



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

29<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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

What a busy week it has been in school! We have had visits from the NSPCC who led assemblies and workshops on 'Staying Safe', enjoyed a busy open afternoon, some classes have been out on a trip to The Living Rainforest, we have celebrated Harvest, had school photographs taken **and** fitted in lots of learning in the classrooms. Thank you to all those who came to the Harvest Service, for your harvest donations and for all the lovely comments and feedback.

**Year 6 Parents re. Applying for Secondary School** – You must complete an online application for your child's place at secondary school **by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**. Many of the schools have upcoming open days and evenings for you to go and look around to help you make your choices. New Hinksey cannot fill in the forms on your behalf and it is important that you do not miss the 31<sup>st</sup> October deadline. You can access the forms on the Oxfordshire County Council website (School Admissions – Common Application Form) or you can go onto the school website, use the 'links' tab at top of home page and then click on the link that says 'Oxfordshire LA'.

## **News from Classes:**

**Foundation Stage (Ducklings and Robins)** – On Friday last week Robins took part enthusiastically in a drama workshop with the theme 'Under the Sea'. This week we are all missing Elaine and hope she is better soon, but we are getting to know Wendy who is teaching us for a couple of weeks. Wendy is fun and smiley and we are learning lots of songs and rhymes. Some of us have visited the church this week and we got to lie on the carpet and look at all the stars on the ceiling. Ducklings have also been learning nursery rhymes and have loved reading Bobo stories – Bobo is a chimpanzee!

**Finches** – We have explored the 'good' and 'bad' characters in *Hansel and Gretel* and written about how they might look, feel and speak. In maths we have been finding and learning doubles up to double 5 as well as finding one or two more than a number. We also investigated our sense of hearing in science. We discovered some things that change how we hear a bell, including how close we are, background noise and looking for the sound. Our highlight this week was performing our song at the Harvest Festival in church.

**Owls** – Our class greatly enjoyed our trip to The Living Rainforest. We now really understand how humid and green a rainforest is! We loved seeing the toucan, the sting rays, the green snakes, the blue poison dart frogs, the huge black bird and beautiful turaco birds, the turtles and tortoises and the huge monitor lizard and the tiny mud skippers. We were fantastic at spotting plants and animals and joined in well on our tours, answering lots of questions.

**Doves** – We had a fabulous trip to the Living Rainforest near Newbury on Wednesday. We saw fascinating creatures such as blue poisonous dart frogs, water monitors, sloths and amazing armadillos. We saw which animals live in the different layers of the rainforest and learnt how they adapted to their surroundings. All the adults were very proud of the excellent behaviour shown by New Hinksey pupils.

**Woodpeckers** – In maths this week we have been using our improving knowledge of our times tables to work out fractions of amounts. We have also been working on time – analogue and digital clocks, timetables and word problems involving adding and subtracting a number of hours and minutes. In science we have been investigating light. We have started making periscopes and have used mirrors to see over the top of a chair while sitting behind it.

**Kingfishers** – We have learnt a lot about children's rights to safety with workshops from NSPCC staff on Monday. Our focus this week in English has been to write an interesting description and short piece of dialogue based on *Sky Hawk* that will be used to assess our writing skills. We have been following up the IMPs visit with some science work back in school, learning about how our hearts pump blood around our bodies and the effects of diet and exercise on our hearts.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Thankyou** – We would like to thank the family of Freya Leech for very generously buying us a new set of hockey equipment for PE lessons.

**After School Club** – If you wish to contact ASC whilst it is in session (3pm – 5.30pm) please use the After School Club mobile number which is: **07716865789**. Thank you.

**Parent Governor Vacancy** – It is not too late to put yourself forward for the vacant position of parent governor. Please send an email to [head.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk) or come and talk to me if you are interested. 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)) or phone him on 07969931077.

**Bollywood Dance Class** – If there is enough interest, there could be a Bollywood dance class for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children run by Mrs Narinder Thapar. It would be on Thursdays after school, 3.05pm – 4.05pm, starting on 5<sup>th</sup> October. The cost is £5.00 per lesson including refreshments. **Payment to be per term by cash or cheque direct to Narinder. Please contact Narinder directly for enquiries or to sign up: [narinder.thapar@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:narinder.thapar@tiscali.co.uk)**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LUNCHES NEXT WEEK** – On Thursday there is a school census which collects lots of data that the government and local authority use to allocate funding to schools. Some funding is based on the uptake of school meals especially those that are Free School Meals and those that are free to all reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. We want as many children as possible to take up their school meal on Thursday and therefore we will be serving **FISH AND CHIPS on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October** (as this is the most popular meal). On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> we will serve the pasta bolognese and vegetarian pasta that would normally be on the menu on Thursday. Please help us gain as much funding as possible for our school and get your children having school lunch/fish and chips on Thursday.

**School Photographs** – Your child should have brought home a photo envelope with proof and instructions about ordering. If you would like to order photos please return the filled in order form in the envelope, with one of the specified payment methods, to school by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Please note that we send the orders off so the money should be exact as we cannot give change.

**Nasal Flu Immunisations** – These will be administered to Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 children by a team of nurses on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October. It is extremely important that you fill in the form that came home this week and **return it to us as soon as possible. The forms are being collected from us on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** to be processed correctly by the NHS.

Have a happy weekend.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Haynes

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

Friday 13<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

***Fireworks 2017*** - Planning for this year's South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP)/Lake Street Playgroup Fireworks extravaganza is well under way. It will be on Sunday 5th November at SOAP and we aim to sell 750 tickets. We need volunteers to help us run it safely. If you can help to set up before the event; with stewarding on the night; or clearing up after the event please contact Megan at [hiresoap@gmail.com](mailto:hiresoap@gmail.com). Full training/briefing provided. Profits from the event are split 50/50 between SOAP and Playgroup. Thanks and hope to hear from you!