



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. We hope everyone had an enjoyable break over the half term holiday and is feeling refreshed. It has been nice to have Elizabeth back in the Foundation Stage working with the Ducklings. It has also been lovely to welcome new children – Sebastian, Elton and Zara – to our school and we hope they are already settling in and making new friends.

Could we remind **everyone that all children should be on the playground by 8.45am** in the morning so that they can start the day well by going into class together in their class line. If they miss the lining up at 8.45am they are late.

Thank you.

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – The Robins have enjoyed looking at the ‘Elmer’ stories, by David McKee, this week as he is our new ‘amazing author’. We have been learning about elephants and their natural habitats. Using the story of ‘We’re Going on a Bear Hunt’, we have been working on writing our own ‘Going on an Elephant Hunt’ story, introducing the children to story-telling and story maps. Our word of the week was ‘similar’ and our sound was ‘x. For the remainder of this term we are going to consolidate the sounds we have learned to read and write more independently. In maths we have done some fun activities involving shape and positional language. Elizabeth says ‘It has been good to be back with Ducklings and we have spent the week getting to know each other again!’

Finches – In English this week we have been writing a setting description based on the story ‘The Snail and the Whale’ by Julia Donaldson. In maths we have been recapping counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and learning what a half and a quarter are. On Monday afternoon we talked about fair trade and learnt about how chocolate is made. In art we used water colours to create calm and stormy sea scenes, and we also made our own Matisse inspired snails.

Owls – In maths Year 3 have been securing place value, rounding and starting to use expanded column addition. Year 2 have been doubling and halving and working on fractions. The whole class has started to explore Anthony Browne’s retelling of traditional tales. This week we have been comparing different versions of Little Red Riding Hood by writers Tony Ross, Tony Bradman, Toby Forward, Roald Dahl, Alex T. Davies and Anthony Browne. We have been planning and writing our own fantastic versions of the story. In the afternoons we have been creating some of the scenery for our performance of Ocean Commotion or rehearsing our singing and acting.

Doves – Dove class have begun to read the stories and magazines linked to the ‘Animals of Farthing Wood’ by Colin Dann. We have enjoyed planning our own alternative endings. In grammar we have been learning about the use of imperative verbs and have acted them out. We have been using our atlas and index skills to find places in the world. In maths we are all becoming speedier at multiplying and dividing by 10 and by 100. Next week we are making bird feeders so please bring in any empty and clean milk or juice cartons – thank you.

Woodpeckers – In English we have become ancient Roman reporters, finding out more about the events of the Mount Vesuvius eruption. We even interviewed two eyewitnesses and compared their responses! In maths, Year 4s have worked on decimal numbers and Year 5s have enjoyed learning the bus stop method for division. Some of us have made fantastic Roman shields ready for our sharing assembly next week. Do come along on Friday 6th at 9.10am.

Kingfishers – We have experimented with origami animals in our art lesson with a lot of success. In R.E. we are thinking about why the Easter story is most important to Christians. We are continuing to be great buddy readers with the children in Owls. In our computer lessons we have begun creating a cartoon strip of a scene from a book that we like. We have been finding out facts about Michael Morpurgo in preparation for writing a biography. Did you know that he has written more than 130 books?

Parents are welcome in our school

WORLD BOOK DAY – This takes place next week on **Thursday 5th March**. We invite all children to come to school **dressed as a book character**. Children are also encouraged to **bring in a favourite book** from home. There are lots of book related activities going on in classes that day.

World Book Day Book Sale, 3pm, Thursday 5th March - For World Book Day, the School Association is giving you the chance to pass on outgrown books and pick up exciting new ones, and raise money for the school, with a second hand book sale after school. Please bring in your unwanted books from Wednesday morning. If you can help with sorting and selling (from roughly 2pm onwards on Thursday), please get in touch with April (mum of Annie, Doves, and Sam, Finches) or Claire (mum of Elijah, Kingfishers, Jonah, Doves, and Scarlett, Finches).

Important Information for Parents of Reception and Year 6 Children – Your child should have brought home a letter about heights and weights measurements taking place in school. If you wish that your child is not measured then you must follow the instructions in the letter. It is no good telling school staff.

Assemblies – This week on Monday we considered the question ‘What is happiness’ and many of the children came up with friendship being an important part of us feeling happy. On Thursday Father Ruben led an interesting assembly about preparing for special events and related this to the period of Lent when Christians prepare for Easter.

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 now trying to be **NUT and SESAME SEED FREE. 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.

Plants for Outside Tubs in Foundation Stage – Thank you for the plant donations and also to the generous parent who gave some money so that Polly could purchase herbs and flowers for the children to help plant out, which they have been enjoying.

Coronavirus – We continue to be 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 your 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

The website NHS.UK contains further information.

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.

SCHOOL DISCO – The New Hinksey School Association will be running a **DISCO on Friday 20th March** in the school hall.

4.30pm – 5.30pm for Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 children (please note that Foundation Stage pupils **must** be accompanied by an adult)

6pm – 7pm for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children

Tickets in the form of wristbands must be purchased in advance for a cost of £3. There will be refreshments, limbo dancing, dance competitions and prizes. Details of when they will be on sale will follow.

Please note that on the night entry and pick up will be via the old wooden front door near the back of the hall in Vicarage Lane.

Best wishes for a happy weekend,

Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Friday 6th March 9.10 in hall – **Woodpeckers Sharing Assembly**

Thursday 12th March and Tuesday 17th March 4pm – 7pm **Parents Evenings**

Friday 20th March – **School Disco** – see above for details

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