



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

2nd October 2020

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

Thanks to the many of you who are helping our efforts to keep everyone safe from infection by wearing a face covering at drop off and pick up time, keeping a distance from other families and by dispersing promptly from the gate areas.

Over the past month I have been visiting classes to lead assemblies in each bubble. The values we have looked at and explored so far have been 'hope' and 'perseverance'. Next week we will be thinking about 'thankfulness'. Fr Ruben continues to provide a very engaging recorded assembly each week which the children are enjoying.

Harvest - We are unable to hold our traditional harvest festival this year with harvest boxes of produce being delivered to local senior citizens. However, in these difficult times for everyone, we feel it is important for those who can to be able to give to less fortunate families. We will have collection boxes at the gates on for non-perishable items – tins, jars, packets – on Monday and Tuesday next week. These will be quarantined for a few days and will then be delivered to a local food bank. Please help us support our local community. Thank you.

Harvest with St Francis – There will be a friendly, outdoor, family harvest celebration, led by Fr Ruben on Sunday October 4th at 3.00pm at St Laurence Church in South Hinksey. It would lovely if some of our school families took part in this opportunity as, sadly, we will be unable to hold our usual school harvest festival service this year.

News from Classes

Foundation Stage (Robins and Ducklings) – In Robins we have done lots of story-telling using the stories of 'Rosie's Walk' and 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. We have been learning how to make our own story maps and lots of the children have made their own zig zag books. We have been looking at the number 2 and how number 2 looks like in pair!

Ducklings are still enjoying Maisy Mouse stories and signing lots of songs. We have also made colourful hand prints!

Finches – In maths we have looked at doubling numbers to 10 and we have introduced simple addition and subtraction stories. In English we have been creating our own stories based on 'Little Red Riding Hood' by thinking of our own characters to replace the ones in the story. In the afternoons the children have had great fun making fairy tale settings out of wooden bricks, beautiful crowns and printing autumn leaves for our classroom display.

Owls – This week we have been exploring 2D shape in maths – counting sides to identify shapes, learning to spot right angles and which shapes tessellate. In science and English we have been learning more facts about British Owls for our own owl fact books which we will be making next week.

Doves – We have learnt all about Mary Anning, the fossil hunter. We have researched her life and written her biography. In science we have mixed sand, water and plaster of Paris to make our own dinosaur fossilisation blocks. In maths the Year 4s have worked hard to name different triangles and sort them using Carroll diagrams. Year 3s have become more accurate when drawing mirrored shapes on a line of symmetry and have used Venn diagrams.

Woodpeckers – We have begun a new non-fiction English unit which looks at recounts and narratives of liberation. We were fascinated to read the true story of 'Henry Box Brown' who was born as a slave and escaped by posting himself all the way to Philadelphia!! The story has raised many interesting points of discussion, and vocabulary such as 'abolition'. In maths we have studied measurements of time and length. We enjoyed another close observational drawing session in art and adding colour to our amazing nature studies of animal shells and skulls. In science we have begun to research the life cycles of different types of animals.

Kingfishers – We have learnt how to 'turn in' work using Google classroom. We have also done some botanical sketches in art as part of our research into William Morris designs. We have been putting the finishing touches to our ebooks about Charles Darwin. To mark the beginning of Black History Month we have been learning a little about Nelson Mandela.

Parents are welcome in our school

Annual Flu Vaccinations for All Children Reception to Year 6 – These are scheduled to take place in school on Wednesday 21st October 2020. **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.** 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. **Late consents will not be accepted.** Paper consent forms are not available. A separate letter was sent home with each child about this.

Current Year 6 Parents – Don't forget to visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions to find out about the process of applying for your child's secondary school place for September 2021.

St Gregory the Great School has an open evening video which is available through their Youtube channel, website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The link is: <https://youtu.be/3L1tUJmIMCY>

Oxford Spires Academy are running an Open Week 12th -15th October 2020. They will host "Meet the Teacher" events on Zoom during this week and their website will be updated with a marketing video, virtual tour and faculty fact sheets to enable parents to get an insight into the school. Go to www.oxfordspiresacademy.org/join-us/open-week

Bartholomew School in Eynsham have a Virtual Open Day page at www.bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk. This will be live until the end of October.

Cherwell School have a Virtual Open Evening on their website: <https://www.cherwell.oxon.sch.uk>

Drop Off and Pick Up Times: Please do try to be on time.

Robins and Ducklings: 9.00am and 3.00pm

Finch Class: 8.50am and 3.00pm

Owl Class: 8.40am and 2.50pm

Dove Class: 8.50am and 3.00pm

Woodpecker Class: 8.30am and 2.50pm

Kingfisher Class: 8.40am and 3.05pm

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

- **Only 1 adult from each family** around the drop off and pick up gates please to avoid congestion.
- Adults should maintain at least a metre between them and other families when waiting outside school.
- Please remember everything your child needs in the morning including coats, lunches and water bottles.
- We strongly encourage parents and carers to wear a face covering (mask or visor) around the gates.
- Please disperse from around the gates as quickly as you can to make space for others.
- 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.
- 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.

Information on **how to get a test** can be found by phoning 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Morning Club and ASC Payments – The bills for September were sent home yesterday. Please pay using Parent Pay by Friday 16th October – thank you.

School Association News: The **AGM** will take place virtually 6-7pm on Monday 12th October. Details of how to join will be available nearer the time. **School Association Treasurer** - Please consider whether you might be able to fill this vital role. It really is essential that this post is filled. If you want to know more about what the role entails, please talk to our outgoing treasurer Louisa (mum of Sophia, Woodpeckers and Immy, Owls) or contact her by email lbrossler@gmail.com . Any of the other committee members would be happy to hear from you.

Free Courses for Parents – Oxford Adult Learning will be running a free online 'Spontaneous Storytelling' course from 9.30 -11.30am on Tuesdays 3rd, 10th and 17th November. Email tony.payne@abingdon-witney.ac.uk to sign up or to get more information.

Best wishes

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)