



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

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

Thank you to Year 6 for their creative sharing assembly this morning. It was great to hear the children's Firebird poem, watch dancing and listen to the musical accompaniments, inspired by Igor Stravinsky's original piece. Thank you to two of our school governors, Harm-Jan Fricke and Christine Hill, who conducted a governors' learning walk this week. They visited all classes and looked at displays and workbooks to get an overview of all the exciting topic work and learning that is going on.

## News from Classes:

**Foundation Stage** – The Panda group have really been enjoying listening to *Maisie Mouse* stories and the Reception children have started to prepare for their nativity play by learning songs and painting angels.

We have been asked to clarify the situation regarding 'show and tell' items in the Reception Class. We do not have 'show and tell' sessions as a regular fixture in our timetable, but if a child wants to show a special object or book of particular interest to them then they are welcome to bring it into to school to show us. We do not encourage children to bring any other toys or bits and pieces into school – thank you.

**Year 1** – We listened to Brian Wildsmith's Christmas story and discussed our likes, dislikes, puzzles (questions) and patterns in the book. We then made a quiz with what, when, where, why, how and who questions to check our understanding of the story. Our role play area has been transformed into a Christmas post office. If you have any old envelopes, stamps or cards that can be used for it we would be most grateful. Our surprise trip to The Story Museum today to see the Christmas show *The Three Bears* was the highlight of the week.

**Year 2** – We have been adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers in maths, learning to write and punctuate exclamations and to use the continuous form of a verb (I am eating). We have been reading various versions of the Christmas Story and practising 'Hosanna Rock' with Year 1. We have tried out our costumes and started making scenery and props.

**Year 3** – We have worked hard to redraft and add inverted commas to our fantastic Jason inspired stories. In maths we have extended our division and multiplication skills. We have investigated the size of shadows in science and begun to create collages in art. In the next couple of weeks we will be doing some seasonal cooking – please can you contribute 50p per child to pay for the ingredients. Thank you.

**Year 4** – We have written a formal letter to Lord Monteaule warning him of the 'terrible blow' that the King and parliament will receive on 5th November 1605. We have also been practising subtracting 3-digit numbers. As it is now December we are enjoying opening our class advent calendars – yes we have 3!

**We are very pleased to announce that after Christmas Miss Mzizi will be joining our staff team as a part time teacher for Year 4 on Thursdays and Fridays, when Miss Potier returns to part time work – Miss Potier will continue as the Year 4 class teacher teaching on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Miss Mzizi taught the class for a session when she came for interview and will also be visiting the class on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December to get to know the children and to liaise with Miss Potier to ensure a smooth transition after Christmas.**

**Year 5** – We have been working on angles in maths lessons this week. Using our recently acquired knowledge we have used the software 'LOGO' to program a turtle to draw regular shapes and some really quite elaborate patterns. We are continuing to work on our 'Curious Curators' project and are looking forward to visiting the Ashmolean again on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December to show what we have learnt. This week we have enjoyed making a Christmas tree advent calendar and decorating our classroom. Please remember that we will need a packed lunch on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December as we will be back later than the usual lunchtime.

**Year 6** – We have been practising for our Firebird assembly, fine tuning our xylophone, poetry reading and dancing skills! In English we have continued to focus on expanded noun phrases and different verb tenses. Next week we will be exploring flight and finding out about migratory birds, especially Robins as we approach Christmas!

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Christmas Bazaar - Friday 9th December 3 - 4.30pm.** - This year we have some amazing raffle prizes - Get your tickets in the playground! They'll be mulled wine, new craft stalls and the chance to win a Christmas cake or splat the snowman. See you there! But it can't go ahead without your help - so please sign up to help out on the day or donate prizes and bake lots of cakes!

**Great Christmas Make Off** -This year's Christmassy craft competition is asking you to make a show-stopping Christmas decoration. This is a great chance to demonstrate your creativity and maybe win the Star Maker prize in your age group. Please buy your entry tickets at drop off or pick up, and bring entries to school on Thursday 8th December, ready for judging. The winners to be announced at the Christmas bazaar. Time to get crafty! Good luck!

**School Christmas Lunch** – The school Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. This means that there will be no Wednesday roast that week as the roast meal will be served on Thursday instead. We have got an idea from the children who definitely does NOT want the Christmas lunch (i.e. those who will bring a packed lunch that day). If you do prebook on ParentPay please note that you just need to book the meat or vegetarian option that is listed for that day because the Christmas meal options will not be showing in the menu choice.

**After School Club and Wraparound Care Bills** – The paper copies of the invoices for November have been sent home today and the bills are also on Parent Pay. The deadline for payment is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Parents will be reminded of this deadline in next week's newsletter so that all bills can be settled by the end of term.

**After School Club Cancellations** – Places that are no longer needed or not used will be charged for unless 24 hours' notice is given.

**Contacting the School by email** – Email messages sent to school will be dealt with during working hours Monday to Friday 9am – 5.00pm, term time. It is not possible to respond or act on messages overnight or during weekends and holiday periods. We understand that you may be sending them at evenings and weekends but please accept that we cannot deal with them till next in school.

**End of the School Day** – **The school day finishes at 3pm** and children should be collected **promptly**. Once the gates are locked any pupils who have not been collected will be put into after school club and their places will be charged for.

**Reward Box Donations** – Do remember that if you collect up any bits and bobs over Christmas that would be suitable for the reward box, we would be very pleased to have them donated.

**Christingle Collection and Service** – Your child should have brought home a Christingle collecting candle in the last day or two. Please help them to fill it with coins and return to school for our Christingle service on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am at St John's Church. All the money collected goes to The Children's Society charity which supports lonely, homeless and disadvantaged children. You are all warmly invited to join us at 9.30am in church on Thursday where the service ends with the lighting of each child's Christingle.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend – keep warm!

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

### **Dates for Diaries**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Christingle Service in church starting at **9.30am** – visitors welcome

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Bazaar, 3pm – 4.30pm

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance, 2pm in hall

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Foundation Stage Nativity, 9.30am in hall

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance, 2pm in hall

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – School Christmas Lunch (and special visitor – ho, ho, ho!)

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term at 1pm (please collect all children promptly at 1pm after lunch)**