



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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7 June 2019

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

We hope you all enjoyed the half term week and are all refreshed and ready for what is always an action packed and busy second half of the term. We have wished Eid Mubarak to all our families who celebrated the end of Ramadan earlier this week.

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – We have been finishing off our focus on Traditional Tales by reading the story of ‘The Gingerbread Man’. Next week we anticipate the arrival of our caterpillars in the post who will hopefully grow into beautiful butterflies. Elaine has been spending the money donated by the School Association for this term. So far the caterpillars and some resources for the garden, such as camouflage netting and a new paddling pool have been bought. Thank you for your generosity.

Finches – We have been looking at ‘Where the Wild Things Are’ using imaginative writing and description. In maths we are revising doubles and halves. In history we have started our new topic on the history of transport, looking at vehicles used in the past and comparing to now. We have settled back well after the half-term break.

Owls – We have been exploring the wonderful city of Venice including the buildings and how they were constructed on wooden posts pushed down into the mud. We have made our own display in class. We have found out a bit about the patron saint of Venice, St Mark, and even found him in our local church, St. John’s. We have read a story set in Venice and started our Travel Journals. We have been learning some Italian with Miss K and with fantastic help from Nalu and Ludo.

Doves – We have continued our topic about Journeys and Cities by beginning to learn about explorers and their voyages of discovery. We have begun by learning about ancient explorers up until the discoveries of Marco Polo. In maths we have developed our addition and subtraction skills. In English we are learning about the features of diary writing. In science we have begun to learn about forces by having educational fun through seeing how fast cars travel on different surfaces.

Woodpeckers – We have been continuing our nonsense poetry theme in English by planning and writing our own poems involving a creature going on a journey to some far-away lands. We have enjoyed inventing new words to name and describe things as Carroll and Lear liked to, based on a fusion of made up and existing ones such as ‘plob’, ‘banglewangle’ and ‘toutainflies’. In maths Year 4s have focussed on improving mental methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide. Year 5s have been identifying factors and multiples, revising equivalent fractions and performing calculations using fractions. We have begun our DT project to design an iconic and dynamic structure for a city. First we explored different structures with moving parts using K’nex and hope to use some of these ideas in our own designs. We look forward to seeing Woodpecker parents at our sharing assembly on Friday 14th June at 9.10am in the school hall.

Kingfishers – We have begun an ambitious painting – using an Impressionist painting to work from. We have auditioned for the KS2 musical play, we have read through the script, been allocated parts and have begun to learn the songs. We have started to learn a little about Fairtrade. We will be holding a Fairtrade café on Thursday 4th July during the afternoon. Further details will be given nearer the time, but please put the date in your diaries.

Doves and Woodpeckers – Please note that all the Dove and Woodpecker Class will be attending a Story Museum event in a pumpkin tent during the afternoon of Monday 17th June. They can do their usual thing for lunch, eating a little earlier in school, and will be back for the end of the school day. Please make sure they have suitable footwear and clothes for the weather conditions that day. Please note that any children from these classes also going to Festival of Voices will be able to do both things as they will come back to school a little earlier in time to get on the coach to go to Dorchester Abbey.

Parents are welcome in our school

School Lunches – It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that there is money in ParentPay before sending your child to school for a school meal. It is taking up too much time chasing and waiting for payments each morning and from next week we will not be phoning to give warnings as we simply do not have the capacity to do this each day. Please do not book your children's lunches once they are in school as it is too late for that day - thank you.

Parking – After a few months with no parking issues, there seems to be an increase in cars parking poorly and turning by the gates again. **Please do park in neighbouring roads and walk from there.** A neighbour close to the school is having building work done which means that there is very restricted vehicle access at present and **our priority is for the children to come to school and leave school safely.** Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

After School Club Bills for May were sent home this week. Please ensure these have been paid by Friday 14 June.

Oxford Green Week – starts tomorrow with lots of great events going on. Visit oxfordgreenweek.org for more info.

Open Day Art Exhibition – please earmark Wednesday 19th June 3 – 4pm to come and tour the school to see all our artwork displayed in the classes. Bring family and friends too!

Flute Players – Please remember your lessons will resume again with a new teacher on Monday.

Invitation to Parents of Children Going to Swan School in September 2019 – Please come to school at 3.10pm on Tuesday 18th June to meet with headteacher Kay Woods who will be visiting that afternoon.

Job Vacancy – We are recruiting for a lunchtime supervisor from September, daily 11.30 – 1pm, term time only. Please speak to Tracey or Charlotte Haynes if you are interested and would like to know more.

Farewell to Father Ben – Fr. Ben led his final assembly with us this week about Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. The children presented him with some delightful cards to wish him well in his new parish in Southend on Sea.

And here's something to discuss at home! It's a 'think'. Thinks are unusual questions to make you think. There is not really any right or wrong answer. Have a go at this one....
'Can you touch the wind?' What do you think and why?

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

4th June – 14th June – Art Weeks in school

Friday 14th June – 9.10 in the hall Sharing Assembly for Woodpecker Class

Wednesday 19th June 3 - 4 pm Open Classes Art Exhibitions in each class – please come and tour the school.

Friday 21st June 9.10 in hall – Sharing Assembly for Dove Class

Friday 28th June SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF INSET

Thursday 4 July – Fairtrade Café in School Hall at 2.15pm organised by Kingfisher Class

Friday 5th July 9.10 in the hall Sharing Assembly for Owl Class

Saturday 6th July School Fete

Wednesday 10th July (morning) Sports Day on University College Sports Ground, Abingdon Road

Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th July (afternoons) Key Stage 2 Performance to parents

Monday 22nd July School Day Out at SOAP

Tuesday 23rd July 1.45pm Leavers Assembly

TERM ENDS AT 1pm ON WEDNESDAY 24th JULY

Get writing and submit your work to a local competition..... (please hand in entries to school on Monday)

As part of this summer's celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the arrival of Oxford's first railway, pupils at New Hinksey Primary School are invited to take part in a creative writing competition:

A train journey in the past, present or future

This is a creative writing competition for pupils in all years, to write a side of A4 on 'A train journey of the past, present or future'. The results will be put on display in the marquee at the **175th anniversary event at Grandpont Recreation Ground on 15 June** (see <http://www.didcotoxfordgwr175.org/oxford.html>). Judges will include Jim Noble, Isambard Kingdom Brunel's great great great grandson, and there will be some great prizes.

By the way, older siblings, parents and grandparents need not feel left out! The 175th anniversary celebrations include an exciting photography competition – see <http://www.didcotoxfordgwr175.org/competition.html> for further details.