



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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27th January 2017

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

We have continued to explore our value for this month which is 'Tolerance'. Today Year 1 shared their exciting learning with us in a delightful assembly. Thank you so much Year 1.

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage – The children have been very excited by the festival of Chinese New Year. They have been writing beautiful Chinese symbols in gold paint, and they have been making fans with dragons on. Some children created a very impressive dance to Chinese music using the fans – even holding them in their mouths with grace! We have also started to think about different animals and their habitats. In particular we have focussed on the jungle and the children have started to paint a fantastic jungle scene.

Year 1 – It has been a Europe based learning journey this week, finding out about some of the 50 countries that make up the continent. We researched the landscape and weather finding out that it is colder in the north and warmer in the south (because it is nearer the equator). In maths we have explored 3D shapes and used words like faces, curved, and flat to describe them. We enjoyed planning and performing in our sharing assembly especially the song!

Year 2 – We have been practising telling the time (o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to). Please help us practise this at home. We have been writing about Australian animals for our own information books and illustrating them as well. We used clay to create Thorny Devils, which live in the Australian desert. We then painted them and made them a desert habitat. Next week we are having a pirate week linked to the pantomime on Wednesday when Year 2 children are encouraged to dress up as a pirate for the day.

Year 3 – We have had a busy week celebrating Chinese New Year. We have cooked egg fried rice (Mrs Haynes thought it was delicious!) and written authentic Chinese menus. We have enjoyed making flying pipe cleaner dragons and written about Chinese customs. We also learnt a great deal during our Chinese Art trip to the Ashmolean. In science we have continued our focus on rocks by making our own fossils.

Year 4 – We had a great visit to the Ashmolean looking at and learning about the Samurai Suit. We are working on a presentation based on our learning there. Our kimono dolls for displaying are now complete. We have been learning how to identify different angles in maths. In English, we have taken on the persona of one of the characters from our class book *Kensuke's Kingdom*, and will be writing a recount from their perspective using first person pronouns to completely assume their identity.

Year 5 – We have had fun investigating air resistance by designing, making and testing parachutes. We were interested to learn of Galileo's experiments and have watched video clips of a feather and a hammer being dropped on the moon and also in a vacuum chamber here on earth. Ask us to explain what happened. We have worked hard on our non-fiction writing assessments about Brazil which we finished earlier in the week. In maths we have been learning all about triangles and converting between grams and kilograms, millilitres and litres and vice versa.

Year 6 – This week we have been banishing the winter blues and travelling to sunnier climes – in our minds at least! We have been reading holiday brochures full of enticing beach holidays, safaris and adventure tours, and discussing what different sorts of people might be looking for in the ideal holiday. Next week, we will start to write our own holiday brochures for fabulous African destinations. In maths, we have learned how to find the area of triangles and parallelograms, and have been revising calculations with decimal numbers. Our hearts have had a workout in Science, as we investigated how activity affects heart rate, and measured the increases after brisk walking and jogging.

Peter Pan Pantomime – On Wednesday next week our much loved pantomime will be taking place for years 1 to 6. The children really enjoy this experience and much literacy work is generated from it. It is an expensive activity and we are very grateful to the School Association who subsidise. We ask for a contribution of **£4 per child** to cover about half of the costs. **Please pay using ParentPay as soon as possible as not many people have paid yet.**

Parents are welcome in our school

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.

Thank You – We are grateful to families who have recently donated books that their children have 'grown out of' to the classes and library.

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. Thank you to those drivers who have taken notice of this request.

Parental Supervision – Whilst we are doing all that we can to reduce the traffic near school, could we also remind all parents, carers and adults bringing children to and from school that they should **keep young children under close supervision**, and not allow them to run or cycle ahead out of sight or reach of the adult with them. Short children are often not able to be seen in a driver's mirror and the children themselves are not able to anticipate potential traffic dangers such as blind corners or fast moving bikes which are relatively quiet as they move.

China Day - Drop-in FREE family event at the **Ashmolean Museum** on **Sunday 29 January 11am-4pm**.

We welcome children and their families to celebrate Chinese New Year 2017– the year of the Rooster! There will be range of craft activities including making roosters, dragon masks and fans and you can have a go at calligraphy, paper cutting and creating a huge collage. We will also have storytelling in our China galleries, and live Chinese music in the afternoon.

Job Vacancy at Grandpont Nursery – Grandpont is advertising for a Freelance Community Fundraiser and Coordinator of Volunteers. For details go to: <http://www.grandpontnurseryschool.co.uk/job-vacancies>

Best wishes for a happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Wednesday 1st February – Peter Pan pantomime to Years 1 to 6 - **please see above for details of how to pay.**

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 has started again this week so please start collecting again for us. There is a collecting box in the main reception area which children can put them into or do hand to any member of staff who will deposit them in the box for you – thank you.</p>
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