



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

15th February 2019

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

Thank you everyone – staff, parents, pupils and governors for your contributions and support in making the first half of this spring term so successful and happy. I think we are all ready for a bit of a rest next week and recharging the batteries so that the next half of the term is equally as successful. We will be continuing with our ‘Take One.....’ topic in each class and hopefully enjoying some spring weather.

Well done Finch Class, Miss Haig and Sonia for the fabulous sharing assembly this morning. It was much enjoyed by all and showcased such a lot of enjoyable learning and fabulous actions and movement!

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – This week we have started to enjoy books by John Burningham. When we read *Mr Gumpy's Outing*, we thought about weight, floating, sinking and why it is important to sit still and be safe on a boat. When reading *The Magic Bed* and *Oi Get Off Our Train*, we were thinking about the difference between fantasy and reality. Please can we remind you about the WOW moments as we are always proud and thrilled to have notes of achievement read out to the class. They also form lasting family moments in our books. Thank you.

Finches – This week we have been continuing the *Little Red Hen* and have been writing instructions on how to make bread. We then had a go at making our own bread roll. In maths we have been looking at odd and even numbers and continuing to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. We did very well in our class assembly and hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Miss Haig hopes that all the Finches enjoy their half-term.

Owls – We have been doing maths, reading and spelling assessments this week to show how well we are progressing. We have written reviews of *The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark*. We have been enjoying learning about food chains, habitats and life cycles with Miss Hatley. Miss K, Miss Hatley and Mel wish the Owl class a very happy half-term.

Doves – We have worked really hard on our maths assessments. In English we have investigated root words such as friend, bio and arch. We have added suffixes and prefixes and used dictionaries to help us check spellings and meanings. Our miniature pottery Nandi sculptures have now been decorated and had jewels and glitter added. Please can your child bring in a white or pale t-shirt for art after half-term. Thank you.

Woodpeckers – In English we have studied, recited and composed our own ‘kenning’ poetry, which originates from Anglo-Saxon times. Kennings are riddles which describe something without telling what it is. Can you guess what a tree glider, nut nibbler, acorn seeker might be? Our maths assessment has clarified our next steps of learning and we are all working hard to understand why we made mistakes so that we don't make them again. This, as we discussed in circle time, is one of the ways to be an effective learner. We are proud of our finished canopic jars – come and have a look at them in the trophy cabinet at the bottom of the stairs – you will agree that the gold paint adds to the finishing touches. No formal homework has been given out this week but please do encourage your child to enjoy reading a book or few over the week – it is so vital for their reading and writing skills. We will be discussing books and author recommendations when we come back to school.

Kingfishers – As a labour of love we have peer-edited and checked our Victorian adventure story – next we will write them out using our best joined handwriting. We have worked hard on our half-termly maths assessment this week and have learned from any mistakes that we may have made. In science we have been comparing the gestation periods of various mammals. We have also been furthering our understanding of gears, levers and pulleys by making models using K'nex.

Computer Club – Please note that after the half term this club will change its name to **Animation Club** and will be specifically for making short animations and **not for playing online games**. Thank you.

Parents are welcome in our school

Lunch Debts – There have been changes to the way Parentpay operates. It is now essential that you have credit before booking your child's lunch. If there is no credit then your child will not be given a school lunch as Parentpay will automatically cancel the booking.

Plea for Donations – We will gratefully receive parent donations of any of the following items to support our resources:

- Glue sticks
- Boxes of tissues
- A4 photocopying paper
- Packs of A4 coloured card for art and craft
- Small presents, bouncy balls and toys or fun stationery items for Mrs Haynes' reward box (suitable for the children not Mrs Haynes!)

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 are due for payment, using ParentPay, by today, 15th February. Please ensure that any outstanding bills are paid over the weekend.

Tech Camp – Next Thing Education will be running a 'Tech Camp' at St Ebbe's Primary School during half term 18th – 23rd February, from 9am to 3pm. From £40 per day. To register go to www.nextthing.education or call 01442873150 for more information.

Chatterbabies – language for little ones sessions are being held on Thursdays at the South Oxford (Lake Street) Community Centre. Free trial session available. Go to www.chatterbabies.co.uk for more information or call Laura on 07938 261106.

School Disco Save the Date - Wednesday 20th March, 4.30-5.30pm for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, 6-7pm for Key Stage 2. Entry via wristbands, available closer to the date. This event relies on parent helpers. Please contact Ben or April from the School Association if you wish to volunteer.

During the half term holiday please take the time to ensure PE bags are sorted out so that everyone has a clean PE kit in school for next term, and that book bags and school bags are gone through to find letters, homework, decaying fruit snacks etc.! Many thanks.

Have a happy week.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Half Term Holiday Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February 2019

Monday 25th February – Return to School 8.45am after the holiday

Thursday 28th February – Woodpecker Ashmolean Trip – please remember packed lunches

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

Friday 8th March 9.10 in hall – Sharing assembly by Dove Class

Friday 15th March is Comic Relief Day and we will be doing something to fundraise for this.

Friday 22nd March 9.10 in hall – Sharing Assembly for Woodpecker Class

Wednesday 27th March 9.10 in hall – Sharing Assembly for Kingfisher Class

Thursday 28th March and Tuesday 2nd April – 4 – 7pm Parents' Evenings

Term Ends at 1pm on Friday 5th April for Easter Holiday

Summer term starts at 8.45pm on TUESDAY 23rd April