



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

10th February 2017

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

Thank you to Year 6 for their Sharing Assembly this morning – we loved the song! Thank you also to Father Ben who led assembly on Thursday about Our Lady of Lourdes. It was lovely to have our Year 5 pupil Lourdes in the assembly as she is named after this place of pilgrimage in France!

Next week is a half term holiday week so school is closed. We wish you all a happy and safe time and look forward to welcoming back the children, refreshed, on **Monday 20th February**. Please ensure all children are on site ready to join their lines and lead in to class **at 8.45am** – thank you.

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage – The children have been looking at and discussing animals that live in the Arctic and Antarctic. They have created yet another beautiful collage which is on display. The Reception children enjoyed a successful shape walk where they were all able to identify 2D and some 3D shapes such as cones and cylinders in the environment. The Pandas are now really settled at group times and they have a lot of fun singing silly songs!

Year 1 – We have finished writing up our ‘Wonderful World’ poems which have five lines of an adjective, noun and verb, such as ‘Dotty dogs digging’! We also enjoyed spotting patterns in other poems about nature. In maths we have looked at missing number questions and how to go about solving them. We are getting better at counting in 2s and 5s as well as 10s (please help us practise at home). Our Lowry inspired picture is almost complete!

Year 2 – We have been writing and illustrating our own pirate stories this week – several involving Australian animals! We have tried very hard in our maths tests and really deserve a great break at half term.

Year 3 – We have enjoyed experimenting with soils in our science lessons. We took soil samples (thank you for bringing those in from home) and tested them for permeability. We discussed both fair testing and the results. We are having fun learning our songs for the singing performance at Christchurch which is on Wednesday 15th March. The doors will be open from 10.45 and the concert will be 11am till 11.30am. Please come along.

Year 4 – Our return trip to the Ashmolean was to present our creative responses to the Samurai suit. It went really well and we had fun – come and have a look at the photos in our classroom. In art we have been experimenting with pencil textures as we begin our study of Hokusai, the Japanese artist. In R.E. we have completed a workshop and some research looking into why people of faith embark on pilgrimages, including journeys made to Canterbury Cathedral.

Year 5 – We have been working hard on our stories set in the Amazon rainforest this week. We have also completed our mid-year maths assessment. We have started making our own rainforest game using *SCRATCH* software. We have learnt how to write a program to make our jaguar ‘jump’ to try and catch as many macaws as possible.

Year 6 – We have finished our holiday brochures in time for half term! We really got the hang of the persuasive language to write about some truly tantalizing African holidays. In science we have been learning about the different structures of the heart and the different functions of the veins and arteries. We learnt that blood is always red, even though veins look blue through our skin.

Parent Governor Vacancy – The Governing Body has a vacancy for a parent governor. If you think that this is something you would be interested in and could commit to approximately 6 evening meetings a year plus about 5 late afternoon committee meetings, then it is worth finding out a bit more by talking to one of our other parent governors: James Webber, Ollie Raikes, Olivia Selinger and Jasper Smith, or contacting the chair of governors, Harm Jan Fricke, on 01865 248435. Please let Charlotte Haynes know in writing by 24th February if you wish to stand. If more than one person comes forward then a parent election will take place.

Cake Sale – Thank you to everyone who helped raise £102 for the School Association at last Friday’s cake sale.

Parents are welcome in our school

Plea for Rewards – So many children collect rewards each week that my reward box is getting a bit low again. Any donations gratefully received – small toys, games, nick-nacks, stationery items, bouncy balls, packs of cards etc.

School Funding Petition – There is a parent led campaign opposing cuts to education funding that has recently been featured in the media (Channel 4 News, BBC London News and the Evening Standard). The campaign supports the idea of a review of the National Funding Formula (NFF) and agrees that historical imbalances in funding need to be addressed. However, at a time when our schools are facing massive real terms cuts, the proposed new National Funding Formula is a squandered opportunity to remedy injustice. Funding isn't fair unless there's enough money in the pot to begin with. The campaign has two simple demands - firstly to protect per pupil funding in line with inflation and secondly to ensure that no school loses out under the new NFF. The parent campaign has been founded by parents from some of the worst-funded areas and the 'best'-funded areas standing together to ask for fair funding for all our schools. Please add your name to the petition and read more about the campaign by visiting the links below.

<https://www.change.org/p/rt-hon-justine-greening-mp-fair-funding-for-all-schools>

<http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org>

After School Club and Wraparound Care Bills – invoices were sent home last week via book bags and are also in ParentPay. The deadline for payment today. If you have not yet paid please do so as soon as possible so that your children can continue to use these facilities after the half term holiday. Many thanks.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers – please collect these and hand in to school as we can get lots of lovely equipment from the scheme - the more we collect the more we can get!

School Disco - this will be on **Thursday 23rd February** in the School Hall. **Reception** (must be accompanied by an adult) & **KS1: 4.30-5.30pm, KS2: 6-7pm**. Wristbands (must be bought in advance - no sales on the door) will be on sale for £3 from PTA reps in the playground at drop off and pick up **in the week after half term**.

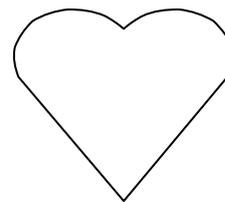
School Lunch on Monday 20th February – Please note that pepperoni pizza will not be available and there will be cheese and tomato pizza for all children having a school meal irrespective of which one you have pre booked.

Important Reminders:

- All children with long hair (girls and boys) are requested to have their hair tied back every day in school.
- Children must have properly fitting trainers or plimsolls for PE lessons otherwise they will have to sit out.
- Just under 50 children from Years 1 to 6 have not contributed to the pantomime. That is £200 we are short of. Please log onto ParentPay and make your contributions if you have not already done so.

Happy Valentine's Day for Tuesday 14th February!

Yours sincerely,



Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February – Half Term holiday – school closed this week

Monday 20th February - Children return to school after the half term holiday

Thursday 23rd February – School Disco (see above for details)

Friday 3rd March – School Class Photos

Thursday 16th March – International Evening in school – more details to follow

Friday 17th March – Inset day – School closed to all children for staff training

Thursday 30th March and Wednesday 5th April – Evenings for Parent-Teacher meetings

Friday 7th April – End of Term at 1pm

Monday 10th April – Friday 21st April School closed for Easter holiday

Monday 24th April – start of Summer Term