



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Children and Families of Children in School,

Well done to everyone - children, parents and staff – for getting through this half of term under the very challenging conditions. It has been a successful term given the constraints. The in-school children have been well cared for and supported with accessing learning, our infection control measures and strict use of covid safe bubbles has helped us keep safe with no positive cases in school, the use of Google Classroom and Google Meets for all learners at home and at school has worked very well and staff have adapted quickly and with dedication to different ways of working. We hope that everyone currently attending school can have a proper break next week when school is closed for half term and return refreshed on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## **This Week's News from the Bubbles**

**Foundation Stage** – Robins have done lots of measuring in maths. We have made some trains using 2D shapes, talked about journeys we have been on and made magic train tickets. Ducklings have been having lots of fun looking for their missing numbers around the classroom.

**Finches** – In English we have written re-tellings of 'The Magic Paintbrush' and in maths we have been making estimations. In topic time we have looked at how communication has changed over time, Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year.

**Owls** – This week we have been rounding in maths, exploring maps of Australia, thinking about 'bush' habitat and the animals that live there, their life cycles and food chains. We have made sock puppets and painted our Thorny Devil models.

**Doves** – Doves have been on a virtual trip to London this week. We wrote diaries of an imaginary day trip to visit the landmarks there and have also learnt the story of 'Oliver Twist'. We have learnt about fire safety and tested each other on how to be safe at home.

**Woodpeckers** – We have enjoyed picking our favourite tales and continuing with story-telling. We have written detailed descriptions of particular scenes from the stories. Co-ordinates and transformations have been the focus in maths and we enthusiastically finished and watched our Africa slide shows.

**Kingfishers** – We have had a great time performing our play. We finished our science topic work on 'Forces' with a quiz. The children enjoyed watching 'Stormbreaker', having read the book during this half of term.

**Lateral Flow Testing for Staff** – This is a voluntary programme to help 'Stop the Spread' and involves staff testing at home twice a week. New Hinksey staff will continue to test over the half term week, including the day before returning to school. We very much hope that we don't have any positive cases, but we will make contact by telephone if there are any with implications for any of the bubbles.

**Positive Cases over Half Term in Children Attending School During the Lockdown** – If any of the children who have been in school this week test positive for Covid during half term please could you let us know by emailing Tracey ([office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk)) so we can check dates and let other members of the bubble know to isolate if appropriate. Thank you.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Advance Notice about World Book Day** – This will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> March. There will be activities on Google Classroom for both home and school learners on 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March Doves will be exploring an author a day and will have a quiz at the Google Meet on Friday 5<sup>th</sup>.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

**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 15<sup>th</sup> February which will take account of the vaccination programme, infection rates, death rates, NHS capacity and any new variants.
- In the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

**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 and their carers. 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](http://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.

**Chinese New Year** is today Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 us all at New Hinksey.

Charlotte Haynes