



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

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

Well we have reached December and so the Christmas excitement is building up and as I go around school I often overhear festive songs being practised and children talking about their nativity performance characters.

**Paid School Lunches** – Every day of the week there are between 23 and 30 people in debt for school lunches. Please make sure that you have credit in your ParentPay accounts before booking your children in for lunches. We clearly cannot continue to have over £50 of debt to chase daily so will not be able to provide lunches for those children who have no credit and will have to ask you to send in a packed lunch. Please help us to ensure the provision of lunches runs smoothly by taking responsibility for checking your ParentPay accounts and keeping them debt free. Thanks.

**Assemblies** – We have had two singing assemblies this week and Father James started the series of advent themed assemblies on Thursday. Thank you to Kingfishers for their interesting and informative sharing assembly – what a lot of learning has been going on in your classroom.

## **News from Classes:**

**Foundation Stage (Ducklings and Robins)** – We tried to hold it off for as long as possible but Christmas has arrived in the Foundation Stage! The children are very enthusiastic about the songs they are learning for our Nativity play, with some reports of them even singing in the bathroom! Many thanks to the parents who have offered to revamp our dolls' house, and also many thanks for the generous donations of biscuits for the children's snack.

**Finches** – We are all getting better at knowing our next steps and responding to pink, green and yellow marking in our writing books. We are proud of the progress we have made since September. In maths we have enjoyed recognising and counting coins and look forward to setting up a Christmas Post Office in our role play area next week. Our animals with moving parts are developing in D.T. and we hope to finish them soon. We have also finished learning all the songs for our Christmas performance – more practice will make perfect!

**Owls** – We have started learning the story of *The Apple Tree Man* in English. In maths we have been counting, and jumping along a number line, in 2s, 5s and 10s spotting patterns and investigating which numbers appear in more than one of the times tables. We have been practising our acting and singing for our nativity play and trying on costumes.

**Doves** – We have enjoyed learning about Boudicca's revolution in our topic work. We found out that she was only 31 when she died. We also had great educational fun in our science this week. Thank you to Anna (Edith's mum) who taught us about the digestive system in a very entertaining way. We enjoyed learning about our teeth too – the different types and functions and about dental hygiene.

**Woodpeckers** – We have worked hard this week to finish our PowerPoint presentations entitled 'Fabulous Forests'. Please send your child in with a memory stick if you would like to see the fruits of their labours! The first group of children have made their Christmas biscuits which they really loved doing. We have also enjoyed making a class Advent calendar and decorating our classroom.

**Kingfishers** – We are looking forward to our sharing assembly and have been practising what we will show. In English we have been exploring the 5Ws in newspaper report writing and in maths we have been practising finding equivalent fractions to help add and subtract fractions. Our own advent calendar is now ready and in use from today!

**Clubs News** – **Football club** has now **FINISHED** for the term. **Art club** has now **FINISHED** for the term.

**Computer club** for years 1 and 2 will have the **last session** next week **on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**.

**Bollywood Dance** club will continue with sessions on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December. Parents of the children who do the Bollywood dance with Narinder are invited to join us in school on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am to watch the children perform the dance they have learnt.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Christmas Bazaar - Friday 8th December 3 - 4.30pm** - With only 1 week to go, we are selling raffle tickets in the playground each drop off and pick up time. Thanks so much to those of you who have already started selling tickets to friends, family, colleagues and neighbours. Please return money and stubs, to the ticket sellers in the playground as soon as possible. Bake Off entry tickets are also being sold on the playground and information notices about the Bake Off were sent home with each child this week. Check out the New Hinksey School Association facebook page for details or email [beccabolam@hotmail.com](mailto:beccabolam@hotmail.com) if you are able to help on the day or with preparations and have not yet come forward. Thank you.

**Nursery Parents Applying for Primary School Place** – You must complete an online application for your child's place at primary school **by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 if your child was born between 1.9.13 and 31.8.14**. You can access the forms on the Oxfordshire County Council website (School Admissions – Common Application Form). **If your child is already in our nursery (ducklings) you still must apply for a primary school place at this school.**

**30 Hours Childcare Eligibility for Nursery Children** – Parents who already have an eligibility code are reminded to reconfirm their eligibility for 30 hours every 3 months. Therefore reconfirmation must take place before 31<sup>st</sup> December to secure the continued funding for the spring term.

Parents/carers who think that they might now be eligible for the spring term (January start) are strongly advised to apply as soon as possible, by 30<sup>th</sup> November, to make sure you get your code in time for the term starting in January. For more information go to: [www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs](http://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs).

**Cake Sale** – last week's cake sale raised £82 for PTA funds. Thank you to all who baked, helped and bought goodies on the day.

**Christmas Lunch** – Please note that **Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**, so there will not be a roast on the Wednesday that week (13<sup>th</sup> Dec). All lunches including the Christmas lunch must be paid for **in advance** using ParentPay – children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 do not have to pay but please do pre book on line. **We will not be providing Christmas lunch for children who have not paid in advance or who have outstanding lunch debts.** All Christmas lunches must be pre booked **by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December** please.

To book Christmas Lunch:

- Log into ParentPay
- Go to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December
- Choose or tick the meat option (beef bolognese) for the Turkey Christmas meal
- Choose or tick the vegetarian bolognese option for the Vegetarian Christmas meal

**After School Club and Wraparound Bills** – the bills for November are due for payment by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Please note that if you anticipate any changes in your After School Club booking requirements for January it is vital you make contact with Tracey as soon as possible as there are already fully booked days.

**Staffing News** – Mrs Louise Sumser (deputy head and classteacher) will be leaving us at Christmas to take up a new post at another primary school. She has been a member of staff here for 11 years and will be greatly missed. We are well on the way with the process to recruit a teacher for Thursday and Friday for the Kingfisher Class until the end of the Summer term, and will be interviewing on Monday. I will update you further next week.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

**Dates for Diaries (for next half of term)**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Bazaar from 3pm – 4.30pm

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – 2pm KS1 Nativity Performance

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – 9.30am Foundation Stage Nativity to parents

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – 2pm KS1 Nativity Performance

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch and festive visitor ho, ho, ho!

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – 2.15pm – Christingle Service in Church

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – 1.00pm – Term Ends**

Christmas Holiday – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – Term 2 starts at 8.45am**