



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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8th September 2017

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

Welcome back to the new school year. It is lovely to see everyone again and to welcome new families to our school community. It has been a very smooth start of term. The school library now has three new shelving units which are housing all the wonderful books purchased from the sponsored read money and the old Year 3 classroom, now called 'The Nest', has been rearranged to become an additional group teaching space as well as providing a central place for all the guided reading books that the teachers use with each group in their classes.

We are enjoying our new class names – here is a reminder: Ducklings (nursery), Robins (reception), Finches (year 1), Owls (year 2), Doves (year 3 and 4), Woodpeckers (year 4 and 5), Kingfishers (year 5 and 6).

Thank you – We would like to thank the School Association for financially supporting us in purchasing some new equipment – book cases for the library, visualisers (gadgets for projecting books and children's work onto the interactive whiteboards) for each class and a couple of school cameras.

This Term's Topic – *Fabulous Forests* is the whole school theme for this term and over the term the class news each week will give you a flavour of the learning going on. With this newsletter you will also be receiving a topic plan for each class which we hope you find useful. If you think you have any resources or expertise in any of the areas mentioned 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) – Welcome to all our new families! All the children have had a very calm and happy first day at school. They are beginning to become familiar with the daily routines of school life and they are also learning everybody's names through songs and games. 'Settling in' will feature heavily in this term's planning and learning as we all begin to bond as a group.

Finches – We have all been enjoying getting to know each other and settling into our new Finch class. Our role play area has transformed into a forest and we are busy brainstorming lots of good ideas for the topic. Please can you bring in a photograph of your child as a baby or toddler for our science learning next week.

Owls – We have started the year with great enthusiasm writing about our holiday and finding 2d and 3d shapes, numbers and parallel lines in the playground. We have started to create our rainforest display.

Doves – The children have settled in brilliantly and have begun to get to know each other and welcome new pupils. We have found out interesting facts about doves, interviewed our classmates and drawn and cut out silhouettes of each other's profile.

Woodpeckers – The children have settled in well to their new class. They have enjoyed illustrating their ideas of 'fabulous forests' on a large letter (F, A, B etc.) for display.

Kingfishers – We have had a very positive start to the term and the class has bonded well as a group. The children have started their Fabulous Forests topic by discussing different forest habitats. We have also drawn and painted some beautiful kingfisher pictures and played problem solving and logic games in maths.

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. Googling New Hinksey Primary will also usually bring the website up as the first hit.

Parents are welcome in our school

Reminders and Notices for the Start of the Year:

- 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.
- **Lunches now cost £2.20 per meal** and children in nursery, years 3, 4, 5 and 6 need to pay for these using ParentPay (unless entitled to Free School Meals). You can also view the menu and book your choice of meal in advance which is very helpful, but please make sure your children know what has been booked for their lunch. ParentPay accounts should be kept in credit so that debts do not occur. **If your child has recently moved up to Year 3 please remember that your child is no longer entitled to the free lunches that the government provides for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. Therefore you must pay for lunches using ParentPay.**
- 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.
- We strongly urge all parents to park away from the school gates and especially not to park on the double yellow lines near the corner of Vicarage Lane, nor in the area opposite the school front railings. Please park further down the road or in Wytham Street and walk the last little bit so that the area around school is safer.
- All children from Year 1 to Year 6 must have a named water bottle in school each day.
- We are very sorry but due to the delayed replacement of the office photocopier/printer we have not been able to generate the new ParentPay login and instruction letters this week. Please bear with us.

South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP) – The SOAP Community Fun Day is taking place this Sunday, 10th September from 12noon till 3.30pm. Bring along a picnic rug – there will be a BBQ, cake stand and many fun activities for all the family.

After School Club and Wraparound Bills – If you used either facility in July please make sure that the bills have been paid via ParentPay. Paper copies of the invoices for ASC should have come home via books bags this week and Wraparound bills were sent home at the end of last term. Thank you.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries (for this half of term)

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

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

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

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

Friday 13th October – International Evening 6 – 7.30pm in the school hall

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

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

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October Half Term Holiday

Monday 30th October – School closed to all children for staff training

Tuesday 31st October – Term starts again