



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

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

Welcome back to school after the half term holiday. We hope everyone is feeling refreshed and that the children are getting over the excitement and sugar highs of trick or treating on Halloween night!

**Assemblies and Toilets!** – This week we have had a signing assembly, an assembly about All Souls and All Saints led by Father James and Father Ben, and this morning I had the pleasure of leading an assembly about ‘toilets and hygiene’! We have noticed that the toilets are not being used well with frequently unflushed toilets, paper and urine on the seats and floor and, despite constant reminders, unwashed hands. We would be very grateful if parents could also encourage their children to use the school toilets in a sensible and responsible manner as we are sure the children do at home. It would also be very helpful if parents with younger boys could practise using the toilet in a way that does not leave a lot of ‘wee’ on the toilet seat or in a puddle on the floor. Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this.

## **News from Classes:**

**Foundation Stage (Ducklings and Robins)** – In the Foundation Stage we have had a very happy and calm return after the holidays. The children have been enjoying creating pictures with shapes using a variety of media including chalks and gummed paper. In the Robins we have been practising going ‘up’ and ‘down’ in preparation for our handwriting sessions which will be starting soon. Please can we remind you that the children’s biscuit snack/treat is reliant on parental contributions. Many thanks to those who have already donated plain/dry biscuits to our supplies (digestive, rich tea, malted milk etc. are all ideal).

**Finches** – We have moved our learning on to non-fiction texts for the next few weeks. Our focus is wildlife in forests and we have been busy reading different information books and selecting key facts for sharing with the class. Did you know that a young hedgehog is called a hoglet? We have been spotting teen numbers in maths and explaining them using cubes, Numicon and coins. We also enjoyed meeting Miss Bamforth and Miss Sellicks, two student teachers who will be joining us on Thursdays for the next few weeks.

**Owls** – We have been learning about animals found in northern forests and woodlands. We planted some daffodil bulbs and helped prepare pelargoniums for winter! We have been talking about animals which hibernate and others which migrate. In maths we have been working on tens and units (ones) using equipment and coins. Lots of the class have been enjoying Blue Planet 2 as well as Halloween activities.

**Doves** – Doves have settled back in well after half term. We have begun to learn about the artist Henri Rousseau. We found out that although some of his well-known paintings are of jungle scenes, he had never set foot in a jungle and got his ideas from the botanical gardens in Paris. In maths we have worked hard on place value of numbers of up to 5 digits long.

**Woodpeckers** – We had fun this week making a short animation. We made forest animals from plasticine and using webcams we took lots of photos, each time moving our animals a little. We then used the ‘Jellycam’ software to create our short films. The results were very good indeed – Mrs Haynes was most impressed. In maths this week we have been getting to grips with fractions.

**Kingfishers** – We have been reading about the science and history of bionics and this led us onto a discussion about human robots in the future – is it a good or a bad thing? We have also made healthy Halloween treats which will be written up as homework. Multiplication has been the focus of our maths this week, with some children learning about ‘Russian multiplication’ and others focussing on different multiplication strategies.

**Cake Sale** - There will be an Owl class cake sale on Friday 10th November at 3pm to raise money for the school. Please bake or donate cakes and cookies if you can, and remember your pennies to buy at the end of the day. Anyone who could help on the day please talk to April (mum of Annie in Owl class and Sam in Ducklings).

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**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) 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'. If your child is already in our nursery (ducklings) you still must apply for a primary school place at this school.

### **School Lunches**

Please ensure that you have paid in advance for your child's school lunches. There are some meals that some children regularly do not enjoy so it may be worth sending in packed lunches on those days. We have tried the Sticky Barbecue Chicken and Sticky Barbeque Quorn twice but it has not been popular with the children. We have therefore decided to substitute Chicken Curry and Quorn Curry for those meals when they next occur (14 November and 5 December).

**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.

### **New Hinksey Christmas Bazaar - Friday 8th December 3 – 4.30pm.**

Please come to a planning meeting for the school Christmas bazaar. Monday 6th November, 8pm, Duke of Monmouth. If you have any ideas for the fair or are able to help out then please come along or let Becca Bolam know [beccabolam@hotmail.com](mailto:beccabolam@hotmail.com) (Tarn Y1 and Eva Y3).

**After School Club and Wraparound Bills** – The October invoices have come home this week via book bags and are also in ParentPay. Please make sure that the bills are paid by the deadline of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – thanks.

Have a lovely weekend and hope you all enjoy fireworks and bonfires safely.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

**Adult Help Needed** - Ever felt you needed to take more exercise? Ever felt annoyed at rubbish? Ever felt upset about plants growing in a place where you don't want them?

Your chance to do something about all three of these is this **Saturday (4th November) at 2.00 pm** at New Hinksey School (weather permitting).

The playgrounds, bike sheds and yards can do with a tidy up. So if you can help, then bring a broom, an empty rubbish bag, gardening gloves, secateurs, hand-fork and similar implements (pitch-forks, spades and other large ones not required). With a bit of luck and effort it shouldn't take more than an hour or so to make the school look great.

Thank you from Harm Jan Fricke – chair of governors.

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

Thursday 9 November – Parents Evening – Please sign up for a slot on the displayed sheets.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Doves Sharing Assembly

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Cake Sale on playground at 3pm

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Parents Evening – Please sign up for a slot on the displayed sheets.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Woodpeckers Sharing Assembly

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Kingfisher Sharing Assembly

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Cake Sale on playground at 3pm

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

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

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

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch

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

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

