



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

15th December 2017

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

What an eventful week it has been with the excitement (children's) and stress (adults'!) of the snow, nativity performances, Christmas lunch and a visit from Santa Claus. We would like to thank everyone for their efforts to attend school despite the weather conditions – we were fully staffed both days and had the majority of children on Monday. On Tuesday we had 164 out of 165 children in school – the best daily attendance we have had for a very long time (the one absent child was ill). Thank you to all staff and children for the wonderful performances this week – we all loved watching them and there have been so many positive comments from parents and grandparents.

Thank you – To a group of year 3 and 4 singers who sang at Vicarage Court on Tuesday and were excellent representatives of our school, and also to Mrs Tucker and Mark Knight who accompanied them.

Well done Jackie and Debbie – for producing 147 delicious Christmas lunches today! Lunchtime ran smoothly and much fun was had by all with crackers and festive music, although I am not sure the music could be heard above the noise of children. Thank you Jackie and Debbie.

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings and Robins) – This week the children have worked really hard to produce some beautiful Christmas cards and angels for the Nativity play. Huge congratulations go out to all of the children in the Foundation Stage for performing so well in front of such a large group of parents, grandparents and friends. Everyone involved should feel proud of this achievement and special thanks go to the families who practised the singing and speaking parts so well.

Finches – It has felt like Santa's Workshop in our classroom this week! We have been busy cutting, sticking, moulding, shaping, baking and icing! The performance was a great effort and we really enjoyed showing off our singing and acting to our families! Well done to parents for being so efficient in supplying costumes. We look forward to singing some more traditional carols for the Christingle Service next week.

Owls – We have been practising hard and performing "Are we nearly there yet?" for the school and our families. Thank you for watching. We enjoyed watching our siblings in the Foundation Stage nativity. We have been making our calendars, Christmas cards, a 3-D tree and a Christmas decoration and really enjoying our online advent calendar kindly sent to us by teaching assistant Lorraine.

Doves – We have worked hard on division, multiplication and termly assessments in Maths. We have created posters about Hadrian's Wall using our knowledge of non-fiction text features. We have enjoyed designing and making seasonal crafts. A big thank you to the large group of Dove pupils who sang beautifully at Vicarage Court. They chatted politely to the residents there who really enjoyed the mini concert.

Woodpeckers – We worked hard at our Maths Assessments yesterday and did well. We spent the first half of the week in the library because the heater was not working in our classroom. We are enjoying being back in our classroom now that the heater is working and doing lots of Christmas activities.

Kingfishers – We have been checking each other's news report texts. We have calculated the 'real cost of Christmas' by pricing up all the gifts given to 'my true love' on each day of Christmas. Long calculations made in groups proved that a staggering £55k is needed for all the 12 days of Christmas gifts! We have also enjoyed making edible slime and writing instruction texts about how to make it.

After School Club for next term - 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.

Parents are welcome in our school

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.

After School Club – The last session for this term will be Monday 18th December as we finish at 1pm on Tuesday.

Christmas Bazaar – The money has been counted and it is the most raised from a bazaar so far - an amazing £1,466.40!!!! The raffle did very well, raising a massive £785, the children loved the choc tombola which made a whopping £133 and the craft stalls did very well making £100 between them. Thank you to every parent and grandparent who helped out and a huge thank you to Becca Bolam who organised the whole event. It's a fabulous total.

Nursery Parents Applying for Primary School Place – You must complete an online application for your child's place at primary school by **15th 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.**

Leaving Present for Mrs Sumser – If any families would still like to donate to a farewell gift for Mrs Sumser who leaves at the end of term please send your donations in to the school office or hand to Tracey or Mrs Haynes at the gate on Monday. Thanks.

Christingle Collection Candles – This week your child will have brought home a cardboard collection box shaped like a candle. Each year we collect money in these for The Children's Society, a charity which helps children living in poverty. Please do all that you can to help your children collect some coins in their box over the weekend and bring back into school on Monday. Thank you.

Bike Sheds – You may have noticed that the weight of snow on the bikes sheds has broken the roofing and so the main bike shed is currently out of action. Please help us for now by only bringing a bike or scooter to school if absolutely necessary as we only have the small bike shed to store them in. We hope to have the perspex removed and replaced with new in due course – someone is coming to quote for the job next week.

Church Services over Christmas – With this newsletter we are sending out a leaflet with details of local services at St. John's and in South Hinksey. Fr James and Fr Ben extend a warm welcome to you all at any of these services.

Colouring Competition – We entered a competition run by Breckon and Breckon and are pleased to say that the following children won prizes in their age groups for their colouring skills: Molly Sumser (1st), Daisy Baldock (2nd), Flora Gilman (3rd), Ollie Munro (1st), Serene Lau (2nd) and Jonah Aldridge (3rd). Breckon and Breckon also gave a £60 donation to the School Association for the 120 colourings we entered.

End of Term – We look forward to having the children in school all day on Monday and on Tuesday morning. Lunch will be as normal on Tuesday and **ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE COLLECTED PROMPTLY AT 1pm ON TUESDAY WHEN TERM ENDS.**

And finally, as this is the last newsletter of this year, we would like to wish all of you a very happy, restful and safe festive season.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries (for next half of term)

Monday 18th December – 2.15pm – Christingle Service in Church – parents and guests welcome

Tuesday 19th December – 1.00pm – Term Ends

Christmas Holiday – Wednesday 20th December 2017 – Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Thursday 4th January 2018 – Term 2 starts at 8.45am

