45am**. Children arriving at 8.30am should behave sensibly, quietly chatting to friends and not running around, shouting or playing games, until it is time to line up.
- The end of the day is 3pm and once you have collected your children we ask that you take responsibility for their behaviour and supervise them carefully. It is very busy both on the playground and on the pavements and road.

**Clubs** - In addition to the daily After School Club which the school runs, this term there will be the following clubs:

**Tuesdays (starting Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September) for 10 weeks 3 - 4.15pm Football Club** run by Club Energy sports coaches. There is a separate enrolment form for you to fill in and return to school along with the payment of £30 – cheques payable to Club Energy Sports. The form also has info on how to pay online or through PayPal. This club is open to children from **Year 1 to Year 6**.

**Wednesdays (starting Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September) for 10 weeks 3 – 4.15pm Art Club** run by Miss Kilpatrick (Year 2 teacher). This club is for children in **Year 3 and Year 4**. To sign up and secure a place, please see Miss Kilpatrick and pay £5 to cover the cost of materials. This club is limited to 12 places.

**Wednesdays (starting Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September) for 10 weeks 3 – 4pm Computer Club run by Mrs Nash**. This club is for children in **Year 1 and Year 2** and is limited to 15 children. Please sign up with Mrs Nash (Year 1 teacher).

Please come to the main playground gates promptly at the end of the clubs to collect your children – thank you.

**Parent Governor Vacancy** – Jasper Smith (parent of Theo, Cara and Luca) will be resigning from his parent governor post after the next governors’ meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. We will therefore have a parent governor vacancy and will need to hold an election. If you would like to nominate yourself for this role please send an email to [head.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk) stating that you would like to stand, by Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. If there is more than one candidate an election will be held. If you would like to find out more about the role of a governor please email our chair of governors, Harm Jan Fricke ([hjfricke@btinternet.com](mailto:hjfricke@btinternet.com)).

Have a happy weekend.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Haynes

### **Dates for Diaries (for this half of term)**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Open Afternoon 3 – 4pm. Please visit your children’s classes, tour the school and do bring along family, friends and neighbours.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September – School celebration of Harvest Festival in church at 9.15am. Parents welcome.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Photographer in school for individual pupil and sibling group photographs (school children only).

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Owl Class (Miss Kilpatrick) Sharing Assembly, 9.10am in the school hall. Parents welcome.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October – International Evening 6 – 7.30pm in the school hall

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Finch Class (Mrs Nash) Sharing Assembly, 9.10 in the school hall. Parents welcome.

Term finishes at 3pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October (After School Club as usual).

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October Half Term Holiday

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – School closed to all children for staff training

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Term starts again