



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors,

We would like to say thank you to families who have donated books to the school either through clearing out books their children have grown out of, or by picking up bargains in charity shops. It is a lovely way to recycle unwanted books and to keep our class and library shelves refreshed with new titles. We hope our Muslim families enjoyed their Eid celebrations at the end of Ramadan and wish them all 'Eid Mubarek'. The changeable weather this week has really emphasised the importance of having a **waterproof** coat or jacket in school every day. Thank you to those families who are ensuring this takes place, no matter what the weather looks like first thing in the morning!

## News from the Classes

**Foundation Stage** – This week in Robins we have been reading lots of stories written by John Burningham. We have used one of his stories, 'The Shopping Basket', to think about money and shopping. We have been looking at how we can use our 10 frames to solve addition and subtraction problems. Lots of the Robins have been doing some amazing independent writing too! We have planted sunflower seeds and finished painting our 'Jack and the Beanstalk' pictures which are displayed in the window for you to see. Ducklings have been learning new songs and games – elephants playing, frogs jumping and a soup making rhyme! We would welcome some grown out of boys and girls pants for our spares box please, as we have run out.

**Finches** – In English we have been writing our letters to Litterbug Doug to ask him to start recycling. In maths we have used a balance scale to weigh objects and have also learnt about capacity. As part of the topic, we explored the question 'Why celebrate?' where we talked about Eid and had great fun making lanterns, chalk pictures and moon phase spinners. We also talked about where we live and made party invitations.

**Owls** – This week we have been measuring weight and capacity in maths. We have written about Anthony Browne's books, how to plant potatoes and seeds, and finally about the Great Fire of London. We have enjoyed doing a Great Fire of London quiz and created a dramatic picture of the fire. We have planted runner bean and mummy pea seeds and are investigating what cress seeds need to grow e.g. light, heat, water and soil.

**Doves** – We have worked hard on writing assessments. We have planned, edited, peer assessed and written very imaginative newspaper reports about Babe, the pig, visiting our school! In art we learnt about George Stubbs and painted our own animal paintings. We have enjoyed finding out about Eid and have made and sent our own cards. In science we have used our school skeleton, called Alex, to learn the names of our bones. We thoroughly enjoyed our final swimming lesson all about water safety, after which we designed our own water safety posters.

**Woodpeckers** – In English, we have been planning and writing our own short stories inspired by the fantasy fiction of Shaun Tan. For maths, Year 4s have looked at describing 2D and 3D shape and calculating perimeter and area. Year 5s have focussed on understanding coordinates, translating and reflecting shapes. We continue to enjoy deep discussions around the child of the day's big question. This week's have ranged from 'What fraction of the world was ruled by the British Empire?' to 'How is a black hole formed?'. **\*\*Please prepare your swimming kits for Tuesday\*\***

**Kingfishers** – Year 6 children are continuing to revise all the basic mathematical concepts that have been covered throughout Key Stage 2. This week they've been practising long division, the mean and coordinates. Years 5 children have been learning about translating and reflecting shapes, and how this affects the co-ordinates. They have also been accurately drawing shapes from instructions using protractors. They have all enjoyed playing 'Guess Zoo' as part of their science topic on classification. They have been working on plasticene models to create a short animation in our computing lesson. Our reading comprehension this week has been on the theme of evacuation during World War 2. All the children have also completed their end of year reading assessment tests.

*Parents are welcome in our school*

**Important Request about Picking Up Arrangements** - Please could we remind everyone that **if you make arrangements for other people to pick up your children at the end of the school day** for example, other family members, neighbours or other children's parents, **you must let us know**. It should be the parent/carer of the child going with someone else who informs us please.

### **Parents Evenings**

Remote meetings are underway this week and next using Google Meet. If you have arranged a meeting with your child's teacher then you will have been allocated, and sent, a 10 minute specific time slot and the link for the google meeting (**you simply have to click on this link at the specified time to attend the meeting**).

**After School Club** – This is running in 3 'bubbles' – Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2. **Each bubble has 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.**
- 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 is from 5.10pm up to 5.30pm.
- Adults collecting should wear masks, not enter the school building, and observe social distancing please.

**If you have need of after school provision as above, please email Tracey on [office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk)**

**After School Club and Morning Club Bills** – The deadline for paying the April invoices is today, Friday 14<sup>th</sup>, so please check you have done so – many thanks.

**Parent Governor Vacancy** – After many years as a parent governor, Olivia Selinger has stepped down. We thank her for her support and input at meetings and on committees. This means there is a vacancy for a parent governor. If you think you are interested in becoming a school governor and want to find out more about what the role entails, please contact our chair of governors, Harm Jan Fricke ([hjfricke@btinternet.com](mailto:hjfricke@btinternet.com)). If you would like to nominate yourself for the position, please email me ([head.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk)) by 24<sup>th</sup> May. In the event of more than one parent coming forward we will organise a parent vote by secret ballot.

**Allotment News** – We are pleased to say that our school allotment is coming along well this year after the circumstances of the past year meant we had neglected it. Our enormous thanks to former school governor and current New Hinksey grandmother, Cath U, and a few others who have helped out, for clearing, weeding and tidying. Owls have already planted potatoes, radishes and wildflowers in three beds and Woodpeckers plan to visit next weeks to plant some vegetables.

**Term Dates for Next School Year** – The term dates for 2021 - 2022 are posted on the school website which can be found at [www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk) . Go to the Information tab and then choose Parent Information from the drop down list to get an alphabetical list of the information. The term dates are towards the end in the T section.

**Attendance and Holidays in Term Time** – Whilst we appreciate that, as travel and holidays open up after lockdown, many families are keen to 'get away' or visit family, can we remind everyone that holidays should be planned for school holiday times and permission for holidays in term time will **not** be authorised. Thank you.

And finally, although Covid restrictions are loosening up nationally, and we are all wanting to stop wearing masks and hug each other, **we kindly ask that the wearing of masks and social distancing at and around the school gates continues**. With well over a hundred households coming and going from the school gates we really do want to keep everyone as safe as we can. **Thank you for continuing to wear a face covering and maintaining social distancing.**

Best wishes for a happy weekend.  
Charlotte Haynes

### **Key Term Dates**

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

The week 31<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June is the half term holiday.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June is an INSET day and school is closed.**

The second half of term starts on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

The Summer Term ends on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.