



New Hinksey CE Primary School

Vicarage Road Oxford OX1 4RQ

Tel: 01865 242169 Fax: 01865 242169

Email: office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

Website: www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

20th January 2017

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

Our value for this month which is explored during assemblies is 'Tolerance'. We heard a story on Monday about a boy with a friend who was in fact an alien and did things a bit differently and, in assembly yesterday, Father James led an assembly about unity – an aspect of being tolerant. Thank you to the Year 5 class for their interesting assembly this morning all about rainforests.

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage – This week the Reception class have been reading *Dear Zoo* to help them learn about writing sentences. All of the children have enjoyed making a chart to see which animals are their favourite pets, which is displayed on the wall. Meanwhile the Pandas have been playing a lot of listening games.

Year 1 – We have been focussing on learning about the U.K. this week. We have been using books, video clips and pictures to research information about the 4 countries that make up the U.K. (Ask your child to name them). In maths we are getting much better at adding two numbers by putting the big one in our heads and counting on using our fingers. We have also designed and made houses for 'Sensible Sid' and 'Silly Sam' in science, using sensible and silly materials.

Year 2 – We have been learning to find the difference between two 2-digit numbers by counting on. We have started making notes and writing sentences about Australian animals for our information books. We have been discussing the characteristics of mammals and birds, discussing which animals are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, and finding out about the life cycles of kangaroos and birds. We really enjoyed watching video clips of Australian animals including one of a wombat chomping a sweetcorn cob!

Year 3 – We had a fabulous trip to Oxford Castle on Monday. We learnt all about Queen Matilda, the history of the prison and climbed the steps to see the wonderful views. We have also started our singing sessions with Christchurch choristers which will culminate in a concert in March. In maths we have worked hard on fractions, finding fractions of amounts.

Year 4 – This week we have had a brilliant trip to Oxford Castle. We had a trip up the West Tower (quite scary), a tour of the old prison cells, as well as a trip down to the 'haunted' cellar (very scary). We learnt a lot about the history of the castle too. In art we are creating a kimono doll and looking at traditional Japanese dress. We have also written a balanced argument text based on our reading of *Kensuke's Kingdom*. In science we have been investigating pitch and volume of sound using wind and stringed instruments.

Year 5 – This week we have been getting ready for our sharing assembly; we hope you enjoyed it. In maths lessons we have been exploring divisibility tests, prime numbers and patterns in square numbers. We have been enjoying different dances during our indoor PE lessons and improving our ball and racquet skills during our outdoor sessions.

Year 6 – We have been finding out about the circulatory system in science and trying to (!) measure our heart rate thinking about the effect exercise has on it. We have been writing the final draft of our Nyasha diaries in English and have been using calculators to find the decimal equivalent of fractions in maths.

Notifying the School of Absence – It is a **parental responsibility** to inform the school if your child is absent due to illness or medical appointment. This can be by telephone, written note to the office, email or directly to one of the adults on the gate in the morning if you are coming into school with other children. Please do not phone between 8.30 and 9am as the office is not manned at that time. We do not accept messages from other children or even the children themselves saying why they were off when they return. Please help us to code your children's absences correctly by keeping us informed. Please only keep your children off school if they really are too ill to be in school learning – thank you.

Parents are welcome in our school

School Lunches

Please do make an effort to ensure that children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 always have credit in their account before booking lunches. If there is no credit you will be asked to bring a packed lunch. Thanks.

Thank You – I am very grateful for your kind donations of rewards for the reward box. It is lovely to have such a varied selection and they are always welcome.

Heights and Weights – Yesterday Reception and Year 6 children were measured and weighed. Parents will receive a letter direct from the school nurses in a few weeks' time.

PLEASE STOP DRIVING DOWN TO THE SCHOOL GATES – We do understand that a number of families live too far away to walk, cycle or bus to school. However we politely request that you do not come down as far as the school playground area and gates. We would like you to stop and park further up the road or in neighbouring streets such as Wytham Street, Gordon Street or Lake Street and walking the last little bit to school. This will make it a lot safer for all children and families. Using the junction between Vicarage Road and Vicarage Lane to try to turn your cars around is risky and an accident waiting to happen. Please help us to keep all the children as safe as possible.

Peter Pan Pantomime – On Wednesday 1st February our annual and much loved pantomime will be taking place for years 1 to 6, performed by a touring theatre company. The children really enjoy this experience and much literacy work is generated from it. It is an expensive activity and we are hugely grateful to the School Association who subsidise it by hundreds of pounds. We ask for a contribution of **£4 per child** to cover about half of the costs. Please pay using **ParentPay**.

Best wishes for a happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Friday 27th January – Sharing Assembly for Year 1 in hall at 9.10am – Year 1 parents welcome

Wednesday 1st February – Peter Pan pantomime performance to the school (Years 1 to 6)

Friday 10th February – Sharing Assembly for Year 6 in hall at 9.10am – Year 6 parents welcome

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

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

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

<p>The Sainsbury's Active Kids voucher scheme starts again next week, on 25th January, so please be ready to start collecting again for us – thank you.</p>
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