



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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

Another busy week has passed, the highlight for many children being the Peter Pan pantomime performance. If you have not yet made a contribution it is not too late to do so and we would be very grateful as many parents have not yet done so. Please pay using ParentPay as we no longer accept cash through the office. Every family needs to have a ParentPay account even if your children currently do not have to pay for school lunches as other payments may need to be paid. Thank you to those parents who have contributed the £4 per child through ParentPay.

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage – The children have finished a wonderful jungle scene complete with flowers and animals. They concentrated very hard whilst they painted their animals, producing some amazingly detailed pictures. The children have also enjoyed ordering, eating and cooking Chinese food in our Chinese restaurant in the outside classroom. The Reception children enjoyed their number walk in the rain on Wednesday!

Year 1 – We have finished our ‘Wonderful World’ folders and feel very proud of all our hard work over the past few weeks, writing and presenting facts about places. In maths we have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, and spotted patterns in the changing numbers. Our writing was inspired by the Peter Pan show on Wednesday which we all enjoyed. Lowry is the artist that we are exploring in art and we have enjoyed making scenes for a big picture.

Year 2 – We have been learning about the properties of 3D shapes, counting the number of faces, vertices and edges. We have been enjoying our ‘pirate week’: reading stories, designing and making coins, making telescopes and treasure maps. We looked brilliant in our pirate costumes and enjoyed the Peter Pan pantomime. We wrote about some of the characters and have started thinking about our own pirate stories.

Year 3 – We have enjoyed finding out about the geography of China this week and creating fact-files about the main rivers there. We have designed Chinese masks, and worked hard to find perimeters of complex shapes in maths

Year 4 – We have been writing a diary entry as a character from our guided reading. We really enjoyed the pantomime and are still working on our Ashmolean ‘samurai suit response’ presentations for next Tuesday. We are also working hard on all our assessments (maths on Monday!). On Thursday we worked on an ‘ear cone’ experiment – why don’t you ask us about it? Please remember that **Yr 4 need packed lunches on Tuesday 7th February.**

Year 5 – Earlier this week our classroom turned into a few shops. We had fun buying and selling things in French to practise, in particular, our numbers. In science we have been finding out about the life cycles of various South American mammals. In art we have been painting some rainforest animals inspired by the work of painter Oenone Hammersley.

Year 6 – In English we have been continuing preparation for writing our holiday brochures. We pretended to be travel agents or customers seeking the perfect holiday, in order to rehearse the language we will need to use in our writing, and have analysed the language used in the travel brochures carefully. In maths, we have been getting to grips with division, learning strategies for long division and the ‘bus shelter method’ for short division.

Parent Governor Vacancy – The Governing Body has a vacancy for a parent governor. If you think that this is something you would be interested in and could commit to approximately 6 evening meetings a year plus about 5 late afternoon committee meetings, then it is worth finding out a bit more by talking to one of our other parent governors: James Webber, Ollie Raikes, Olivia Selinger and Jasper Smith, or contacting the chair of governors, Harm Jan Fricke, on 01865 248435. Please let Charlotte Haynes know in writing by 24th February if you wish to stand. If more than one person comes forward then a parent election will take place.

Plea for Rewards – So many children collect rewards each week that my reward box is getting a bit low again. Any donations gratefully received – small toys, games, nick-nacks, stationery items, bouncy balls, packs of cards etc.

Parents are welcome in our school

School Funding Petition – There is a parent led campaign opposing cuts to education funding that has recently been featured in the media (Channel 4 News, BBC London News and the Evening Standard). The campaign supports the idea of a review of the National Funding Formula (NFF) and agrees that historical imbalances in funding need to be addressed. However, at a time when our schools are facing massive real terms cuts, the proposed new National Funding Formula is a squandered opportunity to remedy injustice. Funding isn't fair unless there's enough money in the pot to begin with. The campaign has two simple demands - firstly to protect per pupil funding in line with inflation and secondly to ensure that no school loses out under the new NFF. The parent campaign has been founded by parents from some of the worst-funded areas and the 'best'-funded areas standing together to ask for fair funding for all our schools. Please add your name to the petition and read more about the campaign by visiting the links below.

<https://www.change.org/p/rt-hon-justine-greening-mp-fair-funding-for-all-schools>

<http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org>

PLEASE STOP DRIVING DOWN TO THE SCHOOL GATES – Using the junction between Vicarage Road and Vicarage Lane to try to turn your cars around is risky and an accident waiting to happen.

Energy Saving Assembly – On Monday a group of Oxford University students from Schools Plus led an informative assembly to encourage children to be aware of energy saving and to take small steps to save energy such as not leaving TVs and other electronic devices on standby overnight.

After School Club and Wraparound Care Bills – invoices have been sent home this week via book bags and are also in ParentPay. Please pay promptly – the deadline for payment being Friday 10th February. Many thanks.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers – please collect these and hand in to school as we can get lots of lovely equipment from the scheme - the more we collect the more we can get!

School Disco - this will be on **Thursday 23rd February** in the School Hall. **Reception** (must be accompanied by an adult) & **KS1: 4.30-5.30pm, KS2: 6-7pm**. Wristbands (must be bought in advance - no sales on the door) will be on sale for £3 from PTA reps in the playground at drop off and pick up **in the week after half term**. Please let us know if you can help supervise children during the event. A separate more detailed letter will be sent home next week. This message is to give you warning of the date, time and costs.

Half Term Holiday – please remember that this half of term ends at 3pm on Friday 10th February (After School Club 3 - 5.30pm will run as normal). The week 13th – 17th February is a school holiday.

Message from Grandpont - Anyone interested in helping with the new community-led effort to keep family activities running at the South Oxford Family Room, please come to our first Volunteer Network event, at 7.30pm this Thursday, 9th Feb at the Family Room, Grandpont. Tea, cake, biscuits, and a friendly welcome provided.

Wishing you all a relaxing and happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

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

Thursday 23rd March – School Disco (see above for details)

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

