



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Dear Home Learning Children and Families,

Well done to everyone - children, parents and staff – for getting through this half of term under the very challenging conditions. The use of Google Classroom and Google Meets for all learners at home and at school has worked very well, staff have adapted quickly and with dedication to different ways of working, **families at home have been doing a great job helping children with home learning – thank you for that**, and our infection control measures with strict use of covid safe bubbles has helped us keep safe with no positive cases in school. Next week is the half term holiday and we hope everyone can switch off from home learning – give yourselves and your children a proper break from ‘school’. On-line learning will be available again from Monday 22nd February.

Advance Notice about World Book Day – This will take place on Thursday 4th March and staff have been planning how we can mark this fun day regardless of whether children are in school or home learning. Rather than ‘spring’ it onto families just before the day, we are giving you some information about the Book Day activities that week, in advance, in case there is any preparation or planning involved – we hope this is helpful. See below.

World Book Day for Robins: At our Google Meet on Thursday 4th March, children are invited to dress up as a book character or share what their favourite story is. All week we will be using stories and activities from the World Book Day website including stories by Lydia Monks. There will be recordings of Polly reading two of the stories. All information about the activities will be posted on Google Classroom that week so the only preparation is to start thinking of your book character costume if you want to dress up.

World Book Day for Finches: At our Google Meet on Wednesday 3rd March, children can be in fancy dress and are invited to share what their favourite book is with the group. On World Book Day itself, Thursday 4th March, children attending school, home learners, Miss Martins and Sonia, are invited to dress as a character from a book and home learners are welcome to take a walk past the playground railings at lunchtime play 12.15 – 12.40 to see, at a little distance, each other’s costumes. Children will be using Author and Illustrator Academy that week.

World Book Day for Owls: Home learners are invited to dress as a book character on Friday 5th March for the Google Meet at 1.30pm. Children in school are encouraged to dress up as a book character on World Book Day which is Thursday 4th March. There will be activities on Google Classroom for both home and school learners on 4th March focussing on making a Picture Book Theatre to use with puppets. Everyone is encouraged to talk to family members (siblings, parents, grandparents) about their favourite books and why.

World Book Day for Doves: During the week 1st – 5th March Doves will be exploring an author a day and will have a quiz at the Google Meet on Friday 5th.

World Book Day for Woodpeckers: Woodpeckers will be directed via Google Classroom to a live story share with Katherine Rundell, author of ‘The Explorer’. This will be at 10.30 am on Friday 5th March.

World Book Day for Kingfishers: Kingfishers will be set activities via Google Classroom including making book covers for favourite books and designing a bedroom for your favourite storybook character!

Parents are welcome in our school

When will school reopen to all pupils? – This is our understanding of the situation:

- That there will be a review of the national lockdown on 15th February which will take account of the vaccination programme, infection rates, death rates and NHS capacity.
- In the week commencing 22nd February the government will publish a plan for taking the country out of lockdown.
- Schools and families will be given two weeks' notice of any reopening of schools so the **earliest that schools could begin to reopen is Monday 8th March**. We await further clarification on details and dates from the Government and the Department for Education.

Internet Safety – On Tuesday this week all children were assigned activities and presentations about keeping safe online as it was Safer Internet Day. This is a crucially important area of learning and understanding for children, young people and the adults that care for them. We urge you all to talk openly and frequently with your children about internet safety. We do this regularly in school but need the messages reinforced at home. A really good website to go to as parents and as children is www.thinkuknow.co.uk. It is easy to use and has very accessible info for all ages presented in an engaging format. Do please take a look with your children. Thank you.

Chinese New Year is today Friday 12th February so '**gung hay fat choy**' to everyone! This literally means 'wishing you great happiness and prosperity' in Cantonese. This year is the year of the Ox.

Have a restful half term week – hopefully the weather will be dry and you can get lots of fresh air. There are small signs that Spring is on the way so see what you can spot in the garden or if you are out for a walk.

Best wishes from all the team at New Hinksey.

Charlotte Haynes