



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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18th October 2019

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

It has been another full-on week in school with a wonderful range of learning activities taking place throughout the classes and out and about.

All our harvest boxes that you kindly donated the food for have been delivered and a large quantity of food items were also taken to the Botley Food Bank.

Thank you to **Kingfisher Class** for their informative science themed sharing assembly today about Charles Darwin, his voyage on HMS Beagle and his insight into evolution brought to us through his 'Origin of Species' book.

This week our **assemblies** have considered 'Caring and Sharing', 'Community' and the Jewish festival of Sukkot.

Attendance, Punctuality and Term Time Absence – Firstly thank you to the vast majority of families who support your children in being at school every day, on time and ready to learn. Over the past few weeks there has been an increase in families letting us know that their children will be absent for reasons other than genuine illness. Could we please remind families that children with consistent, good attendance achieve better than those who miss school through unauthorised absence. **Days off school during the term for holidays, long weekends, days out, staying with parents who have appointments or difficulty getting to and from the school etc. will not be authorised.** Whilst it is inevitable that doctors' appointments and emergency dental appointments may be during the school day, could we urge parents to do their best to arrange non urgent dental check-ups, optician appointments etc. for school holidays, Saturdays or after the end of school day. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

All children are expected to arrive at school in time to join their lines and go into class at 8.45am. If children are not here on time to walk in with their class line then they are late. Please set your alarms 10 minutes earlier if your children are not getting here for the 8.45am start of the day!

Christmas Bazaar Planning Meeting, Wednesday 6 November, 8pm, Duke of Monmouth. Please come along and help the bazaar take shape. All very welcome.

Important Information for Current Year 6 Parents – You need to apply for your children's secondary school places by Thursday 31st October.

Money Owed to School – Please be aware that the school is not in a position to carry debts or late payments for lunches and After School Club. **Please ensure that bills are paid promptly and by the deadline** and that there are **sufficient funds in your child's ParentPay account to cover the cost of lunches** (for children in Years 3 to 6). We put reminders in the newsletter regularly about when ASC bills are due for payment and you should also get a paper copy and see it in ParentPay when the invoices are first issued. It is uncomfortable having to act as debt collectors for late payments. Thank you.

We do not have time to call individual families each day who have not paid for lunches so these children will not be able to have a hot school lunch that day. Today, for example, there were three families.

SOAP Fundraising Jumble Sale – 18th October 3.30pm – 5.15pm at SOAP – adults' and children's clothes, shoes, jewellery, toys, bric-a-brac and much more – lots of bargains.

Parents are welcome in our school

Half Term Activities for Children at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock include guide dog experience, art, printing and dinosaur workshops. For more information visit Oxfordshire.gov.uk/museum or telephone 01993 814106.

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – This week Robins have been looking at the number ‘3’. If you see numbers in the environment with your child, please encourage them to notice the ones that they recognise as this will really help reinforce the learning we are doing in the classroom. We have made a class book about what all the children want to be when they grow up. Please have a look when you are in the classroom, there is some fabulous writing in it! Also we have been learning our new sounds ‘p’ and ‘g’ and playing lots of games encouraging teamwork. Ducklings have looked at and talked about favourite colours. We have also done lots of painting.

Finches – We have had a fantastic week! We have started rehearsing for our class sharing assembly which is next Friday (25th). The children are very excited to share their wonderful learning with you. In English this week we have been looking at what an adjective is and how using them in our writing makes it so much more interesting to read. We then used this knowledge of adjectives to write fabulous alien poems!

Owls – We have been writing our versions of the ‘Honey and Trouble’ story. We have made puppets to help us tell the story too. We have been learning about the life cycles of African mammals particularly hippos. We have been comparing what we can do now and what we could do as a baby! We have been doing our maths assessments and practising our reading comprehension by answering questions.

Doves – We have worked hard on our instruction writing skills. We have researched how to mummify a human or an animal and have written clear instructions of how to do it. We found out that ‘natron’ was the name for the preserving salt and the process was done in a place called ‘The Beautiful House’. In science we have learnt about organs of the body, and in RE we have found out why communion is important to Christians. In computing we have made multimedia books, using book creator on the ipads and chrome books, all about the Egyptians.

Woodpeckers – We have been exploring other forms of syllabic poems in English and enjoyed writing about Pokemon characters using expanding noun phrases. We also discovered interesting facts about the creator of Pokemon, Satoshi Tajiri. Did you know he loved collecting insects when he was a child? It has been assessment week in maths which has helped us to set our next step targets. Mrs Smith has been teaching Woodpeckers at the end of this week and will be here on Monday to help us finish our oil pastel renaissance inspired pictures!

Kingfishers – We enjoyed our trip to the Ashmolean and Martyr’s Memorial. We also painted our Tudor Rose clay model, made Henry VIII’s favourite tart ‘Maide of Honours’ and thought they were delicious! We have worked hard and achieved well in our first maths assessment of the school year.

Wishing everyone a happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

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

Monday 4th November is an INSET Day so children should not come to school

Term starts again at 8.45am on Tuesday 5th November

Friday 15th November 9.10am in the school hall – **Sharing Assembly for Woodpecker Class**

Tuesday 19th November 4 – 7pm Parents Evening

Thursday 21st November 4 – 7pm Parents Evening

Friday 29th November – International Evening in the school hall 6.30 – 8pm

Monday 2nd December – Flu immunisations for Year Reception to Year 6

Friday 6th December 9.10am Sharing Assembly for Owl Class

Friday 6th December - Christmas Bazaar 3 – 4.30pm

Tuesday 17th December 9.30am - Foundation Stage Nativity to parents in the school hall

Tuesday 17th December 2pm - Year 1 Musical Nativity to parents in the school hall

Wednesday 18th December – School Christmas Lunch and jolly festive visitor ho, ho, ho!

Thursday 19th December - End of Term at 1pm after lunch.

Kids’ Half Term Fun – House of Fun is running some days of Halloween Tricks and Sustainability Treats at St Ebbe’s School during half term. For more details and booking go to HOUSE-OF-FUN.ORG