



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

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

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage – The children have had a very happy week settling back into school, and we welcomed Amelia into the Reception group. As the sun gets stronger please remember to apply sun cream at home before school and to send your child in with a named sunhat. Shoulders should also be covered – no strappy sundresses or tops please. The children in Reception will be bringing home some homework in addition to their reading, in the form of a spelling list. It is important that the children are able to spell these words when writing their own sentences. Elaine has further lists if required and she would like to thank parents for the tremendous support they have given to their children's reading this year. It really has had an enormous impact on their learning – thank you.

Year 1 – We enjoyed storytelling Big Top Benn and exploring parts of the story with role play. We have been busy setting up a changing room in the class and look forward to trying on different costumes and going on new adventures, just like Mr Benn! We have worked well together in groups to practise our Hey Diddle Diddle May Dance during the week. In science we have started to investigate plants and understand the different parts.

Year 2 – We have been practising our mental addition and inventing number stories. We have been writing a report about planting potatoes at the allotment and a poem about our favourite things in nature. We have been practising our May dance – The Virginia Reel, and watering our seeds in our classroom.

Year 3 – We have enjoyed researching the change in housing from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. In D.T. we have begun to design our own houses from this period. In science we have continued our work on plants by identifying and describing herbs. We voted chives as our favourite. In maths we are working hard on using function machines to develop our multiplication skills.

Year 4 – Our short week has focussed on learning the 11 and 12 times tables, learning about Tutankhamun and attending a workshop at The Story Museum where we had a great time exploring the exhibits and attending a workshop about colour. In science we demonstrated our knowledge of living things to the Year 2s. We presented our posters which we had specifically designed for them, and used these to explain all seven life processes that every single living organism goes through. Year 2 would like to say a great big thank you to Ms Mzizi and Year 4 for the excellent presentation.

Year 5 – We have enjoyed learning a little about our parliamentary democracy; we have formed our own 'political parties' and are in the process of writing manifestos and designing leaflets and rosettes. We will be holding our own election on June 8th. We visited The Story Museum earlier this week for a poetry workshop. We visited the Brian Wildsmith exhibition and had a chance to explore some of the other exhibits which was great fun.

Year 6 – This week we have been perfecting our Maypole dance ready for the Friday afternoon performance! In science, we have started to investigate the diversity of plants and wildlife in our local area. We collected some plants samples from a local meadow and will be exploring different locations over the coming weeks to understand how plants and animals have adapted to their environments. We have been doing some last minute preparations for SATs, which begin on Monday. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD ARRIVES AT SCHOOL NO LATER THAN 8.45AM EACH MORNING, HAVING EATEN A HEALTHY BREAKFAST. **Year 6s please bring a mid-morning snack and water bottle with you.**

Parents are welcome in our school

After School Club and Wraparound Bills – The bills were sent out via book bags earlier this week and are also in ParentPay. The deadline for paying the April invoices is Friday 12th May. Please make sure debts are cleared by this date to ensure your children can continue to use the facilities. Thank you.

Activity Clubs – After discussion with the staff, and bearing in mind the number of events that happen over the Summer Term (May dancing, SATs, cycle training, sponsored reading, school fete, festival of voices, sharing assemblies, art exhibition, science week, trip and visits out of school, Key Stage 2 performance, to name but a few) we do not have the capacity for teachers to run clubs after school this term. Football club with Club Energy will continue as normal on Tuesdays. In September a number of clubs will start again and we will also explore more paid for clubs.

Plant Donations -The school grounds and flower tubs looked truly beautiful over the spring but have now gone over. Ms Christensen is hoping to plant them up with some children at lunchtimes so we would be very grateful for any donations of bedding plants. If you are buying any trays of plants for your garden, or if you see them for sale at the supermarket, maybe you could pass on some plants to us (marigolds, fuchsias, snap dragons, petunias, geraniums, lobelia etc. all welcome!).

FIDGET SPINNERS – Please note that **fidget spinners are banned from school** and we would appreciate parental support in this matter. Staff will take them away from children and return them to parents at the end of the day/week if they are brought into school.

I am hoping that by the time you read this we have had successful, dry and happy afternoon of May dancing. The children have been busy practising their dances all week.

Best wishes for a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Monday 8th May – start of Year 6 SATs test week (All Year 6s should be here every day and on time having had a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast)

Friday 19th May – **Year 1 sharing assembly** in hall at 9.10am

Friday 26th May – **Year 4 sharing assembly** in hall at 9.10am

Friday 26th May – **school finishes at 3pm for half term break** (After School Club as usual)

Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June – School Holiday

Monday 5th June – School closed for Staff Inset

Tuesday 6th June – Summer term starts again at 8.45am

South Oxford Adventure Playground: Active, adventure play and activities. Free entry, everyone welcome, open Thursdays and Fridays after school (3.15-5.15pm). To stay at SOAP unaccompanied you must be 7 years or over and have an up to date and complete SOAP registration form. Please see website for more details.

Lake Street Spring Fete

The Lake Street Playgroup will take place on Saturday 13 May from 12- 3pm - with fun for all the family including stalls, games, a bouncy castle, face painting, cakes, crafts, a BBQ, music and much, much more. They have space both inside and out, so come rain or shine it'll be a great day of fun for people of all ages. Everyone is welcome and entry is only £1 entry per family.

Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War – There will be an illustrated talk by local historian, Liz Woolley, on Friday 12th May at St Matthew's Church on Marlborough Road. Free entry, no need to book. Doors open at 6.45pm with the talk starting at 7.15pm.

