



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

25<sup>th</sup> November 2016

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

Well we have survived some extremely heavy rain and large puddles this week but thankfully no flooding. Please can we remind all parents that they must take responsibility for ensuring that every child has a rain proof coat or jacket in school as we do go out on the playground in most weathers!

Thank you to Year 4 for their delightful sharing assembly this morning when they acted out a play about The Gunpowder Plot. Their backdrop painting of the Houses of Parliament was most impressive.

## News from Classes:

**Foundation Stage** – The Pandas have been busy making shakers. They listened to the different sounds that a variety of objects made and planned what they would put inside their shakers. We have also been printing shapes and the Reception children have been using their phonic knowledge to write some simple words such as *dog*, *pan* and *bed*.

**Year 1** – Our story telling den is still in action and we are working very hard to write down our dragon stories from our plan, adding exciting words to create a picture in the reader's mind. In maths we have been adding or taking away 1, 2 and 3 from bigger numbers using our fingers to help us count on or back. Our dragon pictures have been coloured using chalky pastels, which we enjoyed smudging with our fingers!

**Year 2** – We have been learning about materials and how and why they are used. We are getting very good at identifying them – we spotted lots on the way to the Ashmolean museum and inside. We have written our own stories based on the story of The 3 Pigs. Some feature different animals and different materials for the houses. We have started practising the songs for the nativity play. In maths we have been using positional language such as *above*, *inside*, *in front*, *behind* etc and measuring things and people.

**Year 3** – We have enjoyed following up on the storytelling workshops from last week. We have stepped, mapped and planned our own versions of *Jason and the Argonauts*. Our story openers are exciting and full of powerful verbs and adjectives. In science we have created shadow puppets in our work on light. In maths we have learnt how to count up from the smaller number in order to subtract.

**Year 4** – We have painted a giant picture of the Houses of Parliament by each painting a small portion then putting them altogether. In maths we have been practising rounding 4 digit numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. We have set up an investigation in science to observe the effect on eggshells of a variety of liquids (this is related to healthy teeth).

**Year 5** – We enjoyed a talk given by Robin Gill, Hannah Holmes' grandfather, on Volcanoes this week – Thank you Mr Gill! On Tuesday we went to the Ashmolean Museum to begin our 'Curious Curators' mini-project. We got very wet walking there and back but the session in the museum was really interesting. Back at school in groups we are working on short plays, songs and dances inspired by 3 particular artefacts at the museum. We will be returning on 6<sup>th</sup> December to perform what we have written and practised. Do ask us about this project.

**Year 6** – We have had a musical week in year 6! On Tuesday, Nick was back in to continue teaching us how to use 'Garage Band'. We have started to compose pop songs, and we are hoping to add some vocals next week. We have also been learning how to read a musical score for the finale of Stravinsky's *Firebird*, and playing part of the melody on xylophones and recorders. Some children are choreographing a dance to go with the music.

**Data Collection Sheets** – These were sent home 2 weeks ago. Thank you to those families who have returned them. Please return them to school – those with amendments and those with no changes – as soon as possible. This is a useful opportunity to check that we have all your correct and up to date contact details. Many thanks.

**Parents' Evenings** – Thank you to those parents who attended Parents' Evenings over the past two weeks. There has been a good take up rate and it is always helpful to children's progress if school and home are working together.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Uniform** – We will be sending off an order in the coming weeks so please let us know or collect an order form asap if you require new sweatshirts, t-shirts or polo shirts. Currently we do not have enough to send off an order.

**Reward Box Donations** – Thank you for the wonderful selection of things that you have sent in to keep the reward box stocked up. Donations to this special box of prizes are always welcome.

**Please Help Us** – If you know of anyone who would like to work at lunchtimes 11.45am – 1.15pm on weekdays during term time (7 ½ hrs per week) please let them know that we are recruiting **lunchtime supervisors**. Please get them to contact the school on 01865 242169.

**Christmas Bazaar - Friday 9th December 3 - 4.30pm.** The Christmas bazaar is 2 weeks away! This year we have some amazing raffle prizes (including tickets to Oxford United, tickets to ice hockey, vouchers for Mahogany hair salon, vouchers for meals in renowned pubs and restaurants, as well as lots of tasty seasonal treats). Raffle tickets go on sale at drop off and pick up in the playground next week.

### **Important Reminders**

**School Lunches** – Please try to pre book with your children so that they know what menu choices have been made for them. Also paid school meals should be **paid for in advance** which means that parents must keep their ParentPay accounts with enough credit in for lunches. Letters will be generated on Friday and sent to any family with lunch debts so that they can be paid at once and credit for the new school week put in.

**After School Club Bills** – Invoices are generated at the end of each month, paper copies are sent home and they are on ParentPay. Reminders of the deadline are put in subsequent newsletters. Once the Friday deadline arrives parents are reminded again in that week's newsletter that bills must be paid over the weekend so that children can continue to use the facility. Places will be withdrawn otherwise until debts are paid.

**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.

Wishing you all a happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

### **Dates for Diaries**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Starting to Read information session for Reception parents, 2.30pm with Elaine

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Year 6 sharing Assembly, 9.10am in hall

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

**Lake Street Playgroup** has two **Playgroup Assistant** vacancies. For more details and to apply please contact the Office at Playgroup on 01865 727939 Monday to Thursday 9.30-1.00. Full DBS checks and references required. Closing Date: Monday 5 December 2016

**South Oxford Farmers and Community Market** have a special festive market on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am – 12 noon at the Community Centre in Lake Street – lots of exciting stalls.