



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

23rd September 2016

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

Thank you to all those who are arriving at school in time to join the lines going into classes at 8.45am. It is great that parents of Years 2 to 6 are saying goodbye on the playground. Hopefully Year 1s are gradually getting used to their routines and parents can start to say goodbye in the playground so that the line of children can go in swiftly.

As we are trying to maximise prime learning times in the mornings, Monday assembly and Wednesday singing have moved to the end of the afternoon. It is therefore very tricky to get messages to children about pick up arrangements. Please help us by trying to be organised at the start of the day and informing your children about the end of day arrangements yourselves before school. Also for children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 or Year 2 a parent must let the classroom staff know if anyone different is picking up such as another relative or a friend's parent. Many thanks.

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage – The children in Reception have been learning about rhyme, naming their birthday months and thinking about the changing season to autumn. All of the children have been listening to different types of musical instruments. Head banging to rock music was a particular favourite as was 'Ukulele Boy'! We have also been painting to different tempos of music in the garden.

Year 1 – In English we have been drawing and describing the main character and setting of our 'Bird in the Forest' story. We then brainstormed and chose a new main character for our new story. In maths we have been finding pairs of numbers that make 5, 6 and 10 (don't forget the online homework!). Our hot and cold background pictures are finished and will be on display soon!

Year 2 – We have been preparing for our sharing assembly: practising our words and finishing making our props. We have enjoyed working with willow, tape, tissue paper and 'yucky' glue to make moon and rabbit lanterns. We have been revising our number bonds to 10 and using them to work out the number bonds to 100, for example $2 + 8 = 10$ so $20 + 80 = 100$. Thank you to Year 2 for your lovely sharing assembly this morning.

Year 3 – In science we have classified animals as herbivores, carnivores or omnivores. We found out that marmots are herbivores! In maths we worked hard to learn our 3, 4 and 6 times tables and to link them to division facts. In English we have investigated features of non-chronological writing in preparation for creating our own booklets next week.

Year 4 – We have been learning how to multiply with multiples of 10 – both mentally and using the grid method. We have been practising putting words in alphabetical order to help our dictionary skills. We have also been investigating whether gases weigh anything!

Year 5 – We have enjoyed learning about symbolism in Aboriginal art and will do our own paintings next week. In science we have begun learning about the Earth, Sun and Moon and in particular about the autumnal equinox and the fact that the tilt of the Earth on its axis causes our seasons.

Year 6 – This morning we started our exciting play writing project with the Oxford Playhouse! Over the next nine weeks, a playwright will be visiting the school every Friday morning to run drama and play-writing sessions with the children. By the end of the term we will have six short plays, one of which will be chosen to be performed by professional actors at the Oxford Playhouse next March! In less exciting news, we have been tackling algebraic equations in maths, whilst in English we have been learning how to use colons and semi-colons in our writing. We also finished our Great Fire of London quizzes and presentations - you can test your historical knowledge at Monday's open evening, when the quizzes will be available for you to try.

School Photographs – individuals and siblings in school will have photos taken on **Thursday**. Please make sure you send children to school in clothes you want them photographed in or a school sweatshirt, and that you are happy with their hairstyles on Thursday! These photos make great Christmas presents for grandparents.

Parents are welcome in our school

Flower Tubs in the Small Playground – These always look lovely in the spring. If you buy spring flowering bulbs for your own garden, please consider donating a few for the children to plant in the tubs – thanks.

Nasal Flu Immunisation Forms for Years 1, 2, 3 – please ensure that they are returned as soon as possible to ensure that the correct dosage is ordered. Thank you.

Request for Donations - Mariam in Yr 5's mum (Beth) and Oxford Refugee Resource Hub are collecting donations for an aid run to the Jungle refugee camp in Calais on the 29th October. **There are currently over 900 unaccompanied children there**, the population is rising and aid is slowing, **please help**. We are collecting rice in 5, 10, 15, 20kg bags, flour, lentils, tins of chickpeas and kidney beans, cooking oil, new winter shoes size 39-43 and socks. You are welcome to hand your contributions in to school and Mrs Haynes will pass on to Beth who will do the drop off at the collection centre. You can also visit the following site to donate:

<http://www.gofundme.com/2qywn9py>

News from St. John's Church - Saturday 24th September 2016 at 12 noon, Walsingham Festival at St John's Church, Vicarage Road, New Hinksey.

Mass followed by an outdoor procession of Our Lady of Walsingham. There will be helium balloons for children and a brass band for the procession. Come along for the whole thing, or line Norreys Avenue or Vicarage Road at about 1pm.

PTA School Uniform Sale - Friday 30th September 3pm. We have lots of new and second hand school jumpers and t-shirts for sale. Please bring any donations of second hand uniform into school next week.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Monday 26th September **Open Afternoon 3 – 4pm for families to visit classes and meet the teachers**
Please stay around after pick up on Monday and let your children show you around.

Thursday 29th September School Photographer here for individual and sibling pupil photos (see above)

Friday 7th October Year 3 Sharing Assembly at 9.10am

Thursday 13th October Harvest Festival in church at 9.15am

Friday 21st October Year 5 Sharing Assembly at 9.10am in hall

Friday 21st October End of Half Term at 3pm (After School Club as normal)

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

Monday 31st October Back to school