



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

23rd November 2018

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

We hope that by now most of you have seen our wonderful new outside tables in the back playground. They are providing space for an outdoor classroom as well as a summertime packed lunch dining area for the junior children. They are also providing a lovely place for those children who want to take advantage of the 'quiet/no running or ball games' space that the back playground is. Already the children are enjoying having somewhere to chill out at break times should they want to just sit and chat with friends away from high speed games! The tables were purchased using some 'sugar tax' revenue that the government collected and then distributed to schools with specific items only being able to be bought. The money was just £2000 so not enough to build a sports hall, changing rooms for a swimming pool, nor provide an astro turf pitch, which were some suggestions!

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – We are sorry that Elaine is on sickness absence but have heard that she is just starting to improve. It is lovely that Chris, such an experienced teacher, is able to step in. This week the children have continued to focus on pattern, using *Elmer the Elephant* stories as an inspiration. Robins have also really enjoyed using their first reading books to read to Chris. We hope they have enjoyed sharing their reading skills with you at home. Thank you for writing comments in their reading diaries – it is lovely that the children are feeling so confident and seeing themselves as early readers now. ***Foundation Stage parents please note that the Foundation Nativity will now be at 9.30am on Tuesday 18th December in the school hall and not on 12th December***

Finches – In English we have been following on from *Jack and the Beanstalk*, writing letters to the giant and creating wanted posters for Jack. In maths we have been learning about parts of a plant and their functions. Just a reminder, please ensure children have appropriate PE kit as the weather is getting colder e.g. long jogging trousers and jumpers for outside P.E. Thank you.

Owls – We are still exploring 'the wind' I English with our wind poems now in a class book and we have been learning the fable of *The North Wind and the Sun*. We will tell you the story as part of our homework. We have learnt almost all our nativity songs and have started practising our lines in groups. We have been adding and subtracting 2-digit number in maths.

Doves – We have worked hard on telling the time in maths. We have practised telling the time in 1 minute and 5 minute intervals and used am and pm. We have then applied all these skills to solve time word problems. In our topic work we have found out about the Beaker people and how they changed Bronze Age Britain. We then designed and made our own Beaker style pottery cups, adding on engraved patterns using tools and our finger nails. Some of us used 'maggot' patterns like the Beaker people did.

Woodpeckers – Our focus has been geography and we have cooperated in pairs or small groups to research, plan and present a large poster about a particular biome (a zone in the world with unique climate, vegetation and animals). We have enjoyed discovering and sharing interesting facts about adaptations and survival in the biome and the threats to it. We have made a start on sewing our koi fish streamer kites and have all risen to the challenge of developing finer sewing skills.

Kingfishers – We have been focussing on independent reading and keeping up-to-date records in our new reading journals. In maths lessons Year 5 children have been ordering decimal numbers and working on equivalent fractions; Year 6 children have been practising short division. Our visit to the History of Science Museum for a workshop on 'Earth and Space' was very successful. The children all enjoyed it and learnt a great deal.

Flu Immunisations – For **Reception to Year 5** (via a nasal spray administered by nurses) on Wednesday 5th December. If you have not yet returned your consent form (consenting or declining) please return it first thing on Monday morning as they will be collected during the day on Monday 26th.

Parents are welcome in our school

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.

Christmas Bazaar – Friday 7th December 3 - 4.30pm

Christmas Raffle - You should have received two books of tickets for the Christmas Raffle (to be drawn at the Bazaar on 7th December) in book bags. Please buy some if you can, or sell to friends, family and colleagues. Stubs and money can be given to sellers in the playground at drop-off and pick-up. If you think you could be extra wonderful and sell more, April or Ben can give out extra books. Tickets cost £1 each, £5 a book. Terrific prizes to be won!

Christmas Wreath Making - Any parents interested to join an evening on 5th December making festive wreaths to sell at the Christmas Bazaar please email Rowan: rowan.ryrie@gmail.com. We would also welcome any donations of a bag of greenery (holly/ivy etc.)!

Raffle Donations - As always, we need donations for raffle prizes. Bottles, chocolates, fancy biscuits, craft kits, unwanted gifts, all welcome - please bring them in and leave them with the ticket sellers.

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.

EasyFundraising App - Thank you so much to all the parents using the EasyFundraising app. In just one month 22 supporters have raised £29 for the school through shopping online. Visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/newhinkseysa> to download the app or speak to Ben Armstrong before you do your online Christmas shopping or arrange your holiday travel plans.

International Evening – if you are planning on coming to International Evening tonight please remember to use the red, wooden, old front door on Vicarage Lane. The evening starts at 6.30pm. We look forward to seeing many of you there with your shared buffet contributions.

And finally.....

We are thrilled to be able to tell you that this week we received a letter from the Right Honourable Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Standards thanking us and congratulating us on our '*outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check*' and in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively. To quote from the letter, '*With 96 per cent of pupils at New Hinksey C.E. Primary School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 7 per cent of all primary schools in the country.*'

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Friday 30th November – Woodpecker Class Sharing Assembly 9.10 in school hall

Wednesday 5th December – Reception to Year 5 Flu immunisations

Friday 7th December 3 - 4.30pm Christmas Bazaar

Monday 10th – Friday 14th December – Year 5 and 6 Residential at Woodlands

Wednesday 12th December – Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance to parents 2pm in hall

Thursday 13th December – Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance to parents 2pm in hall

Tuesday 18th December – Foundation Stage Nativity performance to parents 9.30am in hall

Wednesday 19th December – School Christmas Lunch and festive visitor ho, ho, ho

Wednesday 19th December – School Christingle Service in church at 2pm

Thursday 20th December – TERM ENDS at 1pm

Friday 21st December 2018 – Friday 4th January 2019 - School Holiday

Monday 7th January – Start of Term at 8.45am