



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

21st October 2016

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

Well we have reached the end of a long half term and all the children are now well settled into their classes and routines for this year. Many are quite tired so we hope next week's holiday week will give everyone the chance to recharge their batteries ready for the coming half term with all its seasonal festivities.

Thanks to Year 5 for leading our sharing assembly today with lots of acting to watch and many well-made props which have used up a good deal of our waste cardboard!

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage – The Panda group are now very happily settled and they are really enjoying school. The Bear Hunt theme has been extended by some beautiful books that Alfie lent to us. These included a pop-up book and one that recreated the noises from the story. There was great excitement yesterday when we made pop-corn with a special machine (thanks to Honey's mother for the pop-corn). The children thought it was hilarious when the pop-corn flew out and hit Elaine and Elizabeth!

Year 1 – In English we have planned, talked and written our information text about volcanoes. We are looking forward to finally presenting them as an illustrated fact book. In maths we have been reviewing our learning and looking at our next steps to improve. We enjoyed planting some bulbs and discussed the season of the year that we will see them flower.

Year 2 – We have had a good week first with Mrs Smith and yesterday we were so delighted to see Miss K back. Thank you to Sonia for being brilliant and being a rock whilst Miss K has been poorly. We had a lovely autumn themed start to the week with Mrs Smith and our autumn poems and pumpkin cubes are displayed just outside our classroom. In maths we have compared numbers using 'greater than' and 'less than' symbols and investigated nets of cubes. On Wednesday we acted out being shoppers and shop keepers in Pudding Lane and of course there was a bakery. Mrs Haynes was very pleased that the bakery did not start The Great Fire of New Hinksey!

Year 3 – We have enjoyed finding out about muscles in science. We have investigated triceps and biceps and collected data about how long it is until our muscles get tired after exercising. In DT we have found out about tall towers around the world and begun to design our own. In maths we have found equivalent fractions using our fraction walls.

Year 4 – We have been getting ideas for our 'Fire Island Adventure' stories; we have all read an adventure story and watched *How to Train Your Dragon*. In science we have been learning about the water cycle. Our Great Fire of London topic has been brought to an end with a story brought in by Joe and Ernie who visited an exhibition about the fire in London.

Year 5 – We have been getting ready this week for our sharing assembly. We hope you enjoyed it. We completed our first Year 5 maths assessment earlier in the week and have learned from any mistakes we may have made by correcting our work together. Along with some of the other classes we have been planting some flowering bulbs in the tubs and look forward to the results of our labours next March/April.

Year 6 – This week has been assessment week. The children have completed a maths test and have finished and decorated their Beowulf stories which will form part of their writing assessment. Mrs Sumser has challenged the children to read a book over the half term to prepare for a 'University Challenge' competition next term. You can support them by reminding them to read, listening to them read and asking lots of questions about the story.

Secondary School Applications – A reminder that **parents of all Yr 6 children** must **submit** their application forms for secondary school to the Admissions Team **by 31st October**, otherwise your child will be considered a late applicant and the form will NOT be processed in the first round. This means you will be allocated a place later than everyone else and it may be at any school that has a space rather than one of your preferences.

Parents are welcome in our school

Mobile Phone and Internet Safety – The following 2 websites have lots of useful information for both parents/carers and children: www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware and <https://www.net-aware.org.uk> .
For younger children: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/> .

Reward Box Donations Required – Each week somewhere between 15 and 25 children finish their tick/star charts and come to Mrs Haynes' office to choose a prize out of the reward box. I am always on the look-out for little bits and pieces but would be grateful for any donations – bouncy balls, stationery items (such as interesting pencil, rubbers, notepads), little games, knick-knacks, toys and ornaments. Many thanks.

Thank You – I have been asked to pass on thanks for your donations to support the Calais refugee camp known as The Jungle. £4850 has been raised locally and over 2.5 tonnes of food sent in around six weeks.

South Oxford Adventure Playground: Half-term opening: Monday 24th October - Wednesday 26th October; 10-4pm. Activities and outdoor play. All welcome. It's fun and free! All over 7s must be registered to stay without a parent/carer, and all other children must be supervised by their parent/carer at the playground. SOAP is an inclusive playground that welcomes all children. We are a charity run by local volunteers. Donations welcome, and all money goes to keep the playground open as much as possible. See website for more details: www.soapoxford.org.uk/

Menu for School Lunches – Your child will have brought home the new menu which starts after the half term holiday. The menus are also updated on ParentPay. Please note that there are a couple of regular changes in **Week 3**: On Tuesday the meat and veggie balls are only served with tomato sauce (no gravy); On Wednesday the roast will be chicken NOT gammon; On Friday there will only be fish fingers (no salmon nuggets).

Christmas Bazaar - Hi everyone, I have put myself forward to organise the Christmas Bazaar this year. It will be on Friday 9th December after school. If anyone would like to be involved in any way, either with planning, on the day or anything else at all, then please get in touch by email on beccabolam@hotmail.com or by phone 07985 917205. Or please come along to the pub on Tuesday 1st Nov 8:15pm at the Duke of Monmouth where we're going to start thinking about the event. Becca

SOAP and Lake Street Playgroup Fireworks - Tickets available over the half term holiday. Please email Caroline at the following address: carolinebushell@gmail.com

Have a lovely week off next week.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October Half Term Holiday (no school)

Monday 31st October Back to school – prompt 8.45am line up and lead in please.