



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

23rd October 2020

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

**Important Notice:** The half term holiday starts today and school is scheduled to reopen on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. There is no school next week. **It is vitally important that you inform the school at once by emailing [office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto: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.**

Please inform us if you are travelling overseas during half term. Thank you.

We advise every family to **check the website ([www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk)) frequently** over the break, especially over the weekend before Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November as **any changes and updates about opening or closure will be posted there.**

**Thank You and How You Can Help Us** – We are really appreciative of the many comments and emails you have made to us saying how happy and settled your children are and thanking us for making everything run smoothly and safely and for making the learning enjoyable and interesting for the children. It is, of course, a lot of hard work for all the staff and is full-on all day – staff are with their bubbles through playtime and lunchtime and there is much to do on top of the teaching such as cleaning and hand sanitising and ensuring equipment is not shared. Many of you have asked if there is anything you can do to help which is kind of you. There are a few things we would like to ask you all to do to help make things a little easier:

- Please be **on time** for both drop off and pick up times, practising social distancing and wearing face coverings.
- Please make sure your **children are fully prepared for the day** (book bags and homework, water bottles, packed lunches, suitable clothing in layers, a waterproof coat, trainers).
- Please ensure that **school lunches are pre booked in ParentPay** and that if you pay there is enough money in **credit to cover the cost**. The **menu changes after half term** (from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November) to a two week rotational menu with lots more hot meals on offer.
- Please **let us know if your child is not coming to school and the reason** for their absence by emailing [office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk) or phoning 01865 242169 (but we can't answer the phone between 8.30 and 9.10 when we are supervising the gates), including if a child is having to self-isolate because another member of the family is covid positive.
- Please **read the newsletter carefully each week** to keep up with new information.
- Encourage your family to remember hand washing, social distancing, and face coverings where recommended – the **'Hands, Space, Face'** message.
- In practical terms **we would gratefully receive boxes of tissues** as we are getting through a lot!

**Annual Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6)** – These were unable to take place on Wednesday due to school health nurse sickness. They are now going to be taking place in school on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. **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 2pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November** to ensure your child receives the vaccination. If you have already signed your children up, you do not need to do anything else.

**Current Year 6 Parents** – Please make sure you have visited [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions) to apply for your child's school place for September 2021. **The deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October.**

*Parents are welcome in our school*

## News from Classes

**Foundation Stage (Robins and Ducklings)** – Robins have been storytelling ‘The Little Red Hen’ this week. They have done some lovely oil pastel pictures of harvest vegetables which we will display in the window after half term. In maths we have been looking at number 5 and all the different ways we can make 5 using our fingers, objects and counters. In phonics we have been looking at writing and reading the sounds ‘m’ and ‘a’. It’s been fantastic getting to know your children this term, we have had lots of fun and they have all settled so well. Ducklings have been enjoying ‘Kipper the Dog’ stories and having fun with an ever changing number line.

**Finches** – In maths we have been looking at our number bonds to 10 so we are able to recall them quickly. In English we wrote our instructions for how to make a gingerbread man. We also talked about the importance of giving instructions in the correct order and how using time words can help us to know the order of instructions. The children painted colourful gingerbread men and had fun building fairy tale scenes out of wooden blocks.

**Owls** – This week we have been doing our maths assessments and practising the bits of maths we found tricky. We have written our versions of ‘The Red Kite who thought he was a Chicken’. In science we have learnt more about what owls eat. We have designed owl bags to carry home our bird books and mobile. Have a restful half-term.

**Doves** – A big well done to Doves for their hard work on the two maths assessments this week. We have progressed on to finding out about the Bronze Age. We have learnt the main features of diary writing – we have used these to write diaries from the point of view of a prehistoric child working in the copper mines. We have painted our ‘Beaker’ style clay pots which look beautiful. The only homework for half-term is to draw or make your own imaginative version of Stonehenge. This is due in on Monday 2 November to share with the class.

**Woodpeckers** – Poetry and imagery have been our focus for English this week and we have enjoyed reading and creating powerful words and phrases. In maths we have been solving various challenging problems and worked on explaining and reasoning skills. Our lovely still life artwork is on display and our group posters for famous scientists have been completed. There is no formal homework set this week, except to learn a favourite poem and to find out more about poets Moira Andrews and Roger McGough. There are also plenty of games and challenges set on the active learn website. Have a lovely break!

**Kingfishers** – We are learning about the industrial revolution and its impact on Britain during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We are making collages of an industrial landscape to illustrate how the changes affected every aspect of life. We have written poems in response to Vaughan Williams’ ‘The Lark Ascending’ (a beautiful piece of classical music). Fractions have been the focus in maths lessons this week. Some of us have made fraction walls to help us understand the concept of equivalence – it’s been very good to practise accurate measuring too!

**Support for Families Facing Hardship** - It feels like many families across the country could be very badly affected by the economic impacts of covid and it can be difficult to ask for help when things get really difficult. Oxford City Council has set up various funds to support people affected such as £500 for some people told to stay home and self-isolate to emergency funds for those waiting for universal credit. There are details on the Council’s website ([https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20006/benefits\\_and\\_welfare](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20006/benefits_and_welfare)) and local whatsapp groups can be a source of support and information. The school association will put details of the local funds available on the facebook group.

**Spooky Safari: 31<sup>st</sup> October (noon) to 1<sup>st</sup> November (6pm)** – This is when the ‘Spooky Safari’ will be taking place, and we have 30 houses registered to put up a display (anything from a picture in the front window to a model in the garden). If you would be willing to put up a display, it’s not too late. Just email [stuart.lee@it.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stuart.lee@it.ox.ac.uk) or go to [www.tinyurl.com/spookyhinksey](http://www.tinyurl.com/spookyhinksey) for more details and to sign up. We hope this will give all the local children a fun half term activity and also raise money for the School Association. On the weekend itself you just go to the website, download the map or app, and enjoy walking around and seeing all the spooky displays!

Best wishes for a great holiday week - stay safe and healthy.

Charlotte Haynes

## Dates

**Half Term Holiday** – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Term starts again on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and finishes for Christmas holiday on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

School is closed to all pupils on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 form that was distributed or book online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-johns-new-hinksey-saints-trail-tickets-124075758935>