



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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4th November 2016

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

Welcome back to the second half of term and a continuation of our Fire and Festivals topic. As the weather has suddenly turned a lot colder, please could parents ensure that all children have a suitable coat in school each day.

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage – The Panda group enjoyed making a mixed media fire collage with Sarah. The small group are becoming really settled and engaged during their group time activities. Well done Pandas! The Reception children have been watching images of fireworks and have been recreating and writing the sounds that fireworks make. They had some good suggestions such as fizz, wee, boom, crackle and pop.

Year 1 – We have been learning the story of Diwali and we have even made up a dance for it! In maths we have explained teen numbers and have understood that they are made up of a 10 (ten) and some 1s (ones). We have also started to make some Diwali lamps out of clay in Art.

Year 2 – We have been learning the story of Rama and Sita and about Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. We have enjoyed making diva lamps and terrifying pictures of Ravana the 10 headed demon god in the story! We have also been finding out about the Day of the Dead festival in Mexico and making skull themed decorations! We have tackled maths tests bravely and well.

Year 3 – We have begun a new science topic about light. We began by finding out what colours white light contains by experimenting with bubbles and creating colour wheels. We enjoyed making cakes using a recipe from the time of the Great Fire of London. In maths we have worked hard to make different amounts of money and to solve problems using the 4 maths signs.

Year 4 – We have learnt about the history of Hallowe'en; carved a pumpkin; spent some time in Hinksey Park creating 'leaf art' then learnt about the Hindu festival of Diwali. Our focus has been on the traditions and festivals celebrated at this time of year – so we have now started looking at the history of Bonfire Night.

Year 5 – We have been learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. We were amazed to find out that the cellars beneath the House of Lords are still searched by Yeomen of the Guard before the annual State Opening of Parliament just in case others have been plotting treason. In science we have been learning about phases of the moon. Part of our homework this week is to look for the moon to make a note of its appearance. Please talk to us about this if the moon is visible.

Year 6 – It has been another busy week in our class. On Monday we learned about the origins and traditions of the festival of Hallowe'en. We read and discussed Mary Coleridge's poem 'The Witch' and wrote about what we thought had happened once the witch crossed the threshold. On Wednesday we learned about the colourful Mexican festival of the Day of the Dead, and wrote information texts to show what we had learned. On Thursday we learned how to play chess (or improve our chess skills) by competing against one another or a computer program. We finished this week making stone cast replicas of the Lewis Chess Set.

School Applications for Starting in Reception September 2017 – Please note that the deadline for submitting applications to the County Council Admissions Team is 15th January 2017. If you have children who will be 4 years old by 1st September 2017 then you will need to apply for a school place here even if your child is already in nursery. We are currently showing new families around. Please let us know if you are an existing family here with younger children who will be applying for a place. Also if you have local friends, neighbours or relatives with children who will be needing a school place in September 2017 please remind them to phone us to arrange for a school tour and to get their applications submitted in good time.

Parents are welcome in our school

After School Club and Wraparound Care Bills – The invoices for October were sent home this week and are also on ParentPay. The deadline for payment is Friday 11th November please.

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.

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 pencils, rubbers, notepads), little games, knick-knacks, toys and ornaments. Many thanks.

School Association Christmas Card Fundraiser - Look out in book bags for your child's Christmas card design over the coming week. You will have the opportunity to have them printed professionally (even as extra gift tags) and delivered back to school by the first week of December - plenty of time to send them to friends and family before Christmas. Feedback from last year's products was that they looked fantastic! The printed message inside is optional, so you could even consider using them as 'Thank you' cards or blank note cards! New Hinksey will receive about £1 from every pack of cards ordered, so this is also a great charity purchase supporting the school. The deadline for orders is Friday 18th November, so don't miss out. Cheques made out to New Hinksey School Association please.

Grow Your Tenner - Thank you to those of you who have donated £10 so far to the Localgiving Grow Your Tenner campaign. The donations have been match funded to give the school association £20 per donation! There's still time if you haven't given yet, or if you sign up for a monthly donation it could be match funded for up to 3 months. Go to <https://localgiving.org/charity/newhinkseyschoolassociation/> or find us on facebook and follow the link. Thank you. New Hinksey School Association

Parents' Evenings – There will be an opportunity to book 10 minute individual appointments with your children's class teacher at parents' evenings which will be held on **Tuesday 15th November** and **Thursday 24th November** (both from **4pm till 7pm**). The sign-up sheets will be available from the start of next week. These meetings will also be an opportunity for parents of children with individual education plans for SEN to discuss progress with targets.

Job Vacancy – we currently have a lunchtime supervisor job advertised for 7.5 hours per week. If you, or any friends, are interested please look at Oxfordshire County Council School Support Job Vacancies online and apply using the application form there. Many thanks.

Woodlands Group – PLEASE remember that you must **be ready with your bags/cases outside the Berkshire pub** on Abingdon Road at **7.45am on Monday** morning, ready for an 8am departure.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Friday 11th November – Year 1 Sharing Assembly, 9.10am in hall
Monday 14th November – nursing team in for nasal flu vaccines (letters and forms already sent to relevant age groups)
Tuesday 15th November – Parents' Evening, 4pm – 7pm
Monday 21st November – Woodlands Assembly, 2.30pm in hall
Thursday 24th November – Parents' Evening, 4pm – 7pm
Friday 25th November – Year 4 Sharing assembly, 9.10am in hall
Thursday 1st December – Starting to Read information session for Reception Parents, 2.30pm with Elaine
Friday 2nd December – Year 6 sharing Assembly, 9.10am in hall
Thursday 8th December – Christingle Service in church (time to be confirmed)
Friday 9th December – Christmas Bazaar, 3pm – 4.30pm
Tuesday 13th December – Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance, 2pm in hall
Wednesday 14th December – Foundation Stage Nativity, 9.30am in hall
Wednesday 14th December – Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance, 2pm in hall
Thursday 15th December – School Christmas Lunch (and special visitor – ho, ho, ho!)
Friday 16th December – End of Term at 1pm

