



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

2nd November 2018

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

Welcome back to the second half of term and what a week it has been with children in a high state of excitement due to 'trick or treating' and also looking forward to fireworks at the weekend. Year 1 and 2 also had an informative visit from the Rewley Road Red Watch firefighters with their fire engine.

Parents' Evenings – This week sign-up sheets have been put up on classroom doors or in the glass house for Kingfishers and Woodpeckers. The dates for the parent-teacher meetings are Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th November from 4pm until 7pm. Please sign up for a slot that is convenient to you so that you can hear how your child is doing and how we can work together to help every child be successful.

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – Elaine is unwell at the moment but the children have responded brilliantly to getting to know a very experienced supply teacher called Chris, and also spending more time with Loraine who knows them from Wednesday afternoons. All the staff have ensured that an interesting range of learning activities, inside and outside have been taking place and enjoyed by the children. Phonics covered this week have been 'g' and 'ck' and also some work on blending cvc (consonant-vowel-consonant) words such as tin, pat, dog etc. On Wednesday Elizabeth and Bimla took a group out for a fabulous autumn walk.

Finches – We have settled back in brilliantly after half-term. This week we have been looking at the story 'Sparks in the Sky' with a key theme of fireworks. Children will be using adjectives and their senses to write a descriptive poem. In maths we have been looking at numbers up to 30, sequencing, ordering and finding 1 more and 1 less.

Owls – We have had another 'fire' themed week finding out about fire-fighting equipment during the Great Fire of London and nowadays. We have explored three 'fire' creation stories from Australia and North America. We have been investigating and thinking about the properties, qualities and uses of different materials. We helped to make (and tasted) some pumpkin soup. We all shared our news during *Show and Tell* and we also wrote about what we did at half-term as a diary inspired by Samuel Pepys.

Doves – We have enjoyed our focus on poetry. We have experimented with personification, alliteration and spooky, rhyming poems! In maths we have worked hard to understand place value of larger numbers. In Design Technology (D.T.) we are finding out about different types of boat in preparation for designing our own.

Woodpeckers – In English we have researched and explained 'colour' and how important it is to artists because it allows them to achieve particular effects of mood and illusion. We mixed colours to make a colour wheel and experimented with using complimentary colours to represent the four elements. Fractions have been this week's maths focus and we have worked hard to identify and compare them. We have enjoyed listening to the start of our new class book, 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', by Philip Pullman.

Kingfishers – We have been describing the appearance and taste of different biscuits for our D.T. project; learning about the 2015 earthquake in Nepal and improving our confidence to solve long and short multiplication. PLEASE CAN PARENTS SAVE BISCUITS PACKAGING AND SEND INTO SCHOOL OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS? Thank you.

School Lunches – the new menus have started so 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

Year 5 and 6 Residential to Woodlands 10th – 14th December – Thank you to those parents who attended yesterday's meeting about the residential trip to Woodlands. If you were not able to attend then please look out for information sheets or letters which will come home in due course. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT 5 HAS PASSED SO PLEASE CHECK PARENTPAY AND MAKE PAYMENTS TO KEEP UP TO DATE. All outstanding monies must be paid before the residential week in order for the children to take part. Thanks.

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.

After School Club and Wraparound Care Bills – The invoices for October are due for payment by 16th November.

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.

Christmas Bazaar – We have some great prizes coming in for the raffle this year, and as ever, we really welcome prize donations, especially bottles, chocolates, smellies etc. These can be left with raffle ticket sellers in playground, or speak to Louisa or a committee member.

REMINDER: this year's Christmas fete is due to take place on Friday 7th December after school. If you are interested in helping out, please let Louisa Brossler know on lbrossler@gmail.com. Any support would be welcomed greatly to ensure that this is a successful event!

Parent Carer Forum - The new Parent Carer Forum for Oxfordshire will be launching on 8 November at the OXFSN 'Better Together Event'. The forum has been set up by a group of parents with children who have special education needs and disabilities (SEND) to work with Oxfordshire County Council and the local NHS to help improve services for children with SEND. For further information about the forum, please contact: Tel: 07394 735666; Email: info@oxpcf.org.uk; Web: www.oxpcf.org.uk; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/oxpcf/>; Twitter: @OxPCForum

New Hinksey School Choir – This free club starts next week on Tuesday 6th November from 3.10-3.45pm and is being run by parent Jo Gill who is a music teacher. It is open to children in Key Stage 2 (years 3 - 6). Please can parents let Mrs Haynes know if your child will be attending.

'The 37 Men of New and South Hinksey' Book Launch – on Sunday 11th November at 5pm in St John the Evangelist Church. Come along for the launch of this book commemorating the lives of the 37 men on the 1st World War memorial in the church. Tea and cake will be provided by South Oxford Women's Institute.

St John's Church open on Thursdays till the end of term, 2.30-3.30pm - Fr Ben and the people of St John's welcome you to visit, explore, or take a quiet moment in the Church: a hot or cold drink will be available at the back of Church. All welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th November 4pm – 7pm Parents' Evening

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