



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

8th December 2017

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

Well next week will be very busy with so many festive and seasonal events taking place. If you have children in Foundation Stage (Ducklings and Robins) or Key Stage 1 (Finches and Owls) please try and come to watch one of their performances – dates and times are listed at the end of this newsletter. Please note that all the children in school will have watched the dress rehearsals and so had the opportunity to see siblings and friends perform.

Thank You – To a group of year 5 and 6 singers who sang at the Salvation Army Christmas lunch on Wednesday and were excellent representatives of our school, and also to Mrs Tucker and Tim Sparrowhawk who accompanied them.

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings and Robins) – This week the children have continued to learn the songs for our Nativity with plenty of gusto! We look forward to sharing this event with you on Wednesday 14th December at 9.30am in the school hall. Please can we remind parents of children in the Robin class that the children need their **small reading books** and **reading diaries** in their book bags **every day**. This will ensure that the children can change their books and read to adults on a regular basis. Thank you.

Finches – We are enjoying the book ‘Harvey Slumfenburger’s Christmas Present’ by John Burningham. This week we have focussed on the characters and used role play to explore what they look like, say and feel. We have completed the maths check for this term and considered our next steps in our maths learning. Our D.T. ‘Tin Forest’ display of animals with moving parts is up in our classroom – come in and have a look!

Owls – We have been writing up the ‘Apple Tree Man’ story and doing maths tests on the maths we have learnt since half-term. We have been practising our acting and singing for our Nativity play, *Are We Nearly There Yet?* We look forward to showing parents next week (details at end of letter).

Doves – This week Doves have enjoyed storytelling the legend of Romulus and Remus, brothers who were said to be brought up by a wolf. We stepped, mapped and planned our own versions of it. After making our own clay tiles we have created Roman mosaic designs on them. In maths we are learning about multiples.

Woodpeckers – In English lessons this week we have enjoyed exploring onomatopoeia. Inspired by Longfellow’s ‘Hiawatha’, we have written poems of our own about the sounds that can be heard in forests. We have also been revising the maths that we have learned this term in preparation for our assessment next week.

Kingfishers – ***HOLD THE FRONT PAGE!*** An Osprey has been spotted catching fish at Hinksey Lake! Kingfishers have written a newspaper report about this news story. We are getting into Christmas by making 3d snowflakes to decorate the classroom. We have been filling the gaps in our maths learning ready for doing our best in a maths assessment which we did today.

Paid School Lunches – Every day of the week there are between 23 and 30 people in debt for school lunches. Please make sure that you have credit in your ParentPay accounts before booking your children in for lunches. We clearly cannot continue to have over £50 of debt to chase daily so will not be able to provide lunches for those children who have no credit and will have to ask you to send in a packed lunch. Please help us to ensure the provision of lunches runs smoothly by taking responsibility for checking your ParentPay accounts and keeping them debt free. Thanks.

Clubs – **Bollywood Dance** club will have a session on 14th December. **Parents of the children who do the Bollywood dance with Narinder are invited to join us in school on Friday 15th December at 9.15am to watch the children perform the dance they have learnt.**

After School Club – The last session for this term will be Monday 18th December as we finish at 1pm on Tuesday.

Parents are welcome in our school

Nursery Parents Applying for Primary School Place – You must complete an online application for your child's place at primary school **by 15th January 2018 if your child was born between 1.9.13 and 31.8.14**. You can access the forms on the Oxfordshire County Council website (School Admissions – Common Application Form). **If your child is already in our nursery (ducklings) you still must apply for a primary school place at this school.**

Christmas Lunch – Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 14th next week. On Wednesday the lunch will be pasta bolognese as the roast will be on Thursday. Despite our requests in the past 2 newsletters many parents did not pre book by last Monday to help us with numbers and the food order which has now been placed. Tracey has been around classes and asked children so that list is our final number. Your child will know if they have indicated that they would like a Christmas lunch. Please be advised that **we will not be providing Christmas lunch for children who have not paid in advance or who have outstanding lunch debts**. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 do not have to pay for lunches.

To pay for Christmas Lunch:

- Log into ParentPay
- Make sure you have credit to pay for the lunch and that it is allocated to lunches

After School Club and Wraparound Bills – the bills for November are due for payment by Monday 11th December. Please note that if you anticipate any changes in your After School Club booking requirements for January it is vital you make contact with Tracey as soon as possible as there are already fully booked days.

Staffing News – Mrs Louise Sumser (deputy head and classteacher) will be leaving us at Christmas to take up a new post at another primary school. She has been a member of staff here for 11 years and will be greatly missed. We are very pleased to announce that we have appointed Mrs Janet Young to teach Kingfisher Class on Thursdays and Fridays from January. Mrs Young is a highly experienced teacher and is coming into school next week to work with Miss Potier and Mrs Sumser to ensure a smooth handover.

Leaving Present for Mrs Sumser – If any families would like to donate to a farewell gift for Mrs Sumser who leaves at the end of term please send your donations in to the school office or hand to Tracey or Mrs Haynes at the gate. Thanks.

Art Event at South Oxford Community Centre – The children's author Korby Paul will be at the art event on Sunday. Flyers were sent home in books bags last week and there are also posters around the area and on our school railings for details.

Have a great weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries (for next half of term)

Tuesday 12th December – 2pm KS1 Nativity Performance to parents

Wednesday 13th December – 9.30am Foundation Stage Nativity to parents

Wednesday 13th December – 2pm KS1 Nativity Performance to parents

Thursday 14th December – Christmas Lunch and festive visitor ho, ho, ho!

Monday 18th December – 2.15pm – Christingle Service in Church – parents and guests welcome

Tuesday 19th December – 1.00pm – Term Ends

Christmas Holiday – Wednesday 20th December 2017 – Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Thursday 4th January 2018 – Term 2 starts at 8.45am

