



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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13th September 2019

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

This term our whole school topic is 'Long Ago and Far Away'. Each child is bringing home today a topic plan for their class so that you can see the sorts of things they will be learning term. We hope you will find this useful.

Assemblies – This week we have continued to explore the idea of rules, why they are important and what happens when rules are not followed. On Thursday Fr. Ruben led his first assembly for us which explored our school motto 'We are all special. We can all succeed' using some fun pictures as well as the story of Zacchaeus, which some children helped to act out.

Important Information for Current Year 6 Parents – You need to apply for your children's secondary school places by Thursday 31st October. This is during the half term holiday so we urge you to get your applications in before then. Please visit schools you are interested in, attend their open evenings and then go to the Oxfordshire County Council website, school admissions. You will be asked to register on the Citizen Portal before starting your application which you then submit when it is complete with your secondary preferences listed on it.

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – We have enjoyed a fun packed week in Robins. We have all painted a self-portrait with Sarah. Keep an eye out for these on display in the classroom. Polly has spent lots of time doing number activities with everyone and we have focussed on kindness within our story telling and thinking about how kindness helps us make new friends. Ducklings are settling in so well and have enjoyed 'Spot' (the dog) stories this week.

Finches – We have had a fantastic first full week in Finch Class. The children have settled in and done some fabulous learning! In our English lessons we have produced some wonderful writing about the story 'Back to Earth with a Bump' and in maths we have been looking at numbers to 20. All the children have designed an amazing junk modelling rocket in our 'Discover and Explore' time and are looking forward to making them next week.

Owls – We have been working hard on place value in maths. In English we have been writing descriptive shape poems about some African animals. In science the Year 2s have been thinking why African animals are mammals and the Year 3s have been grouping them as carnivores, herbivores or omnivores, and writing what is the same and different about pairs of African animals. We have been trying out different drawing and painting materials to depict these animals accurately.

Doves – We have begun to learn about life in Egyptian society. We have chosen a job to investigate from Pharaoh to farmer. We have found out about viziers, scribes and craft workers and written 'a day in the life of' one of them. We have consolidated our ordering and place value skills in maths. In art we have begun to design a Nekhbet pendant and an amulet.

Woodpeckers – It has been a busy week settling in to the routines and expectations of the learning in class. We have enjoyed exploring the world of 'How to Train Your Dragon' through plenty of discussion about the features and impact of the text. The theme of dragons continued into our artwork and vocabulary enrichment. In maths we have focussed on addition and subtraction using our understanding of place value as a strategy.

Kingfishers – We are learning about the Tudor monarchs in history and have already compared the role of Henry VIII with our current Queen and realised that they are quite different! We have written a short story based around a picture of St Francis Drake's world exploration voyage. In maths lessons we have been improving our knowledge of place value – doing calculations with 6-digit numbers and decimals up to 3 places. In French we have revised the numbers up to 100.

Parents are welcome in our school

Kingfishers and Owls are going to be Reading Buddies this year. The first three sessions have taken place. Everyone has taken part enthusiastically and the Year 6s have shown such maturity and kindness to the younger Owls that Miss Kilpatrick was very impressed.

Morning Club – Our daily ‘Morning Club’ is up and running offering before school supervision from 8am till 8.45am. £3.00 per session. Children must have had their breakfast before being dropped off. Please note that we have decided to invoice parents through ParentPay monthly and not in advance as families are still deciding on their needs. There are spaces each day at Morning Club so it is possible to book ‘ad hoc’ sessions rather than an entire term’s worth BUT we must have at least 24 hours’ notice for this. We cannot take children who are dropped off without having been booked in advance. Please email office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk if you need to use this facility. Many thanks.

Bollywood Club - started this week. It is on from 3 – 4pm. Please email Narinder directly with any queries about costs and the club - narinder.thapar@tiscali.co.uk

Year 4 Lunchtime Poetry Club –is being run by Mrs Tucker on Wednesday’s. Year 4s who are interested should speak to Mrs Tucker.

Club Energy - will start on Tuesday 17th September 3 - 4.15pm. This is a multisports after school club run by sports coaches and open to children from Year 1 to Year 6. For enrolment please go to www.clubenergysports.com

After School Club Bills – Please make sure the July bills are paid by Friday 13th September. Thanks.

PE Kit Reminder – all children from Year 1 to Year 6 have two PE lessons a week and therefore need a PE kit in school, hanging on their peg from Monday to Friday. The PE kit must be a different set of clothes to the ones worn during the rest of the school day. PE kit should be a standard t-shirt, a pair of shorts (leggings or tracksuit bottoms acceptable for outdoor PE) and a pair of sports trainers or black plimsolls. Trainers and plimsolls must have suitable non-slip soles and foot support. Thank you.

PTA Start of Year Drinks, Wednesday 18 September, 8pm, Duke of Monmouth - Come and join us for a drink in our lovely local, and get to know a few of your fellow parents/carers. All welcome, especially those new to the school.

Macmillan Coffee Morning, Wednesday 25 September, 9am-10am, School Hall

The School Association is running a Macmillan Coffee Morning, as a chance for parents to have a coffee and cake together, and raise money for a great cause. If you're able to bake for us, that would be fantastic - just bring your goodies along on the day and some cash for the charity donation box.

Adult Support for the Youth Climate Actions - Next Friday, 20th September, the youth climate strikers are calling for adults to join them for their action between 11am-2pm in Broad Street - this is part of a global action that will be even bigger than any previous youth climate strike. There will also be a family-friendly bike ride for climate leaving Donnington Bridge Sea Scouts at 5.30pm on the 20th.

This weekend is **Oxford Open Doors** weekend with over 150 venues taking part. A full list of venues and opening times can be found at <https://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/content/ood-events> .

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Wednesday 18th September – PTA start of year drinks – **Duke of Monmouth 8pm** (see above)

Wednesday 25th September - **Macmillan Coffee Morning** in school hall 9-10am (see above)

Friday 27th September – **Photographer in school to take individual pupil photographs**

Tuesday 1st October - **Governing Body Meeting at 6.30pm**

Wednesday 2nd October 3pm – 4pm – **Open Afternoon** – Please come and see your children’s classrooms, meet the teachers and look around. Family, friends and neighbours welcome too.

Friday 4th October 9.10am in the school hall – **Sharing Assembly for Dove Class**

Thursday 10th October 2.15pm in Church – **School Harvest Festival**

Friday 18th October 9.10am in the school hall – **Sharing Assembly for Kingfisher Class**

Friday 25th October 9.10am in the school hall – **Sharing Assembly for Finch Class**

School finishes at 3pm (After School Club as usual) on Friday 25th October for half term holiday

Monday 28th October – Monday 4th November Half term Holiday

Term starts again at 8.45am on Tuesday 5th November