



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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

We welcomed our local neighbourhood police officers to assembly on Monday when they explained about their role in the community and talked to the children about behaviour and respect for other people's property. They then had a question and answer session with the children asking them many interesting questions.

Today's assembly was led by Finch Class who shared their learning with us. Thank you Finch Class for your delightful assembly this morning and for all your hard work – you certainly seem to be having fun in your learning.

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)** – Continuing with our 'Eric Carle' topic we have read the 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' and 'Slowly, Slowly said the Sloth' stories and used these to look at repetitive text and story-telling. We have made stories of our own using the 'Brown Bear' story. We have looked at the animal habitats around the world using some film footage from the Planet Earth series, including watching a sloth and a polar bear in their natural habitats. The Robins have watched Eric Carle produce the art work for his illustrations and have worked on their own paintings which we will turn into collages next week. The sound of the week was 'ch' and our word of the week was 'adore'. The Ducklings have been working with Sarah on some beautiful collage caterpillars and lots of counting songs.

**Finches** – Finches have been working hard this week to make sure that our sharing assembly was ready to share with you and we hope you enjoyed watching it! In literacy we have been independently writing our facts about London, and in numeracy we have finished looking at 3D shapes and started to look at time. The children had a fantastic time making pizza faces with Miss Brannigan on Wednesday.

**Owls** – Owl Class has been exploring skeletons this week, both the skeletons of humans and other animals. We have enjoyed using the life size skeleton model in school and seeing wonderful real specimens at The Natural History Museum. Thank you to all the parents who helped out on the trip. We have been using fact books on skeletons and reading 'Funnybones' by Allan Ahlberg with Mel.

**Doves** – We have been reading and writing about Dick King-Smith's novel 'The Water Horse'. We have each written a synopsis of the story so far using the past tense in the third person. We have worked hard on our data handling in maths and learnt two different anti-bullying songs in music. We listened to and appraised a variety of musical genres and rock and folk were our class favourites. We had a wonderful trip to the Natural History Museum learning all about skeletons.

**Woodpeckers** – Our Roman Mystery stories have been finished, edited and improved and we enjoyed reading and listening to extracts from them. In maths, Year 5s have used written methods to add or subtract decimals and investigate patterns. Year 4s have done very well working on division using 'Chunky Chimp'. This week's highlight was our mid-week visit to the Ashmolean where we particularly enjoyed handling Roman objects which were 2000 years old! The Ashmolean staff were particularly impressed by the children's perceptive and knowledgeable comments!

**Kingfishers** – In English we have been listening to 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and taking notes. In maths some children have been finding missing angles and reading pie charts, whilst others have been using mental and written strategies to solve word problems. We have been learning about achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle in our science lesson.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

## Reminders

- We are encouraging healthy lunch boxes so please can you supply **only one chocolate covered snack**; no sweets and ensure there is a piece of fruit. We are also trying to reduce packaging so please do not send lots of packets or cling film in the lunch box. We have a recycling box for tin foil so try to use that.
- Could the families who usually arrive after the classes have lined up try and get here for the line at 8.45am.
- **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.

**All children in Year 4 or Year 5** – Please remember that you will need a packed lunch on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> next week to eat in school before going to watch 'Shrek' at Cheney School. Also that you **will not get back to school until 3.45pm** so will need to be picked up later that day.

**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 earlier this week and are also in ParentPay. The deadline for payment is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. 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.

Best wishes for the weekend.

*Charlotte Haynes*

## **Dates for Diaries**

**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**

**This half term finishes on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 3pm and After School Club as normal**

**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**

**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.