



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

19th October 2018

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

This has been a busy half term and we hope everyone can enjoy a relaxed half term holiday next week. The second half of term starts at 8.45am on Monday 29th October.

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – We have been learning about ‘water’ particularly the creatures that live in the sea. We have read information and story books, and we have listened to the sounds of dolphins and whales on the internet. We have also created a beautiful underwater collage with Sarah. Many thanks for the generous donations of biscuits for snack times. We now have enough in stock to last for quite a few weeks. Lastly the children in Robin Class will be commencing their outdoor learning walks after half term – Elizabeth has sent out a letter with all the details so please check your child’s book bag for that.

Finches – This week we have been looking at ‘Dogger’ alongside ‘Knuffle Bunny’ and have been planning our own version with our toys from home. In maths we have been looking at shape. We have been identifying 2d shapes, making patterns and sorting them into groups. Finches have had a great first half term and Miss Haig hopes they enjoy a well deserved break.

Owls – We have been doing our maths assessments this week and learning more about The Great Fire of London. We have searched for different materials used in our classroom (wood, metal, glass, plastic and textiles) and discussed why those materials were chosen. We have thought about different materials used in various types of houses. We have been reading some Katie Morag stories and using them to revise some geographical terms and positional language: beside, next to, opposite, behind, below and above. We have helped to make and eat some apple crumble and flapjacks.

Doves – We have started a poetry focus by reading and writing ‘Kennings’. We described ourselves and then wrote them as elements of the Stone Age. In science we have made our own dinosaur fossils using plaster of Paris. We have worked hard on our maths assessments and have also been counting in French.

Woodpeckers – We have been revising the features of instructions texts and have discovered how difficult it can be to give or follow verbal instructions! We enjoyed following a bread roll recipe and having a go at plaiting the dough. In science we discovered which size of seed travelled the fastest. We had fun working in small groups and dropping them from the top of the climbing apparatus in the hall, whilst timing how long they took to fall. We will be analysing the results and drawing a conclusion from the experiment. The only homework for next week is to keep reading, have a go at personal list of spellings and to relax and have fun over the half term.

Kingfishers – After our magical assembly we have rounded off our learning about Shakespeare’s ‘The Tempest’ by writing a spell to conjure the storm. Some are even in Latin! We have worked hard at our half termly maths assessment and are learning from any mistakes we made. In our computer lesson we have finished a short animation using ‘SCRATCH’ and a PowerPoint about the theories of Copernicus and/or Galileo.

School Lunches – the new menus will appear on ParentPay and will start from Monday 29th October. Please have a good look at these with your children and pre book your child’s choices, ensuring that lunches are paid for in advance and that you remain in credit.

Flu Immunisations – All children **from Reception to Year 5** will be offered the flu immunisation in school (via a nasal spray administered by nurses) in early December. There will be further consent form paperwork to come but we thought it useful to let you know that it will be happening.

Parents are welcome in our school

Information for Parents/Carers of Pupils in Year 6 – The deadline of 31st October is getting close and by then you need to have applied for a secondary school place for your children. The forms are online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions and then go to the secondary school section.

Year 5 and 6 Residential to Woodlands 10th – 14th December - There will be a meeting for parents and pupils of children going to Woodlands on **Thursday 1st November at 3.15pm** at school. Please come along.

Children Using WhatsApp – It has come to our attention that some of our older children are in WhatsApp groups and exchanging messages, despite not being WhatsApp's minimum age of use which is 16. Whilst this is beyond school control and a matter for parents, we would urge parents who do allow children to use WhatsApp and other messaging on mobile phones, **to monitor and check closely and regularly the messages being sent**. It is disappointing to hear that foul language has been used and also some bossy comments.

Children's Dressing Up Clothes – If you have any outgrown dressing up costumes suitable for Foundation Stage sized children we would really appreciate them – thank you.

Children Starting School in Reception in September 2019 – Parents of children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 will need to apply for a school place online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. This can be done between 25th October 2018 and 15th January 2019. If you know of friends, neighbours or family members in the area to whom this applies do encourage them to phone the school (01865 242169) to arrange to come and look around.

Photocopying Paper Plea – Thank you to so many of you who generously support us by keeping our photocopying and printer paper topped up. These small regular donations of items which we use a lot of are really helpful to us so please keep them coming.

School Association Treasurer - Harmonie, our wonderful treasurer, has been in the job many years, and is planning to step down at the end of this school year (July 2019). The treasurer plays a vital role on the School Association committee, so if you're interested we'd love to hear from you. Harmonie (mum of James in Woodpeckers), April (mum of Annie in Doves and Sam in Robins) or Ben (dad of Amelia in Owls), can tell you more about the role and what is involved.

A date for your diary! This year's **Christmas bazaar** will take place **on Friday 7th December**. We are going to need as much support as possible to make this a really successful event. If you are interested in helping out (either on the day or with prep beforehand), please contact Louisa Brossler (mum of Sophia in Owls and Imogen in Robins), who will be planning the bazaar this year: lbrossler@gmail.com

New Hinksey School Choir - Does your child enjoy singing? Jo Gill (mother of Hannah in Kingfishers) will be running an after-school choir on Tuesdays after half term. This will give children a chance to enjoy singing a range of different songs and to develop their singing and musical skills. We are hoping there will also be some performance opportunities at some point, either in or out of school. The choir will be open to all children in Key Stage 2. The sessions will run from **3.10-3.45 every Tuesday, starting on 6th November and running through to 11th December**. If your child would like to join the choir please sign up with Mrs Haynes, after half term, who will hold a list for Jo. Children who think they might like to join but aren't sure are welcome to come along for a week or two as a trial before committing.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October - HALF TERM HOLIDAY.

Monday 29th October - term starts again at 8.45am.

Thursday 1st November 3.15pm Meeting for parents of children going to Woodlands

Friday 16th November – Finch Class Sharing Assembly 9.10am in the school hall

Friday 23rd November - International Evening 6.30pm – 8pm in the hall

Friday 7th December 3 - 4.30pm Christmas Bazaar