



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

29th March 2019

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

We have had another great week in school. Sadly we say goodbye to Miss Hatley this week as she has finished a very successful teaching placement in Owl class. We will miss her a great deal and wish her happiness and success in her future teaching career.

Thank you to the Bollywood dancers for colourfully adding to our Holi assembly by showing us their latest dance. We all enjoyed the Victorian sharing assembly on Wednesday – thanks to the Kingfishers for telling us about the Victorians and dressing up to show us how Victorians would look. We are pleased that Miss Potier kept discipline very well and no naughty Victorian children were caned!

## News From Classes:

**Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception)** – This week robins have enjoyed seeing a bit of Loraine (Ms Christensen) and hearing about her tortoise, Herbert, who has recently come out of hibernation and who may be visiting the class on Monday! We have also continued to find out about the names of baby animals and were surprised to hear that a baby elephant is called a calf and a baby meerkat is called a pup! Robins have also found out a lot about shapes - rectangles, squares, triangles and circles. Please help us to spot them and name them when we are out and about.

**Finches** – This week we have been looking at a new story called ‘Supertato’. We have been inventing our own superheroes and villains. In maths we have been using a hundred square to add and takeaway 1 and 10 from any number up to 100. **After Easter, the children will be expected to come into the classroom on their own to prepare for Year 2. Please encourage their independence during the morning routines next week and try to say goodbye to them on the playground.**

**Owls** – We have been very busy this week learning all about China as part of our Dragons topic. We have been learning about the Terracotta Army, handling artefacts, looking at maps and making dragon masks. In English, we have been investigating the characters in the story of ‘The Four Dragons’ and thinking about descriptions, emotions and script writing, culminating in creating and acting out a short scene. In Maths we have been handling money and learning about prices and change in Miss Kilpatrick’s shop. We have also started to learn our May Day dance ‘Strip the Willow’ for the school’s May Day celebrations after Easter.

**Doves** – This week we have focussed on writing detailed profiles of the main characters in ‘The Secret Garden’. In science we have been learning about the way water is transported in plants by using celery and food colouring. We have learnt about xylem and capillaries. In maths we have created factor bugs and practised our multiplication and division skills by 10, 100 and 1000.

**Woodpeckers** – It has felt like a newsroom during our English lessons as some people were busy typing up their Egyptian news reports and others were researching ‘new’ stories to report. We hope to get the final newspapers printed out from the work that we have done in ‘Publisher’ in ICT. In science we have continued to explore how sound is made and have enjoyed the investigations that we have carried out over the past few weeks.

**Kingfishers** – Year 5 have been learning about imperial units of measurement this week whilst Year 6 have explored generalising rules in sequences. Our Victorian Day on Wednesday along with our sharing assembly was fun and highly successful. We have finished writing our biographies of notable Victorians. In science we have been learning about the life-cycles of flowering plants; we have planted lots of seeds (some of which will be coming home to be looked after). Once the seedlings are big enough they will be planted in the tubs around the back playground.

**Parent Governor News** – As no one has come forward to say that they wish to stand against Olivia Selinger for the position of parent governor, and as Olivia is willing to continue, her term of office will start again and she will remain on the school governing body representing parents.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Clubs Next Week** – all clubs have finished now apart from Bollywood which will have its final session for the term on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April. **There will be NO club energy, animation club or art club next week.** Our After School Club will run as usual 3pm – 5.30pm Monday to Thursday.

**Term Dates for 2019 – 2020** – The term and holiday dates for the next school year were sent home two weeks 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** – Some parents met with teachers last night and others are scheduled for 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.

**Plastic Waste** – Children in Kingfisher Class continued to monitor the plastic waste last week. We are pleased to tell you that there was a slight decrease in the total thrown away. Please continue to support us in this (and help save the environment) by giving your child as little single use plastic and wrapper waste as possible.

**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) all next week. **We urgently need 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!** Please get some over the weekend and hand in next week – thank you.

**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.

### **Two Reminders**

THE CLOCKS GO FORWARD BY AN HOUR THIS WEEKEND.

OUR TERM ENDS AFTER LUNCH ON FRIDAY AT 1PM - PLEASE PICK UP PROMPTLY.

**Easter Holiday Art Days 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April** - Crafty Kids returns to West Oxford Primary School on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th April, with two days of Easter and Spring-themed arts and crafts, painting and drawing techniques, games, stories and songs. Open to children from all schools, Years 1 and upwards. Send an e-mail to [office@oxfordmusicandart.com](mailto:office@oxfordmusicandart.com) for more information and to book. Alternatively text/call Dave Boshier on 07752792477.

We wish all mothers a very happy Mothering Sunday this weekend.

Yours sincerely,

*Charlotte Haynes*

### **Dates for Diaries**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – 4 – 7pm Parents’ Evening**  
**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**