



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

13th March 2020

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

News From Classes:

Foundation Stage (Ducklings – nursery; Robins - reception) – Robins have continued with our Elmer the Elephant theme, learning all about where they live and what they eat. In maths we have been learning our number bonds to 5 and 10. We have planted some potatoes in our garden. Ducklings have done lots of listening to and making of sounds this week and we have all made a shaker. Our song has been ‘Hands can hold’.

Finches – In English we have written fantastic reviews of our favourite books and in maths we have been learning to tell the time. In science we investigated what happens to flowers when they are put in coloured water and we have also made stick puppets to retell Julia Donaldson stories.

Owls – This week we have been practising telling the time in Year 2 and 3. We have been exploring Anthony Browne’s version of ‘Hansel and Gretel’ and other versions too. We have explained how he has made his illustrations scary and described the witch’s tempting house. On one sunny afternoon (!) we drew spring flowers and also mind-mapped the plants in A.B’s books.

Doves – We have developed our information retrieval skills by working on reading comprehensions about animals. We have learnt about the equator and the countries in the northern and southern hemispheres. We have enjoyed designing and starting to make our bird boxes. In maths we have practised estimation, addition and subtraction.

Woodpeckers – We have enjoyed presenting our news reports using ‘publisher’ on the computers. In maths Yr 4s have looked at measurement of time and length and Yr 5s have investigated polygons. The highlight this week has been meeting Caroline Lawrence – our ‘Amazing Author’! We are sad to say farewell to Miss Gardener who has had an excellent teaching practice in our class, and wish her well in her future career.

Kingfishers – We have been using watercolours to paint Hokusai’s work ‘The Great Wave’. Next week we will start a collage of the work so **would be grateful for donations of old magazines, newspapers and tubs with lids for this**. In science we have been finding out about Carl Linnaeus, the Swedish scientist, and his system of classifying animals that is still used today. In maths we have been working on co-ordinates and angles.

Important Information for Parents of Reception and Year 6 Children – Your child brought home a letter two weeks ago about heights and weights measurements taking place in school next week. If you do not want this to happen you must follow the instructions in the letter.

Healthy Smiles Award – I am very pleased to say we have received our certificate and accreditation as a Healthy Smiles School acknowledging our work on encouraging good oral and dental health.

SCHOOL DISCO – 20th March Thanks very much to everyone who has come forward to help at the discos. We still need more helpers, both for early (FS and KS1, 4.30-5.30) and late (FS2, 6-7) discos. Please let April know if you can spare an hour (newhinkseypta@gmail.com). Disco wristbands will be available to buy in the playground from Monday morning. Please be aware that your child will need to have the name of the person collecting them written on their wristband before they are allowed in.

After School Club and Morning Club Bills – The deadline for payment of the February bills is today. Please ensure debts are paid.

Best wishes,
Charlotte Haynes

Dates for Diaries

Tuesday 17th March 4pm – 7pm Parents Evening

Friday 20th March – School Disco

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

Parents are welcome in our school

12th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Information about our plans concerning Corona Virus

We are writing to update you on our current plans regarding the Coronavirus situation. We receive daily updates from the Director of Public Health (Oxfordshire) and are following all advice and guidance from them, Public Health England and the DfE. As of yesterday afternoon the guidance is very much 'business as usual' unless we are specifically contacted and advised to take other actions by Public Health England or the Department for Education.

I understand that you may be concerned, especially when you have vulnerable members of family. Please rest assured that we are following official guidance in full. We are encouraging and ensuring frequent handwashing, including talking to the children on how to hand wash effectively.

Where a pupil is in self isolation, and the school has medical evidence to show that this is necessary, the absence will be authorised as exceptional circumstances. Parents should be advised that, where they are choosing to 'self isolate', without medical evidence, they should not be seen in other public places and the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Schools may be directed to close in the future, and we are thinking through some plans should this happen. Information on closure, should it be necessary, will be posted on the school website in the 'newsletter' section and will also be headlined on the home page as 'most recently posted'. We will also endeavour to email those parents for whom we have email addresses. Posters will be attached to the school railings.

We are preparing some information on home learning should a closure become necessary. This will be a sheet of websites and online activities that children can access at home as well as some general activities we hope children will be expected to do whilst at home.

If a closure becomes necessary we hope that we will have a little bit of warning and can send the 'home learning' information with the children at the end of the day before closure. If no closure is in place before the start of the Easter holidays we will send home the sheet at the end of term in case there is a closure immediately following the holiday.

If you have plans to travel over the Easter period, please ensure that you stay in touch with Public Health England and follow all instructions for returning travellers.

Further information and advice is available at: <http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Yours faithfully,

Charlotte Haynes