



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

19th March 2021

Dear Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors,

It's been a positive week in school with the children well settled and engaged in their learning. We are amazed at their resilience and how they have coped with the strange year they have had so far. Apart from a few seeming a bit tired after their second full week back at school, they are happy and energetic children.

End of Term – This term ends on Wednesday 31st March. Please note that **we will not close early at 1pm** but will finish at the usual end of day times for your child (2.50pm, 3.00pm or 3.05pm). It is a normal school day – we thought the children had spent quite enough time out of school this year so will work them till the end of the day!

Covid 19 Reminders – In the past week a rising number of schools in Oxfordshire (mostly primary) have had confirmed cases of Covid 19 and have had to close classes or the whole school. We continue to follow DfE guidance to reduce risk of transmission and keep the school open. Please help us by:

- Following current Government restrictions, including spending time in outdoor public spaces with only your own household, support bubble or one other person, while continuing to maintain a social distance from those outside your household.
- Sticking to the drop off and collecting times closely every day.
- Only coming to and from the school gates and area around the school for the few moments it takes to drop off or collect your child. PLEASE DON'T ARRIVE EARLY when other bubbles are needing the space to come and go safely.
- Keeping your children close by you outside school and maintaining a 2 metre distance from other adults, and always wearing a face covering at drop off and pick up times.

Assemblies – this week I have visited all classes to lead assemblies on friendship and working in harmony as a class. The children had some great ideas about their own responsibility to class cohesion and the impact on everyone if something small goes wrong.

Nursery Places for September 2021 – Do you have a child, or know of friends, family or neighbours with children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018? Children who will be 3 years old by 1st September 2021 could come and join our friendly nursery in September. Please let us know by word of mouth or by phoning 01865 242169 or emailing office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk.

After School Club – After further government announcements about lockdown easing due on 12th April we will be reviewing, during the first week back at school, the position on starting up After School Club. The decision will be made taking into account a variety of factors including covid guidance for schools, the physical capacity on the site to reopen safely, demand for places and financial viability whilst many previous users still have changed working patterns.

Parents are welcome in our school

News from the Classes

Foundation Stage – This week the Robins have been talking about India, looking at some photographs of the largest cities, talking about the animals and we have really enjoyed creating rangoli patterns using natural objects and shapes. We worked in small groups to create patterns together to develop our listening skills and to support the children’s developing friendships. We are enjoying retelling ‘The Sweet Potato’ story as a whole class using puppets and story maps. The Ducklings have had lots of fun guessing shapes to make our number line.

Finches – In English we have been writing our retellings of ‘Stone Soup’ and in maths we have been looking at adding a 2 digit number and a 1 digit, and subtracting a 1 digit number from a 2 digit number. In science we have looked at the names of visible body parts and in geography we have looked at some of the features of hot and cold climates.

Owls – This week we have been learning more about multiplying and dividing. We have been exploring the ‘mongoose’ family making fantastic posters using the facts we found in ‘Meerkat Mail’ by Emily Gravett. We have been writing more postcards from Sunny describing his new adventures. We have also read more African animal stories and been enjoying doing guided reading in groups again.

Doves – This week we have been on a virtual trip to Moscow. We have learnt to retell the Russian folk tale of ‘Mashenka and the Bear’. In pairs, we have written our own Mashenka adventures. We have listened to the works of musicians Gabriel and Sergei Prokofiev and found out about the history of Russian matryoshka dolls and drawn our own versions.

Woodpeckers – We have been learning the story of cocoa, bananas and other Fairtrade products this week. Using our story telling skills, we have included interesting language features in our written accounts. In maths year 4s have been protecting their written subtraction and year 5s have been learning about fractions. We have enjoyed listening to some George Gershwin music from 1920s New York and our city scape artwork projects have begun. In science we enjoyed using the British Science Week resources to investigate plastics and recycling, and we have also invented some useful robo-bugs.

Kingfishers – We have had so much fun playing French cricket and importing our skipping skills. In addition we are really enjoying our art project, producing a clashing collage in the style of Brazilian contemporary artist Beatriz Milhazes. In maths we have been working with space and shape (Y6 – transformations on a four-quadrant grid, Y5 – looking at the properties of polygons). We’ve written some lovely poems about a particular sport in our English lessons. We’ve finished making periscopes and have been investigating ‘colour’ as part of our science project on ‘Light’.

Easter Egg Raffle - Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Easter Raffle, to be drawn next Wednesday 24th March. Tickets can be bought via the School Association's Local Giving site at the following address: <https://localgiving.org/charity/newhinkseyschoolassociation/> Please put 'New Hinksey Easter egg raffle' in the message box. Many thanks!

Best wishes,

Charlotte Haynes

SOAP - The South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP) will be running an Easter Holiday play scheme for unaccompanied local children who are 7 years or older and have completed the registration form. No need to book, but we will be limiting numbers to 30 (in two groups of 15), and access will be on a first-come-first-serve basis for a 2 hour session in the morning and again in the afternoon.

10am – 12noon on 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 April 2021

2pm – 4pm on 7, 9, 12, 14, 16 April 2021

For further information and to complete the registration form please go to:

<http://www.soapoxford.org/about-us/holiday-play-scheme/>

PLEASE NOTE ALL CHILDREN NEED TO BE RE-REGISTERED FOR THE 2021 SEASON BUT YOU ONLY HAVE TO FILL THE FORM IN ONCE FOR THE YEAR!