



New Hinksey CE Primary School

Vicarage Road Oxford OX1 4RQ

Tel: 01865 242169 Fax: 01865 242169

Email: office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

Website: www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

4th December 2020

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

This week assemblies have been focussed on 'peace' and on advent. We are trying our best to make this time of year in school fun and Christmassy despite it all being a bit different to previous years!

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.

Christmas Lunch Wednesday 16th December – Thank you for returning slips, pre booking and paying. **The bookings for Christmas lunch are now closed** and numbers have been given to the kitchen for ordering the food needed. If your child is bringing a packed lunch that day please feel free to make it a special, seasonal packed lunch if you would like to. Also, children are welcome to wear something 'Christmassy' on Wednesday 16th such as a Christmas jumper, Christmas hat etc.

News From Classes

Foundation Stage (Robins and Ducklings) – The Robins were very excited this week to find a Christmas tree and advent calendar in the classroom! We are working on painting characters from the nativity story to display in the classroom window. We had lots of fun reading 'Kipper's Blue Balloon' and then we watched ice balloons melt yesterday! Our number of the week was 10, so we have done lots of combining in groups in different ways to make 10. We are running very low on our spare clothes. Please could you return any of our spares to school, and also if you have any unwanted and outgrown clothes suitable for our spares box (in case of accidents!) we would be very grateful – especially 3/4 year old joggers, boys pants and tops. Thank you. Ducklings have started to sing Christmas songs and enjoyed exploring tinsel and decorations!!

Finches – In English we continued writing our 'Three Little Pigs' stories and then we looked at 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. In maths we have looked at doubles and number bonds to 10 and how we can use these to add three numbers. In science we looked at how the weather changes between autumn and winter. We have been busy filming the nativity. The children look fantastic in their costumes.

Owls – This week we have been working on doubling, and using our doubles, number bonds and our 2, 5 and 10 times tables to improve our mental maths. We have been learning to tell the story of 'Yukio and Baku the Dream Eater'. Telling you the story at home is our English homework this weekend so we are ready to write some of the story next week. We have been making treasure boxes guarded by dragons, which will come home on a dry day. Lots of the class have recited their chosen poems to the class enthusiastically. Thank you for your support with this task.

Doves – In maths we have worked hard on data handling. We have constructed and interpreted bar charts, pictograms and line graphs. In English we have looked at the features of information books and are enjoying making our own books relating to our history topic. The class has made a lovely advent calendar and our classroom is looking bright and Christmassy. In science we are finding out about shadows in our topic on light.

Woodpeckers – We have begun a new modern fiction unit in English based on a book with a hole in it! It has been really interesting to explore this book which has very few words but plenty to draw inference from. In maths Year 4s have focused on methods for multiplying and Year 5s have looked at the most efficient ways to carry out all four operations. Our window collages are complete and will accompany our poetry in an e-book soon.

Kingfishers – We have continued our Victorian history topic by finding out about the British Empire and colonisation. We have peer marked our extended stories as part of our 'improving' step.

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. 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 15th January 2021.

Feeding Back to Parents on How Your Children are Getting On – We hope you all received a personalised ‘mini report’ for each of your children on how they are getting on and that you found them informative. We are very pleased with how amazing the children have been since returning in September – they have demonstrated that they are resilient, confident and enthusiastic learners.

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 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.

After School Club and Morning Club Invoices – The bills for November were sent home via book bags this week and are also in ParentPay. The deadline for paying these is Friday 11th December.

Parent Governor Update – We are pleased to let you know that the remaining parent governor vacancy has been filled by Crispin Chatterton (parent of Louis and Remy) and we welcome him to our school governing body.

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
- 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.

School Association News - Each year the New Hinksey School Association runs a **Christmas Raffle** to raise funds for the school. This year **the raffle will be done entirely online and has some great prizes**. Further details can be found on the NHSA Facebook page or the flyer sent home in today's book bags. Please do all that you can to support this online raffle -thank you.

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 . Further plans to follow once we have an idea of numbers. Thanks!

Go Active Outdoors brings together information about what is happening in local parks and waterways. To find out more visit www.oxford.gov.uk/goactiveoutdoors .

Best wishes,
Charlotte Haynes

Dates

Term **finishes for Christmas holiday on Friday 18th 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 4th January 2021 at all the existing staggered start times for each class.