



New Hinksey CE Primary School

Vicarage Road Oxford OX1 4RQ

Tel: 01865 242169 Fax: 01865 242169

Email: office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

Website: www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

7th May 2021

Dear Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors,

We have had such changeable weather this week and this has prompted me to **remind all families** to ensure that your children have a **waterproof jacket/coat/mac in school every day**. We get the children outside running around and getting fresh air at playtimes whatever the weather, so it is imperative that they have a weatherproof jacket so that their clothing stays dry underneath it. Thank you.

News from the Classes

Foundation Stage – In Robins we have been learning about the lifecycle of a bean plant. You may have noticed the beans in the decorated pots on the window of the classroom. We are watching carefully to see the roots and shoots appear. We have been story telling the story of ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’ and drawing pictures, with Sarah, of our favourite part. Our author of the week was David McKee, so we have been reading lots of Elmer stories. We have been looking at odd and even numbers, making pictures with shapes and doubling and halving numbers to 20. Ducklings are really enjoying singing and have tried to make new verses for old songs!

Finches – Our question of the week has been ‘What is responsibility?’ and we have read the story ‘Michael Recycle meets Litterbug Doug’. We have planned a letter to Litterbug Doug explaining why he needs to recycle and not throw litter anywhere. In maths we have looked at adding together three 1-digit numbers by looking for doubles and number bonds to 10 to help us. We have created posters to remind us to turn off the taps and lights and to recycle. We also had a great session turning junk boxes and packaging into something new and we produced lovely models.

Owls – This week we have been practising different ways to add and take away. In English we have been reading, discussing, comparing and writing about Anthony Browne’s two stories ‘A Walk in the Park’ and ‘Voices in the Park’. We have enjoyed learning more about the Great Fire of London and making colourful pictures of a park. We have all made good progress with our reading skills since September: Hooray!

Doves – We have been learning about the features of newspaper reports. We have chosen interesting articles and looked for examples of headlines, front loading and captions. We have begun to plan our own reports. In RE we have learnt about Buddhist pilgrimages. We discussed positive thinking in circle time and illustrated quotes such as ‘A positive attitude will lead to positive outcomes!’. Year 4s have worked hard on their decomposition skills in maths whilst Year 3s have developed their knowledge of expanded and compact addition. SWIMMING: Next week’s swimming lesson (Tuesday 11th) will be the final session for Dove Class. This will focus on water safety. In addition to bringing their trunks/costumes, each child will need some shorts and a t-shirt in a plastic bag. The class have benefited a great deal from their swimming lessons, and it has been a real pleasure to take them. The staff at the pool have commented on their excellent behaviour.

Woodpeckers – What do you know about cicadas? We managed to discover some incredible facts about these amazing insects and realised how Shaun Tan was inspired to use some of their characteristics in his book ‘Cicada’. Using this story, we explored dialogue and revised how to punctuate it correctly. In maths, Year 4s have focussed on efficient methods for multiplying and Year 5s have studied decimal and negative numbers. We enjoyed discovering more about friction in our science topic on forces. Don’t forget your swimming lessons start on Tuesday 18th May.

Kingfishers – We have started writing newspaper reports about a boy being swept off a boat (from ‘Kensuke’s Kingdom’). Year 6s sat a past Maths SAT test paper this week. They put in good effort to show how much they have learned, and it gave them a bit of test experience too. Year 5s have been working with 3 place decimal numbers in maths. In DT we have embarked on our cross-stitch globe! We have enjoyed practising our throwing and catching skills and have put these to good use in games of cricket.

Parents are welcome in our school

Assemblies this week have focussed on 'laughter' (last Sunday was National Day of laughter) for Mrs Haynes' assembly and as well as telling jokes we also talked about the benefits to our mental health of laughter. The traditional saying 'laughter is the best medicine' appears to be true. A verse in the Bible's Book of Proverbs endorses this, stating 'A cheerful heart is good medicine'. Fr Ruben's video assembly explored the Lord's Ascension.

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 Evening Arrangements

Teachers have been busy replying by email to all the email addresses provided in preparation for the remote parent teacher meetings which will be taking place over the next two weeks. The reply will include 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. This is because, whilst keeping the children's bubbles in separate spaces and thus covid safe and, keeping each staff member as safe as possible through not having to cross over bubbles, staff cannot be in two places at once going to and from the door at different times, and leaving the rest of their group unsupervised.
- Adults collecting should wear masks, not enter the school building, and observe social distancing please.
- 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

After School Club and Morning Club Bills – The April invoices were sent home last week and are also in ParentPay. Please pay these by the 14th May deadline. 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). If you would like to nominate yourself for the position, please email me (head.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk) by 24th May. In the event of more than one parent coming forward we will organise a parent vote by secret ballot.

Making use of Public Libraries - Oxfordshire Libraries have produced a fun video to introduce local libraries to children and their families. It's available via this link: <https://vimeo.com/485387049/ea992e6fe3>

Most of the libraries are now open and they have full COVID safe precautions – find out more at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

There's so much children can discover in libraries, such as a wide range of books to read for pleasure and information, online resources and free computer access.

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.