



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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

**Christmas Lunch** - This will take place on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** and the booking for this closed last Friday. If your child is bringing a packed lunch on Wednesday please feel free to make it a special, seasonal packed lunch. Also, all children are welcome to wear something 'Christmassy' on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> such as a Christmas jumper, Christmas hat etc.

**End of Term and Informing School of any Pupils with Positive Covid Tests in the Holidays** – Our end of term remains **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** just after lunch. Pupils should be collected from their usual gates as follows:

12.50pm for Owls and Woodpeckers

1.00pm for Foundation Stage, Finches and Doves

1.05pm for Kingfishers

Please **continue to let school know straight away if any pupils test positive for Covid 19 even after the end of term** as it is important that we know who may have been in close contact or in the same bubble so that they are informed if they need to self-isolate. We all have a responsibility to do all that we can to reduce possible transmission. As we are not on the school site to answer the phone during the holidays, **email** [office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk) please. Thank you in advance for your cooperation if this situation arises which we sincerely hope does not.

## **News from Classes**

**Foundation Stage (Robins and Ducklings)** – In Robins we have been reading Christmas stories. We have also made lots of lovely surprises for our families and this has been keeping us very busy. The Robins are really enjoying our class advent calendar, counting down to Christmas day! Our word of the week was 'imagination'. The ducklings have made some brilliant Father Christmases.

**Finches** – In English this week we have been reading and learning different winter themed poems, and in maths we have been looking at money and the value of coins and notes. In the afternoons we have finished the nativity and enjoyed Christmas craft activities.

**Owls** – This week we have been adding up money in maths and doing maths assessments. In English we have been writing up the story we learnt about 'Yukio and Baku, the dream eater' and also exploring a beautiful wintery book called 'The Winter Hedgehog'. In science we have learnt a bit about reptiles and the real life Komodo dragon. In art we created pictures of the Baku and of a wintery landscape.

**Doves** – On Monday we enjoyed a virtual prehistory trip to the Ashmolean. We saw different artefacts including weapons and jewellery which helped us understand more about life during that time. We have enjoyed choosing objects to describe and imagine what and how they were used. In science we have found out how the eye works and how we see things. In maths Year 3s have developed their multiplication and division skills and the Year 4s have learnt to multiply using the grid method. We have been enjoying singing some carols socially distanced and outside as well as opening our class advent calendar.

**Woodpeckers** – We have imagined speech for characters in 'The Hole' and written well punctuated dialogue to show something of the character. In maths we have assessed our learning for this term and identified our next steps for progression. Our weaving skills have been put to the test for our circular 'hole' weaving projects, inspired by Andy Goldsworthy's fascination with holes! We are also enjoying opening the windows of our French advent calendar with a new word to learn each day.

**Kingfishers** – On Wednesday we enjoyed music appreciation with the help of the BBC's 'Ten Pieces'. We have spent time consolidating our maths learning this term. On Monday we will round off our Victorian topic by watching an animated version (PG) of 'A Christmas Carol'. Children may bring popcorn/treats/a drink for their **own** consumption during the film. We will **not** be letting them share treats due to covid hygiene measures.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Children Starting School in Reception in September 2021** – Applications are now open and can be made on the County Council website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions). All information is on that site. Please note that parents of children who are currently in our nursery need to make an application for their reception place through the website above. The closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**Oxford Libraries Competition and Challenge** – Oxford libraries are running a Creative Writing Competition (5-11 years, 12 – 17 years and 18+ years). Visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition) if you are a budding writer interested in taking part.

The libraries also have a fun, online winter reading challenge with the theme ‘Everyone is a Hero’. More information can be found at [www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk).

**To help keep us all safe and school open please do all that you can to follow lockdown regulations and ...**

- Keep children at home and get them tested if they show **any** of the three main coronavirus symptoms, which are a fever/raised temperature, a cough or a change to or loss of taste and smell.
- **Keep school fully informed of why children are off** (including if they are having to self-isolate at home because another household member is positive or waiting for a test result) by phoning 01865 242169 (not between 8.30 and 9.15am please) or emailing [office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk)
- Email the test results notification to the school office so we can keep track and put in place procedures if a child tests positive.
- Be on time for drop offs and pick-ups, and **please could adults wear face coverings around the school gates. Please disperse quickly once you have dropped off or picked up.**
- Keep a distance from others and thus minimise the potential spread of infection.
- Please remember that **under the current Tier 2 restrictions there should not be any household mixing indoors at all** (other than a designated, consistent support bubble), and outdoor interactions are limited to a maximum of six people in total.

**The New Hinksey School Association Christmas Raffle** will be drawn this Sunday. To buy tickets please go to <https://localgiving.org/charity/newhinkseyschoolassociation/> and put 'New Hinksey Raffle' in the message box. As usual, there are some fantastic prizes! Please support this fundraising initiative as we were unable to hold our Christmas Bazaar this year.

**Carol Singing** - St John's would like to organise some outdoor carol singing in the streets around our community to bring a bit of cheer to those who might be lonely and isolated or housebound. If you are interested in joining in (singing or instrument playing, children or adults), please get in touch with us - [stjohnnewhinksey@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnnewhinksey@gmail.com) . Further plans to follow once we have an idea of numbers. Thanks!

**Christmas Cards** – As we continue to do all that we can to reduce the risk of infection and virus transmission in school, we are asking children not to bring Christmas cards into school for their friends and classmates. This is because it involves a great deal of hand to hand passing of cards between the children. I am sorry this makes us sound like ‘The Grinch’ but please help us to keep everyone safe in the run up to Christmas.

**Cars at Drop Off and Pick Up Time** - Please could we ask again that **cars are NOT driven down to the school at drop off and pick up time** and especially that **the turn into School Place just by the school office is NOT used for turning around in**, as this is where our Year 1 and Year 2 children are waiting and coming in and out. Thank you.

**The Story Museum** is open and has lots of fantastic events on over the winter. To see what’s on, plan your visit and book tickets please visit [www.storymuseum.org.uk](http://www.storymuseum.org.uk) .

Wishing you all a happy and safe weekend,

Charlotte Haynes

**Dates**

Term finishes for the Christmas holiday on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December after lunch (12.50pm for Owls and Woodpeckers; 1pm for Foundation Stage, Finches and Doves; 1.05pm for Kingfishers)

The Spring Term starts on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at all the existing staggered start times for each class.