



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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

Well this half of term since Christmas has flown by and now I think everyone is ready to relax and recharge their batteries next week. We look forward to welcoming Elizabeth back to the nursery after the half term holiday. We are glad she has got over her heel operation.

Please could we ask ALL families **not to drive cars down to the school gates** or use the junction of Vicarage Road and Vicarage Lane to turn around in at drop off and pick up time. We want the area around the gates to be as safe as possible for all children and families coming to and from school. We ask you to kindly park a little away from the school. Thank you.

## News From Classes:

**Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception)** – This week we have really explored the story of ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’. We have looked at repeating patterns using caterpillars! We have talked about the story setting and characters and we have made collages inspired by Eric Carle’s illustrations. Our word of the week was ‘jealous’ and the Robins have been discussing how we can prevent ourselves from feeling jealous by remembering how lucky we are. The sound of the week was ‘qu’. The Ducklings did some great pattern art using scrapers to produce leaves for their hungry caterpillars and they really enjoyed seeing Elizabeth on Tuesday morning.

**Finches** – This week in our English lessons we looked at instructions. We followed instructions to make marmalade sandwiches and also to make the biscuits for the tea party yesterday. In maths we have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and estimating. We had a fabulous time at our tea party and if you were able to come, we hope you had a lovely time too! We loved sharing the time lines of the children’s lives with you. Sonia, Miss Brannigan and Miss Martins have enjoyed making them with the children and seeing how much they have all grown. Have a relaxing and restful half term holiday.

**Owls** – We have been writing detailed reports on our interesting skeleton workshop at the Natural History Museum and making skeletons from pipe cleaners and paper straws. We have been doing maths assessments and going over parts which we did not understand. We have been reading and enjoying Anthony Browne’s ‘Little Beauty’ and ‘Tunnel’ and ‘What If’ and ‘My Dad’.

**Doves** – We have worked hard on our assessments this week. In maths we have developed our skills of adding and subtracting fractions and finding fractions of amounts. In English we have used a thesaurus to extend our vocabulary and described characters from ‘The Water Horse’. We have learnt to have simple conversations in French. The Year 4s enjoyed watching ‘Shrek’ at Cheney and the Year 3s had fun drawing and learning the names of French animals. We are practicing the songs and our roles in ‘Ocean Commotion’. After half term your child will have a slip to let you know what they need to bring to wear for their costume. Thank you.

**Woodpeckers** – We have enjoyed a busy and varied week of typing up and presenting our mystery stories and looking at our next steps in maths after an assessment. We did an amazing job of sculpting Roman soldier busts using skills of making pinch pots, ‘score and slip’ to add parts. We tried hard to give the bust fierce expressions befitting for a brave soldier of the Roman army! ‘Shrek’ was a wonderful inspiration for drama, music and storytelling and we enjoyed sharing our favourite parts. Please note that your child will have some ‘making’ homework which we hope you will enjoy doing with your child!

**Kingfishers** – We have enjoyed finishing off our art topic by making animations on ‘Pivot’ to show figures in motion. We have finished reading a number of Michael Morpurgo books and have been writing book reviews. These will be in a folder in the library which we hope will help other children choose a book they may like.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

## Reminders

- **Morning break snacks should be FRESH fruit or veg only – no dried fruit, raisins, cereal bars please as the sugar in them is very bad for children’s teeth.**
- Due to nut allergies that some children have we are moving towards being **NUT and SESAME SEED FREE from after half term. Please do not include loose nuts, peanut butter, sesame seeds or nut containing food items in snacks or lunchboxes from now on** – Thank you in your support for keeping all our children safe from allergic reactions. Also please impress upon your children that they should never share food items with others at lunchtimes.

**Parents of Year 4 and 5 Children – Woodlands** – Many of the children are getting very excited at the thought of such a wonderful week away in November taking part in outdoor and team building activities. We recognise the expense of these trips and thus it is possible to pay the deposit of £75 and further instalments of £50. Please could we ask that you keep to the specified amounts if you are paying in instalments – thank you.

**Plants for Outside Tubs in Foundation Stage** – We have some new coloured pots and some larger plant troughs in place for ‘greening’ up the Foundation Stage outdoor classroom. We would be most grateful for donations of some plants particularly lavender, rosemary, thyme, heather, herbs such as chives, sage, oregano, marjoram, or any small hardy shrubs such as hebe or fuchsia. If many families just donated one or two small plants we would have a lovely selection – thank you.

**Bills for After School Club and Breakfast Club** – the invoices for January were sent home via book bags last week and are also in ParentPay. The deadline for payment is today so please pay if you have not already done so. Please note that, as previously stated, **places booked but not used will still be charged unless cancelled with at least 24 hours’ notice.** Children who are absent from school due to illness will not be charged.

**Coronavirus** – We have been assured by the local authority that the Government, NHS and Public Health England are fully prepared but that everyone can help by taking the usual precautionary measures that help slow the spread of almost any germs. Please encourage you children to follow these guidelines at all times.

- Always carry tissues to catch your cough or sneeze
- Bin/throw away safely any used tissues as quickly as possible
- Wash your hands often with soap and water

**Term Time Holidays** – Can we remind you all of the importance of regular and good attendance at school and how it helps your children to make better progress. Days off for holidays, overseas trips and long weekends will not be authorised by the school.

**PTA Get Together** -The New Hinksey School Association is having a get together at the Duke of Monmouth pub from 8pm on the Wednesday after half term (26<sup>th</sup> February). They will be discussing the upcoming school disco (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March), this year's cake sales, current fundraising and discussing some ideas for the summer fête. All are welcome, the more the merrier. All parents are automatically members of the School Association so do come along and offer your help and support of the school.

Have a lovely week off next week and see you all again on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February when we will be nut and sesame free in the school (see reminders above).

*Charlotte Haynes*

### **Dates for Diaries**

**Half Term Holiday – 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**Next Half Term starts on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at 8.45am**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 9.10 in hall – Woodpeckers Sharing Assembly**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 4pm – 7pm Parents Evenings**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2pm – Owls and Doves Performance of Ocean Commotion**

**SOUTH OXFORD ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND** - We can't wait for spring and long summer days at SOAP! We'll open for the Easter holidays!

**Helpers needed!**-Would you like to get involved in helping out at this fantastic playground? We're looking for helpers!

It doesn't need to be a massive time commitment! It's friendly and fun!

Please get in touch if you'd like to know more. Email [hiresoapoxford@gmail.com](mailto:hiresoapoxford@gmail.com).

**Bookings Manager - part-time paid position** - SOAP is also looking for a Bookings Manager. This is a part-time paid position managing weekend party and outside bookings between March-October. The hours are likely to be one to two hours a week during peak season. Ideally suited if you live close to SOAP! Please email [hiresoapoxford@gmail.com](mailto:hiresoapoxford@gmail.com) for a job description and hourly rates.