



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

13th October 2017

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

It has been a great week in school – the highlight being the African Dance day on Thursday when many parents were lucky enough to see the last few minutes as we took advantage of the sunny weather and moved to the playground for the end of day showing of each class's dance. We also loved the first sharing assembly of the autumn term by Owls class who enthralled us with their rainforest learning.

Homework – On Monday I talked to all the children in Key Stage 1 and 2 about homework. It is a Department of Education and Ofsted requirement that homework is set and it is good for the children to gradually build up their ability to focus on learning at home so that when they get to secondary school it is not such a big shock. We always give children almost a week to complete homework tasks whereas in Year 7 there will sometimes be homework which has to be handed in the next day. I explained this to the children and asked them all just to get on and get it done at home without fussing or complaining or giving their parents a hard time! I hope that this will be helpful.

After School Club and Wraparound Bills – The invoices for September were sent home via books bags last week and are also in ParentPay. These bills are due today so please ensure you pay them over the weekend to ensure your children can continue to use these facilities – many thanks.

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings and Robins) – We have been continuing our autumnal/harvest theme by learning about different types of fruit and vegetables. The Ducklings have also been learning about all of the different colours in the rainbow. During our snack times the children are provided with fruit and milk from central government funding. However, we rely on parental donations for the children's daily biscuit. As supplies are now running low, we would like to ask for more donations of plain biscuits. Thank you. Elaine would also like to thank the parents for their kind support during her recent illness.

Finches – We have enjoyed a multi-sensory voyage around India this week! Look out for our Mehndi designs, Indian music interpretations and coloured flags at the International Evening. In maths we have been reading and writing numbers in figures and words and estimating different amounts. Our highlight has been the wonderful dancing workshop!

Owls – We have been practising for our sharing assembly on our rainforest topic. We have each made beautiful hummingbird mobiles to enjoy at home after our assembly. In maths we have been comparing numbers and learning to use the greater than (>) and less than (<) symbols.

Doves – In maths we have worked hard to learn about the properties of a wide range of 3D shapes. We have learnt the names of new shapes such as ovoids and hexagonal prisms. We have also worked hard to re-draft our imaginative rainforest stories and to add in paragraphing and inverted commas. Next week we are going to cook some rainforest recipes – please can you send in 50p to contribute towards the ingredients. Thank you.

Woodpeckers – We had a fabulous time learning the African dance at the workshop. As part of International Week we have enjoyed finding out about some of the differences between our school day and school days in other countries. In our English lessons we have written a comparison between the film and the book of 'The Jungle Book' using a variety of connectives.

Kingfishers – We have designed our tree embroidery – ready to start sewing next week. We are working on our comprehension skills in English and on simplifying fractions in maths. Some of the class visited the allotment to collect the end of year produce – some beautiful, rough skinned pumpkins, courgettes and beetroot. We threw ourselves into the African dancing with gusto and some of us were very complimentary about the dancing abilities of the staff!!

Parents are welcome in our school

Year 6 Parents re. Applying for Secondary School – You must complete an online application for your child's place at secondary school **by 31st October 2017**. 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'.

Grow Your Tenner - Localgiving are running a match-funding campaign starting NEXT WEEK from TUESDAY 17th OCTOBER. This means that any donations of up to £10 that you make to New Hinksey School Association through Localgiving from 10am on this date are doubled. If you add gift aid too, a £10 donation from you will raise £22.50 for the children! You can donate more than £10 if you'd like to, and donating it in separate £10 installments will ensure that each £10 you donate is doubled free of charge. Please, please consider donating and help us make our money go further at no extra cost to any of us. There is also the option of setting up a monthly direct debit whereby six monthly installments will be match funded (after the first 6 months). Search Localgiving.org for "New Hinksey School Association". The School Association funds resources and activities which benefit every child in the school. Many thanks.

New Hinksey School Association - our AGM will be on Wednesday 18th October, 6.15pm in school. Please join us for drinks and nibbles and find out more about your school association. No obligation to get involved - we always welcome new faces and ideas!

Arriving Late in the Morning – Please can we remind you that the bell rings at 8.45am each day and classes lead in straight away after that. If you arrive at the school gate after the lines have led into class you are a bit late and we ask that parents say goodbye at the main gate and that children then quickly go into class independently and quietly.

Picking Up at 3pm – As it is getting very crowded in the little back playground we ask that only parents picking up children from Finches (Yr 1) or Owls (Yr 2) wait there. All KS 2 children will be asked to go straight through onto the big, main playground where they can be collected after their younger siblings have been picked up.

Hope to see lots of you tonight for International Evening (6pm).

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries (for this half of term)

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

South Oxford Adventure Playgroup and Lake Street Playgroup present: Family Fireworks and Bonfire Night
Family-friendly fireworks display and bonfire. BBQ, bar, hot chocolate, glow toys, Gates: 5pm. Bonfire: 6pm.
Fireworks 6.30pm. Tickets £3 children and £6 adults. Available from Monday 16 October from Caroline Bushell (mum of Edie in Kingfishers and Katie in Owls).