



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Dear Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors,

Welcome back to the Summer Term – the glorious, bright weather has certainly lifted spirits this week and the children seem delighted to be back in school, refreshed after the Easter break. Happy St. George's Day to everyone for today and we wish all our families observing Ramadan a blessed holy month of fasting.

This Term's Topic – This summer term, across the school, we have an exciting topic called '**Questions, Questions**'. We are pleased to send home with this newsletter a topic plan for each class to keep parents informed of the areas of learning your children will be engaging in. We hope you will find this useful.

News from the Classes

Foundation Stage – The Robin Class have been really busy this week. We have started our questions topic and are all enjoying our discussions about what, how, why, and where objects are in our 'curiosity box'. We have planted flowers, tomatoes and potatoes. Our author of the week was Eric Carle and along with reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' as a class, with the children telling the story, we are using paint and collage techniques to create our own pictures. Finally, the children have been working brilliantly in pairs to problem solve addition and estimation problems in maths. Ducklings have been excited to see their friends and have enjoyed 'Noisy' stories!

Finches – We have been exploring the question 'How do we keep plants alive?'. In English we have written instructions for how to plant a sunflower. In science we have planted our own sunflower seeds and started an experiment to see how well seeds grow in different conditions. In art we looked at the work of van Gogh and have started to draw sunflowers in his style. In maths we have looked at representing 2 digit numbers and adding and subtracting 1 and 10.

Owls – This week we have begun to read, think about and discuss the books of Anthony Browne, starting with 'Through the Magic Mirror', 'Bear Hunt' and 'Gorilla'. In science we are learning about plants and in history we read a book called 'When I was young' to help us understand going back in time. We are going to make a timeline of our lives as part of our homework.

Doves – The children have settled brilliantly to the summer term. We are reading novels by Dick King Smith and using them to describe setting and characterisation. We had a very successful first swimming lesson and the swimming teachers commented on the excellent behaviour of the class. We have begun a map reading project in geography and have learnt and created our own map symbols. In science we have begun to learn about what constitutes a healthy, balanced diet and have sorted foods into carbohydrates, proteins, dairy, sugars, fruit and vegetables.

Woodpeckers – We have been deep thinking and discussing an assortment of questions from each child of the day this week. Some examples have included: Is time an illusion? Why do crocodiles do death rolls? How does an iPad work?! In English we have been intrigued by the strange and thought-provoking stories by Shaun Tan in his illustrated book 'Tales from Outer Suburbia'. We have certainly enjoyed lots of book talk. In maths, Year 4s have looked at 5 digit and negative numbers. Year 5s have focused on efficient ways to add and subtract money. Our current science topic is forces.

Kingfishers – It has been a calm and happy return to school for the class – we have had a mini-basketball tournament, introduced a new topic (fair trade), finished our collagraph based on the artwork of Beatriz Milhazes and started learning about road safety. We have begun our new science topic on classification of living things and have enjoyed completing some basic branching diagrams.

Parents are welcome in our school

Assemblies – This week Mrs Haynes’ assemblies with each bubble have focussed on ‘tolerance’. Fr Ruben’s recorded video assembly further explored the season of Eastertide and the story of St. Thomas.

After School Club – This resumes again from Monday running in 3 ‘bubbles’ – Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2. Each bubble will have their own staff member and own zone of the ASC and outdoor space.

- Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 will operate on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Key Stage 2 will operate on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays (apart from next week where for one week only KS2 will not run on Tuesday 27th April but will run on Thursday 29th).
- This term After School Club will not be running on Fridays.
- Sessions cost £10 per child per day and this includes individually packaged teatime snack and fruit.
- The window for picking up from the ASC door in School Place is from 5.10pm up to 5.30pm. Adults collecting should wear masks, not enter the school building and observe social distancing.
- Should there be a positive covid case within the ASC community then all children from that group of ASC will need to isolate as well as the children in the class bubble of the class concerned.

If you have need of after school provision as above, please email Tracey on office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk .

School Lunches and the New Menu – Please remember to keep ParentPay lunch accounts in credit if you pay for your child’s school lunches. Also, it is really helpful if families could look at the menus and pre book their selections making sure that the children know what has been booked. Thank you.

Parents Evenings – Next week the teachers will be planning, scheduling and getting to grips with the technology to facilitate remote parent teacher meetings over the period 10th – 21st May. More details about this to come.

Important Covid Reminder – We would like to remind everyone that although there is a gradual lessening of restrictions in the wider community (e.g. retail, hospitality, social contact etc.) **schools are still very much working with strict controls to prevent spread of infections. It is not back to normal in school.** We are still required to work in bubbles, do all that is feasible to limit mixing and contact, and to continue with enhanced hygiene procedures such as not sharing equipment, sanitising hands and equipment, increased ventilation etc.

Dates

The first half of **term ends on Friday 28th May at the usual end of day times** (not a half day).

The week **31st May – 4th June is the half term holiday.**

Monday 7th June is an INSET day and school is closed to all pupils.

The second half of term starts on Tuesday 8th June.

The Summer Term ends on Thursday 22nd July.

Warm wishes,

Charlotte Haynes