



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

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Dear Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors,

The weather has certainly thrown all sorts at us this week and frequently changed suddenly from hail to sun to thunder and lightning, back to sun again. This has meant that most children, but not all, are realising why we ask them to have a waterproof coat every day in school, and to wear it at break times! Please could parents help us with this. There is a much used saying that 'there is no unsuitable weather for children, just unsuitable clothes'!

News from the Classes

Foundation Stage – Robins have enjoyed drawing some beautiful flowers this week with Sarah using oil pastels and creating a sunflower using tissue paper and lots of dried pulses. Our author of the week was Oliver Jeffers and we enjoyed lots of his stories including 'Stuck' and we used his inspirational illustrations in 'The Day the Crayons Quit' to all produce a crayon drawing using lots of colour. Our word of the week was 'subtract' and we all know now what that means and we have looked at the add, subtract and equals symbols, and discussed what we need to do with numbers when we see these symbols. Ducklings have had a fun filled week with lots of 'rhyming' as well as enjoying the outside classroom in rain, wind and sun!

Finches – Our question this week has been 'Where will you go?' and we have been explorers. We have learnt about Christopher Columbus and talked about whether he should have claimed countries for Spain. We pretended to be explorers by building dens and by looking at maps. In maths we have been finding half of an amount and then looked at finding half and quarter of different shapes. Finally, we have looked at the value of coins and added coins to find the total. In English we have been adding suffixes to words such as 'ing' (cook – cooking) and 'ed' (jump – jumped) and also practised writing capital letters.

Owls – This week we have been reading and answering questions about Anthony Browne's books 'Little Beauty', 'Willy the Wimp', 'Willy the Champ', 'Willy the Wizard' and 'Willy and Hugh'. In maths we have been doubling, halving and finding quarters of amounts. In science we learnt about insects. We used water colours to paint beautiful flowers from Miss K's garden in art.

Doves – We have focussed on diary writing and we have chosen a favourite animal and written diary entries. In science we have learnt the names of the muscles and have made models to demonstrate how our biceps and triceps work. In French we have enjoyed singing French songs about food and learnt the words for fruit and vegetables. Many thanks to Mademoiselle Mila and Monsieur Edward for their help with our accents!

Woodpeckers – In English we have begun a new non-fiction unit on instructions and explanation texts. We have looked at the features of a good set of instructions and have had a go at writing some of our own. In maths, Year 4s have looked at decimal numbers in the context of measurement and money. Year 5s have focussed on written methods of addition and subtraction of large numbers. We really enjoyed an afternoon in the fresh air at the allotment and planted various vegetables including dwarf beans and beetroot. We said a sad farewell to Jonah and wished him all the best for his exciting new life!

Kingfishers – As chocolate and bananas are among the most popular fair-traded goods, we made some sweet treats using these ingredients, to try. We have completed our newspaper report in English. We did a 'running dictation' to learn more about tricky spelling patterns – did you know there are seven different ways of pronouncing the letters '-ough-?! Year 5 children worked hard on their maths assessments this week. Year 6 children have been working on calculations with fractions and also on ratio and proportion.

Parents are welcome in our school

Woodpeckers Swimming - We are very sorry that the first session was cancelled at very short notice. We believe that the pump will be working next week so are very hopeful that we will be swimming on Tuesday 25 May. Those families who had paid £10 for the swimming contributions have had £2 transferred to their lunch account.

Heights and Weights – The checks for Year 6 and Reception children did not take place on Thursday 15 May as a result of staff absences in the School Health Nurse team. It has now been rescheduled for Thursday 27 May. The contact details for opting out are still the same as on the original letter circulated last month.

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

Testing of Children with Corona Virus Symptoms – PHE (Public Health England) are advising that primary aged pupils should only be tested if they are symptomatic, in which case their families should follow [the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [book a PCR test](#) for the child. Lateral Flow Tests are not recommended for primary aged children.

Parent Governor Vacancy – We have a vacancy for a parent governor on the school governing body. 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). If you would like to nominate yourself for the position, please email me (head.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk) by 24th May.

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.

Infection Control Measures around the School Gates – We would like to remind you, please, **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.**

Supervision and Safety around the School Gates – Please could parents and carers supervise children when they are waiting to come in or have just left school at the end of the day. Children should be waiting sensibly and quietly close to their adult and being mindful of the neighbouring residents some of whom are elderly or have young children at home. Cyclists and the occasional neighbour who needs to leave or return to their property by car, do need to be able to use the road so please be vigilant and safe and helpful to these legitimate road users. Thank you.

Best wishes for a happy weekend.

Charlotte Haynes

Key Term 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.

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

The Summer Term ends on Thursday 22nd July.

The South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP) - will be open at half-term (1-4th June, closed bank holiday Monday), 10-4pm. All children must be [registered](#) to attend and aged 7-14 years old. It's free to attend, fun and all outside. SOAP is run by volunteers but we rely on donations to keep open with our trained staff and to fix our equipment. Please [donate](#) if you feel you can. Closed bank holiday Monday. See [SOAP website](#) for further details.