



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Dear Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors,

It is just fantastic to have all our children back – the school sounds like a school again especially at playtimes when the children’s playful voices are ringing out over the local area! Whilst it is still not possible for catching up and chatting to teachers on the playground at drop off and pick up times, please be reassured that teachers will make contact with you by phone or email if there are any individual issues that we need to talk to you about.

This week’s recorded assembly from Father Ruben focussed on Mothering Sunday which is this weekend.

News from the Classes

Foundation Stage – It has been so lovely having all the Robins back in the classroom and it has been wonderful watching them reconnecting with their friends. We have continued with our ‘All Around the World’ topic and talked about Africa, with a focus on the many countries within Africa. We have looked at patterns and shape and designed our own masks. The Ducklings have made some beautiful daffodil pictures.

Finches – We have loved all being back together this week! We’ve had lots of fun playing with our friends and sharing news with each other. In English we have been learning and retelling the story ‘Stone Soup’ and in maths we have been learning to tell the time to o’clock and half past. We have also been talking about what clothes we would wear in hot and cold places. The children have been busy making beautiful Mother’s Day cards which we hope you enjoy.

Owls – It has been lovely to have our whole class back together. This week we have been learning about aspects of time and data handling in maths. In English we have been exploring different African animal stories. In the afternoons we have been learning about African animals and making art.

Doves – We have had an exciting week on a virtual trip to Vienna in Austria! As snow globes were invented there, we have enjoyed making our own springtime versions. We have enjoyed writing poetry including acrostic poems and haikus. We have researched the Austrian artist Gustav Klimt and experimented with his style. We have really enjoyed being back together as a class and created a class collage (which Mrs Haynes says is very impressive).

Woodpeckers – We have enjoyed learning about fair trade and worked cooperatively to make a lovely display and some persuasive leaflets on the subject. Did you know that 1.65 million farmers around the world work with the Fairtrade organisation? In maths Year 4s have been learning about 24 hour digital times and calculating perimeters. Year 5s have focussed on the properties of polygons. We have also drawn some amazing cityscapes for our art project.

Kingfishers – All the children are enjoying being back; so many smiling faces! We had a gentle reintroduction to classroom routines and rules, which all the children have adhered to admirably. We have made clay monkeys as an introduction to our whistle-stop look at some South American artists. In English we are listening to Michael Morpurgo’s ‘Kensuke’s Kingdom’.

Parents are welcome in our school

Turn On The Subtitles Campaign - Turning on the subtitles while children are watching television can **double the chances of a child becoming good at reading!** In a blink of an eye Turn On The Subtitles has become the largest literacy campaign in the world. It's wonderfully simple and you can find lots more about this campaign by visiting <https://turnonthesubtitles.org>

Reminder - **Every child** throughout the school should have a small bag that they keep on their peg throughout the week with a **spare set of clothes** (including underwear and socks for younger children) just in case they get soaking wet during a PE session. PE is taking place outside whatever the weather!

Hungry Children! Please provide them with fruit/veg snacks! – We have noticed that many children are getting quite hungry during the morning. We think they must have got used to grazing and having regular snacks when at home, or a later breakfast! Please remember that it is a good idea to send your children (Years 1 to 6) with a healthy fruit or veg snack for morning playtime. Fruit is provided in the afternoons for Finches and Owls in Year 1 and 2 so please can they bring their own snack for the morning. Foundation Stage have fruit and milk available throughout the day.

Easter Egg Raffle - The New Hinksey School Association will be doing an Easter egg raffle on 24th March. The draw of tickets will take place online, not in school. Tickets can be purchased now for £1 each. To buy go to <https://localgiving.org/charity/newhinkseyschoolassociation/> and put 'New Hinksey Easter egg raffle' in the message box. Don't miss out on a chance to win a tasty prize as well as raising valuable funds for the school. This year eggs will be donated by Finders Keepers and some other local businesses, so parents do **not** need to donate eggs to school.

Lateral Flow Covid Tests for Families – You may have heard about families with school aged children being able to get hold of lateral flow test kits for twice weekly testing of children and household members at home. Please note that individual schools are not responsible for distributing tests or managing the system, but there is an information sheet called 'Covid testing at home information' on our school website if you want to find out more about this.

Have a lovely weekend everyone and we hope all the children are kind and helpful to their mothers and have some little treats planned for their mums and grandmas.

Best wishes,

Charlotte Haynes