



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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

This week we are sending the newsletter home on Thursday in the hope that it does not get lost or forgotten in the excitement of half term starting if we send it home on Friday!

School Lunches Menu Changes – Over the holiday new menus will be published. Please take the time to look through them and see what your child may prefer each day. It is really helpful if the meals are pre-booked at home as it saves time in class in the mornings. Please also ensure your balances are topped up if you pay for school lunches.

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – Robins have had a fantastic first term and they really deserve a well-earned half term holiday. It has been a delight getting to know them over the last two months. This week we have learned two new sounds ‘o’ and ‘c’. We have been looking at photographs of us busy at work and we have done some fabulous writing in speech bubbles. Our number of the week has been 4 so we have been looking at how many different ways we can make four, combining different objects. Finally we had a look inside the pumpkin and devoured it in anticipation of Halloween next week. Ducklings have really appreciated it not raining and have been playing on a Pirate Ship!

Finches – We have been working hard to finish making our wonderful planets for our sharing assembly and they look fabulous all painted. We have been working hard practising the assembly and can’t wait to share it with you and the rest of the school tomorrow. In literacy we have continued looking at space poems and in numeracy we have looked at the value of digits in a two digit number.

Owls – We have been locating deserts, rivers, mountains and forests in Africa and finding Botswana and Egypt on maps. We practised alphabetical order using countries in Africa. We have started learning about Ancient Egypt, particularly the role of the River Nile. The Year 3s enjoyed writing their names and messages to each other using hieroglyphs while the Year 2s had a fun afternoon with Miss Haig who was visiting for the afternoon.

Doves – In science we have conducted an experiment to find out about which drinks are best for our teeth. We left boiled eggs over the weekend soaking in coffee, orange juice, water and coca cola. The egg shell was representing enamel on our teeth. The black coffee turned the shell and egg white brown whilst the juice and coca cola rotted the shell. The water did not affect the shell at all. We have worked hard on our maths assessments and are all ready for a lovely half term break.

Woodpeckers – We have become ‘experts’ at appreciating different kinds of syllabic poems and have enjoyed writing and learning our favourite ones. In French we have constructed sentences about the foods that we like, love or hate and can explain why. As a special treat, we watched the Japanese animation ‘Howl’s Moving Castle’ which sparked our poetry unit and wrote a film review afterwards.

Kingfishers – We have started planning our own science fiction story and as a treat we are watching ‘ET’ to give us even more ideas. Our clay Tudor roses are now in the display cabinet – they look wonderful.

Halloween Reminders – The children have been reminded that if they are out trick-or-treating they should only knock at houses where it is obvious that the household wish to take part by having something like a candle, pumpkin or other spooky decoration up. Also, that they must not go around by themselves but must have an adult helping them have fun. In this way everyone will be safe and elderly local residents will not feel disturbed.

Inset Day School Closed Reminder – Please do not forget that on Monday 4th November the school is closed for staff inset training.

Parents are welcome in our school

Healthy Smile Accreditation - We are signed up to the Healthy Smiles Campaign which aims to improve the dental health of children. We are doing things in school but this is very much something that we need to work together with parents on over time. Can we suggest that all families look to see if they can reduce the sugar content of children's packed lunches by, for example, only providing **fresh water** to drink (not fruit juices), replacing dried and processed fruit snacks with pieces of **fresh fruit** where the sugar is not damaging to teeth. I know many parents are not happy with how many cakes, sweets and cookies are brought to school for sharing on children's birthdays. We are not banning this but encourage those of you who would like to help to think about a small non-sugary alternative treat to send in for sharing on your child's birthday. Examples are: a very small toy or fancy pencil/rubber/pen etc. or stickers for each child, like the things you can buy at the supermarket for party bags; fresh fruit such as watermelon, melon, strawberries, pineapple etc.; a savoury treat such as a plate of carrot and cucumber sticks with a dip for the class to share; a big bag of cheesy crackers, natural unsweetened popcorn or tortilla chips.

Cake Sale – last week's cake sale raised £110.31 so thank you to all who organised, baked and supported that.

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**. This is next week during half term so please don't forget.

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.

Have a lovely week. Don't forget the clocks go back one hour at 2am on Sunday 27th November!

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

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.