



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019

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

Well we thought last week was a busy one but this week turned out to be even busier once we received a phone call at 10.30am on Monday to say that Ofsted would be inspecting the school on Tuesday! We were pleased with how the inspection went and would like to say a very big thank you to parents, governors and the whole school community for your support and good wishes. There was a very good and overwhelmingly positive response to the parent questionnaire. As all the results of the Ofsted questionnaire are available to us we will no longer be 'hassling' you to complete our own parent questionnaire that we had gone live with the week before. However, any responses already completed on the school one will be looked at and analysed by governors along with the Ofsted Parent View results. As soon as the final Ofsted report is available we will send out copies to each family. This will be in around 3 weeks' time. We all enjoyed the Egyptian sharing assembly this morning – thanks to the Woodpeckers for entertaining us.

**School Disco** – What a lovely, well organised evening this was and much enjoyed by the children. Thank you to all those parents who gave up their time organising and supervising.

## **News From Classes:**

**Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception)** – This week we have turned our attention from baby people to baby animals. The children have enjoyed building houses for animals, playing in the vets, drawing animals and using information books to find out the special names for baby animals. For example, a baby guinea pig surprised us all by being called 'a pup'.

**Finches** – This week we have been creating our own stories from 'The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza'. We have created our own characters, questions and ending. In maths we have been adding amounts of money and adding/taking away 10 from a 2 digit number. In our topic work we have been looking at food from the past and talking about rationing.

**Owls** – This week we have been learning more about multiplying and dividing. We have learnt to tell the story of the origins of the four main rivers in China called 'The Four Dragons'. We have enjoyed making Dragon collages and masks and doing drama all linked to the story.

**Doves** – We have enjoyed our tree and flower focussed week including a trip to investigate the variety of trees in Hinksey Park, observational flower drawings and writing tree poems.

Max (Mr Tucker!) is running the London marathon for the charity DELTA which is a national charity supporting deaf children, their families and practitioners. If you would like to support this by sponsoring Max please go to:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/max-tucker-SAVMLMBONDS3332019-155738> Thank you.

**Woodpeckers** – We have been busy word processing our news reports and writing different reports about other aspects of Egyptian life for 'The Egyptian Times'. We have also worked hard to recite lines and use our voices clearly to act out the three parts of our assembly play – which we hope you all enjoyed. In maths Year 4 have perfected their 4 digit subtraction skills and Year 5 have worked very hard to understand different sorts of fractions including mixed numbers, proper fractions and improper fractions. We have begun to decorate our musical instruments in D.T. and in science we have continued to investigate sound.

**Kingfishers** – This week we have been looking closely at Lowry's paintings, both to describe in words and also to copy a part of one for a large class painting! We have been working on ratio, proportion and mixed numbers in maths. In our science lessons we have been learning about wind resistance and yesterday, as it wasn't windy, we were finally able to test the parachutes we had designed and made.

**Bollywood Dancers** – The group of dancers will perform their dances during assembly on Monday afternoon. If any parents of the group would like to watch please arrive at school for 2.35pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Year 1 Finch Class Parents and Carers** – After Easter we will be expecting all children to say goodbye to their parents in the morning at the line at 8.45am so that the children can walk into class independently and get themselves organised for the day ahead. Please talk to your child about this and start preparing and practising over the next couple of weeks.

**Parent Governor News** – Olivia Selinger has been a parent governor for a number of years and her term of office comes to an end this month. Olivia is happy to continue but we are obliged to let you know so that if there is another parent who wants to stand we can organise a parent ballot. The role of a governor is to support the school in its strategic direction and it involves 6 full governing body meetings a year (evenings) plus membership of one of the committees which meet approximately 5 times a year in the late afternoon. Please email Charlotte Haynes or write a note letting me know if you would like to stand.

**Comic Relief** – Well done everyone. We raised a total of £531.77 through the talent show, dressing up and having a cake sale. All the money will be given to Comic Relief.

**Term Dates for 2019 – 2020** – The term and holiday dates for the next school year were sent out last week and are also on our school website in the ‘Parents Information’ section. If you are planning holidays please make sure these fall within the school holidays. We do not authorise any holiday absence during term time.

**Parents’ Evenings** – These are scheduled for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April with appointments between 4pm and 7pm. Sign-up sheets are pinned up around school close to the classes and in the Glasshouse. Please make every effort to attend as it is an important way to keep you informed of your child’s progress and for you to be involved in helping your children with any areas that they find difficult. Please make contact with your child’s teacher if it is impossible for you to come on either of those evenings. It will not be possible to have appointments before 4pm on those two dates. We look forward to talking to you about your children’s successes.

**Summer Fete - Save the Date! The New Hinksey Summer Fete** – This will be taking place on Saturday 6th July this year. It’s always a highlight of the school year - put the date in your diaries now!

**Easter Raffle** - The ever-popular Easter raffle will happen on the last day of term, Friday 5th April. Members of the School Association will be selling raffle tickets in the playground (£1 per strip) in the week leading up to it, and we’ll also be looking out for plenty of donations of Easter chocolates, large and small, to ensure lots of happy children. We would also welcome some non-chocolate Easter gifts for the raffle as, believe it or not, not all children like chocolate!

**Seeking Parent Views** – Earlier in the school year we conducted a very informative pupil questionnaire and now we would like to ask parents for their views about the school. As a school we are continuously seeking ways to improve, and self-evaluation is a vital part of this process. We place great importance on the views of the whole school community and would like to find out more about parental perceptions and opinions. Please could you take 5 minutes to respond to the online survey which can be found at: <https://oxford.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/hinksey>  
If you would prefer a paper copy, please ask for one and we will provide a returns box for you to drop them back into. Please make your responses by Friday March 29<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks for anticipated help.

**Chicken Pox** – Please be aware that there are a few cases about at the moment.

**Hinksey Hedgehogs Need Your Help!** - Hinksey Hogs is a new local hedgehog conservation project. We want to monitor hedgehogs before and after we have made our gardens more hedgehog-accessible. The first stage of the project involves recording where hedgehogs currently live in the neighbourhood through the use of footprint tunnels - these are plastic tunnels that you can set up in your garden to record the footprints of any animals that wander through! If you would like to host a footprint tunnel in your garden from this March, please email [hinkseyhogs@gmail.com](mailto:hinkseyhogs@gmail.com) for further information. We will also be at South Oxford Farmer's Market on Sunday 24th March.

Yours sincerely,

*Charlotte Haynes*

### **Dates for Diaries**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Sharing Assembly for Kingfisher Class \*\*please note change of time to 2.35pm\*\***

**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**