



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

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

What a lovely event the **Bake Off Café** was. There were so many amazing entries of baked goods that were delicious and we hope you enjoyed eating them too. Every entry was to be commended – well done everyone.

Winners and runners up were: Harry V, Aira, Manha B, Clara V, Eva, Jonah, Edie, Lewis, Sandra (TA) and Jo W (parent). Congratulations to you. Thank you to the school association parents who organised this and to Marie Tidball, our local councillor, for her heroic efforts tasting and judging all the cakes.

**Thank you to Owl Class** for their wonderful sharing assembly this morning when they told us all about their fascinating learning about insects. Well done families for such a big audience.

**Fantastic Day in school on Friday** – we were open, as were many of the city schools, and were fully staffed. It was our own snow day with enthusiastic playing in the snow at playtime and all lessons and learning as normal. Thank you to all those who did not let a few inches of snow thwart them!

## News From Classes:

**Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception)** – We have continued to think about what number is ‘one more or one less’ than a given number (1-13). Our writing skills are now really developing and many of us have enjoyed ‘writing’ on lined paper at the mark-making table. We have all been thinking about ‘sharing toys’ and what it means to ‘be gentle’. We have responded really positively to this input, and we have been very good at sharing a very big box (imagining it to be a train, house or car) in the garden.

**Finches** – We are continuing with *Handa’s Surprise* in English and have been writing letters and diaries. In maths we are beginning to look at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. In topic this week, we were detectives and were reading labels on different food packages to find out where in the world they were made, it was lots of fun!

**Owls** – In maths we have been learning to describe 3D shapes and to tell the time – quarter past and quarter to the hour. We have been producing a best version of our ‘How Butterflies came to be’ story. We have been practising for our ‘Insect’ focussed sharing assembly. Thank you to all families who took part in the RSPB’s Big Garden Bird Watch last weekend. ‘Winterwatch’ said 21,000 children took part!

**Doves** – In science we have continued looking at healthy eating by analysing the contents of cereals. We looked at sugar and salt in a wide range and found that shredded wheat, porridge and weetabix were the healthiest. We have designed our own cereals which we are going to make. In English we have developed our descriptive skills and used similes to describe settings and characters. In maths we have had lots of fun measuring each other and our feet and converting to centimetres and metres. We enjoyed a fascinating workshop on art history and appreciation with a visiting expert on Thursday morning.

**Woodpeckers** – We have been working hard to independently plan, write and improve our Egyptian stories. In maths, the focus for Year 4s has been properties of shape using vocabulary like parallel and perpendicular, acute or obtuse – to describe the lines or angles of shape. Year 5s have focussed on measurement and converting units of weight, capacity and distance. Our clay canopic jars have been made and we look forward to painting them next week in our art sessions. We have also worked cooperatively in music to compose our own versions of a chant for the sun god Ra! ‘Teeth’ has been the focus in science, so do ask your child all about keeping them clean and healthy.

**Kingfishers** – In maths we have been investigating 2D shapes – quadrilaterals and triangles. We have produced self-portraits – which are on display in the Kingfisher classroom; do come and look. We have continued our Victorian era exploration and have turned our thoughts to planning an adventure story set during this period. In science we have been learning about the life cycle of an amphibian. We have begun creating an E-book incorporating text, images and sound in our computer lessons.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Lunch Debts** – A number of families are running up debts for lunches and, despite many reminders, are not keeping up to date with payments. Please ensure that debts are paid and that there is money in ParentPay to cover the cost of lunches when you book them, rather than paying after the lunches have been taken. Thank you.

**Some Healthy Eating Reminders to Everyone** - Please make sure that the morning snack being brought in for playtime is healthy i.e. **fresh fruit or veg**. We are **no longer allowing cereal bars** as even ones sold as healthy have a very high sugar content and produce unnecessary wrappers.

Also please **provide your child with a water bottle** and **only water to have with their packed lunches**. Fruity drinks not only contain sugar but are also acidic which is not good for children's teeth.

And finally, we urge you all to **limit lunchbox sweet, chocolate snacks/treats to just one**. Thank you for your support.

**After School Club Bills** – The invoices for January were sent home today and are due for payment, using ParentPay, by 15<sup>th</sup> February. Thanks.

**Fortnite** – Because of its frequent scenes of mild violence Fortnite is rated 12+ years by PEGI (Pan European Game Information). Unfortunately many younger children are playing it so **it is important that parents are aware of the safety concerns that have been raised** and how to help their child play safely. Or better still, as none of the children at this school are 12 years old, do not allow them to play Fortnite. Also, staff at this school are increasingly aware that many children are playing on gadgets and phones in bed till late at night and are consequently not fit for learning at school because they are absolutely exhausted and grumpy day after day. Please help your children to get adequate sleep – thanks.

- There is no age verification process when setting up a Fortnite account and it is also important that children do not create usernames that give away personal information.
- Fortnite offers 3 levels of privacy, **public** - where anyone can enter your child's online party, **friends** – where only friends can join a party and **private** – which means no one can enter your child's party unless invited by the child themselves.
- Fortnite allows 'voice chat' to be disabled so if a parent deems it appropriate you can turn the voice chat option off.
- Make sure your child knows what to do if someone speaks to your child during a game in a nasty or inappropriate way, or asks them for personal information – make sure they come to you so that it can be reported.

**Bad Weather/Snow/Ice Conditions** – For those families who are newer to the school, please be aware that we rarely close in poor weather as we are fortunate enough to have many staff within walking distance and those staff further afield make provisions to get to work. We know how difficult it is and what a knock on effect it has for working parents if the school closes. However, in the future should there be such extreme conditions that we are advised by the authorities that it would be unsafe to open, we will advise parents through the county council school closure website, through having a notice on the front page of our school website and through announcements on Radio Oxford.

Miss Kilpatrick has noticed that the National Theatre's brilliant production of Michael Morpurgo's story 'War Horse' is returning to Oxford's New Theatre between 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It is well worth getting tickets.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

### **Dates for Diaries**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 9.10 in hall – Sharing Assembly by Finch Class**

**Half Term Holiday Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day** (details of how we are celebrating books nearer the time)

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 9.10 in hall – Sharing assembly by Dove Class**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March is Comic Relief Day** and we will be doing something to fundraise for this.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 9.10 in hall – Sharing Assembly for Woodpecker Class**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 9.10 in hall – Sharing Assembly for Kingfisher Class**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – 4 – 7pm Parents' Evenings**

**Term Ends at 1pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April for Easter Holiday**

**Summer term starts at 8.45pm on TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> April**