



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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23rd March 2018

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

This newsletter will be the last of the term as we finish for the Easter holidays at 1.00pm on Thursday. During this week in school some children enjoyed participating in the Tennis Taster Workshop; Years 1 to 6 took part in the Sponsored Sports Relief 1km Run in the playground; Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children enjoyed a puppeteer show in the hall on Wednesday; Year 6s have enjoyed an amazing art experience today – an exploration of invisible materials!

Chickenpox - There have been several cases of chickenpox in the Foundation Stage.

School Clubs – Art Club will be running next week but there will be **no** Club Energy, Computer Club or Bollywood Dancing.

News from Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings and Robins) – We have continued to think about music and different types of musical instruments. The children really enjoyed a visit from Sarah and Claire from the Oxford Ukulele Orchestra. They played two different sized ukuleles and a guitar. All the children had a go with some of them playing very skilfully. We have also enjoyed playing with some of the new toys purchased using the termly fund from the School Association. We like to say a big thank you to all of the parents who work so hard to raise funds.

Finches – We have had an exciting week. We were so inspired by Emma Boor's puppet show and have enjoyed directing, narrating, performing and filming our own puppet plays based on Julia Donaldson's stories. In Maths we have worked hard to use our understanding of place value in number to count money. We were very proud to complete the Sports Relief run on Wednesday!

Owls – We have been adding money in Maths. We have enjoyed our tennis taster session and running around the playground 20 times for Sports Relief. We really enjoyed the garden-themed puppet show and have written interesting reviews of it. We have started thinking about plants and what they need to start growing and which parts of different plants we eat – e.g. carrots are roots, cabbages are leaves, leeks are stems.

Doves – In Maths we have worked hard on improving our telling the time skills. In Science we have investigated the Water Cycle by making our own spinners to show evaporation, condensation and precipitation. We have set up our own 'mini water worlds' to observe the water cycle on a smaller level using growing plants. In Art we have painted beautiful Monet inspired watercolours on canvases.

Woodpeckers – We have enjoyed researching, making and filming mini documentaries about volcanoes. Year 4 children have written some follow up poems after their visit to The Story Museum and Year 5 children have also developed their poetry skills by writing poems related to Ancient Rome. Our Maths has been focussed on revising the term's topics ready for an assessment next week. As a culmination to our Caroline Lawrence Roman Mysteries topic we have been writing quiz questions about the stories we have read.

Kingfishers – We have proved to be first class marshalls by helping younger children to complete their 1km for Sports Relief. We were very sensible and very kind. We are finishing our work on performance poetry and are mid-stage in our 'slam' competition. The final rounds should be completed by the end of this week.

Thank you for Rewards/Prizes – Many thanks to families who have donated various little gifts and prizes for the reward box – much appreciated. We can always do with more! (small toys, knick-knacks, stationery items etc.)

Parent Governor – Last term we were seeking a parent to join the Governing Body. We are pleased to welcome Kieran Cox (parent of JJ in Yr3) as the new parent governor, joining Harmonie, James, Ellie and Olivia.

Parents are welcome in our school

After School Club Bookings and Cancellations – Please can parents **email** the office email (office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk) with queries about future bookings and cancellation information. There are too many to be able to remember all the different dates and who is doing what by word of mouth! – many thanks.

Booking lunches - Parentpay offers the facility for parents to book lunches in advance. It is extremely useful when parents do that as it saves teaching time when teachers do not have to book every child's lunch in school. There are occasions when children have to leave school promptly to go on a trip (such as swimming lessons for Years 4 and 5 after Easter) and the teacher will not have time to enter lunches on the computer. Therefore, on those days if children have not been pre-booked for their lunches, they will have to bring packed lunches as it will be too late for the school kitchen to produce extra lunches once the children return from their swimming lessons. A further letter with details of the swimming will be sent home to all Year 4 and 5 children. Thank you.

Keeping Children Safe Online – As parents we urge you to take responsibility for finding out the best ways to keep your children safe on line when they are not in school.

Two good websites for parents are: www.thinkuknow.co.uk and www.nspcc.org.uk

Easter Egg Raffle – We need more donations of Easter chocolate and other Easter gifts to make the Easter Raffle a really great event on Wednesday. Do remember to get a few things when you are out shopping this weekend – many thanks. PTA parents are selling tickets in the playground at drop off and collection times.

Tennis Taster News – following on from Monday's workshop, there will be an Open Day on Saturday 24 March at Florence Park where children can turn up and play tennis for free on the courts. They can come at either 9am or 1pm. There is also a special offer for children to get 30% off the price of an Easter, May Half-Term or Summer tennis holiday camp if booked before 29 March and quoting NHINK_57. Please contact Premier Tennis on 01865 689754.

Next Term's Topic – We are sad to be coming to an end to our *Amazing Authors* topic which has been very successful. We are looking forward to the summer term when we will be breaking with tradition and having a number of different topics depending on the age of the children. The topics will be:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings and Robins) – **Fantasy**

Key Stage 1 (Finches and Owls) – **Circuses and Fairgrounds**

Key Stage 2 (Doves, Woodpeckers and Kingfishers) – **Heroes and Villains**

We look forward to seeing you all in school next week (**until 1pm on Thursday**) and then wish everyone a very happy Easter holiday. You should return to school for 8.45am on Monday 16th April.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Thursday 29th March – Term Ends after lunch at 1pm (no After School Club)

School Holiday Friday 30th March – Friday 13th April

Summer Term starts at 8.45am on Monday 16th April