



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Dear Children and Families of Children in School,

Reminder about Lateral Flow Testing of Staff

Staff are now taking part in voluntary lateral flow testing to help identify adults who have Covid 19 but who are asymptomatic. Staff are conducting two lateral flow tests at home each week. This is a reminder that if there are any positive test results, we will need to contact you at short notice to let you know that a bubble is closing whilst we await confirmation from a standard PCR test conducted at a testing centre. We will make contact by phone and will post a message on the school website as a news item.

News from the Bubbles

Foundation Stage – Robins have been finding out all about floating and sinking and we made our own paper boats. We have also been learning to count groups of objects in twos and talking about pairs. The Ducklings have been making some lovely fish.

Finches – In English we have been learning the story ‘The Magic Paintbrush’ and in maths we have been focussing on skip counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. In DT (design technology) we have looked at the best material to make a kite out of, and in science we found out about vertebrates.

Owls – This week we have been writing up our stories. We have been learning how to tell the time and how to record it accurately. In the afternoons we have been learning about Australian marsupials, monotremes, birds and reptiles.

Doves – We have enjoyed a virtual trip to Amsterdam! We have added our own words to a windmill animation, created crosswords about The Netherlands and made our own windmills. We have learnt about Van Gogh and painted our own portraits.

Woodpeckers – We enjoyed watching some well-known people on the Children’s Mental Health Assembly and thinking of how we can express ourselves. We have also loved the story telling this week.

Kingfishers – We have started another Oak Academy unit of English – this time about persuasive writing. We have been excited by prop making for our play ‘Lost in the Jungle’. In art we have drawn amazing Manga-style self-portraits. In maths we have been practising subtracting decimal numbers (Yr5) and learning how to multiply 3 digit by 2 digit numbers using the ladder method.

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**. This will just be a potential start date and does not mean all children will be back in their classes, it could be that the return is phased by different age groups or it could be that the scientific data pushes this date back further – we hope not but that is the reality – there is no certainty.

Parents are welcome in our school

Climate Change Champions – Annie from Year 5 features as the cover story for the latest Big Issue. Go to: <https://www.bigissue.com/latest/10-year-old-climate-activist-reacts-to-becoming-a-big-issue-cover-star/> to read all about it. Aira from Owl Class also has a letter featured in this edition. Well done Annie, Aira and families for your work highlighting environmental issues.

Half Term – The Department for Education confirmed that **schools will not remain open during the half term holiday week which is Monday 15th – Friday 19th February**. We will welcome critical worker and vulnerable children back to school on Monday 22nd February.

Best wishes for a happy weekend.

Charlotte Haynes