



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

16th October 2020

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

Important Notice: The half term holiday starts at the end of the day on Friday 23rd October and school is scheduled to reopen on Monday 2nd November. There is no school in the week 26th – 30th October. We hope everyone is able to relax and recharge after what has been an exhausting half term. **It is vitally important that you inform the school at once by emailing office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk if any child who attends this school tests positive for Covid 19 during the half term holiday. There are things we have to put in place with the DfE and local Health Protection Team around who the child has had close contact with in school.** We also need to be informed if you are travelling overseas during half term please. Thank you.

It is worth noting that should a child test positive, as well as school informing the authorities who that child has had close contact with in school, parents will also be asked to give information. It is therefore important that if children are having playdates and visiting each other's households then parents must keep a note of who and when that happened as track and trace will ask for that information so that contacts can be asked to quarantine for 14 days - a visiting child who then tests positive could mean that both households will likely have to quarantine for 14 days.

News from Classes

Foundation Stage (Robins and Ducklings) – The Robins have been looking at number 4 this week and looking at shapes with 4 sides. We have sorted groups of 4 objects in different ways. We have been rhyming and playing with words, identifying the initial sounds and finding words with the same initial sound. We have been practising writing our names using a capital letter only for the first letter and lower case letters for the rest. We have worked really hard to look after the toys and to help tidy up at the end of the day. Ducklings have been making Humpty Dumpty pictures.

Finches – We have been ordering and comparing numbers and finding 1 more and 1 less than a number up to 20. In English we have made gingerbread biscuits and learnt about the instructions of how to make them which we will write next week. We listened to music and talked about what we liked and didn't like about it and about the pulse and the rhythm. We had a lovely time visiting the church on Wednesday and learning all about baptism from Father Ruben.

Owls – Our focus this week has been bird nests and eggs – we've been learning about them in science, art and English as they feature in the story we have been learning, 'The Red Kite Who Thought He Was a Chicken'. In maths we have been ordering numbers, placing them on a blank number line, using < and > symbols to compare numbers, understanding the 100 square and using it to work out 1 more and 1 less and 10 more and 10 less.

Doves – We have been learning about the history of Stonehenge. We have written about the Stonehenge Archer, painted beautiful watercolour sunsets and cut out our Stonehenge silhouettes. We have been busy having a times table week and have become faster and more accurate at recalling them. In DT we have had great fun designing and making prehistoric weapons. We are continuing to enjoy weekly yoga and have thought about the colours of our emotions.

Woodpeckers – We have continued to learn about the history of the Civil Rights movement in America and used different resources to focus on aspects of grammar such as using apostrophes. In maths, we've all done well to complete an end of unit maths check and identify our next steps in learning. It has been interesting to watch the daily Newsround when we are eating lunch to learn about current news events and other interesting stories, many of which have linked well to our 'Black History' topic. In music we've had fun trying to recreate the 'spirit' of a Brazilian composer Villa-Lobos's 'Little Train of Caipira'.

Kingfishers – We are writing a balanced argument text in English where structuring our thoughts is a key feature. We have drafted them and next week we will be typing them out for display. We had a relaxing half-hour listening to Vaughan-Williams' 'Lark Ascending'. We have revisited the acronym SMART to remind ourselves about internet safety. Please ask us to explain what each letter stands for to you. Our science topic, 'Evolution and Inheritance', is coming to an end. We have used what we've learned to predict how humans might evolve in the future to adapt to their changing environments – there have been some interesting ideas!

Parents are welcome in our school

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN YOUR CHILDREN UP! Annual Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6) – These are taking place in school on Wednesday 21st October. **Parents have to access the online consent form to agree to this or else your child will not be able to have the flu immunisation.** We cannot do this for you so please go to <https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/forms/flu>. The unique code for our school is OX123142. The **form must be submitted by 5pm on Sunday 18th October** to ensure your child receives the vaccination.

Current Year 6 Parents – Don't forget to visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions to apply for your child's school place for September 2021. **The deadline for applications is 31st October which is just two weeks away.** Previous newsletters available on the school website have details of online and virtual open evenings and tours.

Supervision of Children at Drop Off and Pick Up Times and Whilst Waiting – Families should remember that we are on a public road that, although quiet, is a road never the less. Local residents are perfectly entitled to drive and ride their bikes on these roads. Children should be encouraged to be on the pavement and well behaved in the locality of the school. Some neighbours are being disturbed by a lot of noise, running about and a little bit of silly behaviour – such as knocking on doors or peering through letterboxes. The first classes into school are also already at work and a lot of noise from outside is very distracting. Please help us to have an orderly and quiet start to the day and keep local residents happy. Please be considerate of other parents and grandparents who are wanting to keep themselves safe by socially distancing and so do not want groups of children playing and running close around them.

Reminders of things you can do to help us keep everyone safe:

- **Only 1 adult from each family** at drop off and pick up areas please to avoid congestion.
- **Adults should maintain at least a metre between them and other families.**
- Please **disperse from around the gates as quickly as you can** to make space for others.
- **Please don't try to bring your cars down to the area around school to park or turn around.**
- You must **let us know the reasons for any absence from school.** The most helpful way to do this is to email office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk or if that is not possible please phone 01865 242169. We are unable to answer the phone from 8.30am - 9.15am. We need to know if any absence is covid or self-isolation related.
- A child with any of the symptoms (new/persistent cough, temperature, change or loss of sense of smell or taste) will need to stay off school and have a test. Siblings also need to stay off school, and other household members should self-isolate at home, until the outcome of the test is known. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- If your child has had a covid test please let us know the result asap and email the test result letter to the school office – thank you.

Distance Learning – This week each child should have brought a letter home explaining how Google Classroom will be used as a learning platform in the event of school closure or partial closure (i.e. a class bubble).

School Lunches – The **menu changes after half term** (from Monday 2nd November) to a two week rotational menu with lots more hot meals on offer. It is available to see in ParentPay. Please ensure that your child has **enough money** in their account before booking a lunch (£2.40 per meal) as we do not have the capacity to remind you individually.

And finally, if you have younger children or friends and relatives with **children coming up to reception age in September 2021**, please can we direct you all to our website which has a brand new flip book presentation about the Foundation Stage as we are not able to do face to face show rounds on site in the present circumstances.

Best wishes and please get in the habit of checking the school website frequently for updates and news especially over half term – thanks.

Charlotte Haynes

Dates

This half of term **finishes on Friday 23rd October** at the usual end of day times for each class.

Half Term Holiday – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Term **starts again on Monday 2nd November** and **finishes for Christmas holiday on Friday 18th December**

School is closed to all pupils on Friday 27th November for an INSET day (Staff Training)

St John the Evangelist - Night of the Living Saints - All Hallows' Eve Family Saints Trail on Saturday 31st October 5pm -7.30pm. Follow our trail to discover the Church's strangest saints, who will tell you their weird and gory stories! Finish the trail and collect your prize! Receive an extra treat for coming dressed up as your favourite saint. Pre-booking essential and donations requested please. Complete the booking for that was distributed or book online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-johns-new-hinksey-saints-trail-tickets-124075758935>