



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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6 December 2019

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

The build up to Christmas is well and truly on its way in school and there are some very excited children!

Our annual **Christmas Charity** is The Children's Society. Each child will have brought home a little cardboard collecting candle which we hope everyone will try to fill with coins and return to school by the last week of term. All the money goes to help support children throughout the UK who are facing challenges and having a very unhappy time, be it homelessness, poverty, physical and mental ill health or the impact of abuse. Please do all that you can to support this fundraising.

Family Festive Fun – Tomorrow, Saturday 7th at 6.30pm in St. John's Church there is a family festive fun social event for all ages – quiz, activities and refreshments.

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – This week the Robins and Ducklings have been busy learning all the songs for our nativity performance. We have had some time in the hall to practise and all the children are doing really well. We have been reading 'The Jolly Christmas Postman' stories and talking about writing to Father Christmas. Using the sounds we have learned this term, the Robins have been reading and writing small words using those sounds. It has felt very Christmassy in the classroom and the children have all worked with Sarah to paint a nativity scene for display in the room. Polly has been overseeing the decorating of the clay star decoration that every child has made.

Finches – This week we were lucky enough to have Andrew, the ICT man, join us in class to teach us all about being safe on the internet. He taught us about how if we see something on a device that makes our tummy feel funny, we should tell an adult we trust. Our nativity is going well. We rehearsed on the stage for the first time this week, which was very exciting! We have also been enjoying our visits from our elf, Elfin, who has been causing mischief in our classroom. In numeracy we have been mentally adding and subtracting and in literacy we have been writing our instructions. We are still in need of white wool, so any donations would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

Owls – We have been doing our maths assessments which cover the maths we have been learning recently. The remainder of our time has been spent preparing our words and props for our 'Death in Ancient Egypt' themed sharing assembly which we hope you enjoyed. **Thank you Owls for your very informative assembly this morning.**

Doves – We have been finding out all about the pyramids. In maths we have investigated how many cubes make different sized pyramids. We have researched the pyramids using our skimming and scanning skills and created our own quizzes for Owl class. In RE we have learnt about what Advent means to Christians and made our own kindness advent calendars. In science we have had fun investigating shadows.

Woodpeckers – We are enjoying listening and learning by heart, poems from an anthology selected by children around the world. (Ask your child to recite the witches' spell from Macbeth). In our last week before a unit assessment, Year 4s are focussing on multiplying and dividing larger numbers while Year 5s are revising written and mental methods to solve all four operatives (+, -, x a ÷). We have been impressed by our sewing skills in DT and have all managed to independently 'tack' stitch our main parts.

Kingfishers – In English we have been writing poems that contain hyphenated words. We have also looked at portraits of Queen Elizabeth I and considered how she was portrayed to make her seem strong and powerful. We have put the finishing touches to our periscopes and shadow puppets as part of our science work on light. We have worked hard at our end of term maths assessment and learned from any mistakes that we may have made.

Parents are welcome in our school

Applying for School Places for Reception in September 2020 - Was your child born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016? If so, from 1st November you need to apply for a reception place even if your child is currently attending our school nursery here at New Hinksey. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2020. If you know of relative, neighbours and friends with children of this age in this side of Oxford, please do encourage them to go on our website and to come for a look around the school. For more information on how to apply for your child's school place please visit: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school>.

Student update forms

Some families received an additional form this week as they had not completed and returned the form originally sent out. Please do look at these forms, sign and return them to us as soon as possible so that we can ensure that we have the correct details on our computer system. Thank you.

Christmas Lunch – Vital Information for children in all classes

We will be having Christmas lunch in school on Wednesday 18 December. **Please ensure that your child is booked in (using Parentpay) by Friday 13 December.** Please just book the meat roast (even though it says pork!) for turkey and the quorn roast for the vegetarian meal. It will not be possible to book after this date (even if your child always has a school lunch) as the Christmas food order needs to be made. Thank you.

If your child is having a packed lunch on Wednesday 18 December can we suggest that you make a special, festive packed lunch for them.

All children get a Christmas cracker whether school lunch or packed lunch and are invited to wear a Christmas hat or Christmas jumper etc.

After School Club and Morning Club bills

These bills were sent home earlier this week. Please pay them by Friday 13 December.

Club Energy and Bollywood – next week will be the final sessions of these after school clubs for this term. There will be NO CLUB ENERGY on Tuesday 17th December.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

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 10am – School Christingle Service in Church

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

The Spring Term starts on Monday 6th January 2020 at 8.45am.