



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Dear Parents, Pupils, Staff, Governors and Friends of the School,

This week the exciting news from each class is at the end of the newsletter. Please take the time to carefully read all the information in this letter. Thank you.

Following the government announcement on Monday that England is pausing at Step 3 of lockdown easing for a further four weeks and not moving to Step 4 yet, **the Department of Education has issued guidance reminding schools that the current systems of controls (bubbles, minimising contact and mixing, hand hygiene, staggered starts and finishes, increased ventilation etc.) should remain in place in education settings.**

A message from the Fire and Rescue Service - On Wednesday afternoon we attended an incident along Vicarage Road. Following the conclusion of the **incident we were unable to redeploy to further incidents as we were blocked in by vehicles parked on double yellow lines.**

Whilst we appreciate that the road is tight and this was school pick up time, **we need to emphasise the importance of parking with consideration.** We were only able to turn around after we tracked down the vehicle owner that was on the school run.

Crew Manager, Rewley Road Fire Station, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service

SO, PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE CARS DOWN VICARAGE ROAD AT DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES. THERE ARE A FEW FAMILIES WHO ARE STILL DOING THIS EVERY DAY. IF YOU HAVE TO DRIVE BECAUSE YOU LIVE TOO FAR AWAY TO WALK OR CYCLE, PLEASE PARK LEGALLY IN NEIGHBOURING STREETS AND WALK THE LAST BIT. Thank you.

Brunch at Bertie - and Cake Sale

Following the success of their May event, the Save Bertie campaign is holding another community get-together on Bertie Park on Saturday 26 June, 11am-1pm. Bring a picnic - there will be games and art activities for kids.

Part of the event will be a cake sale in aid of New Hinksey School Association: it would be fantastic if you could consider baking for it - either bring cakes along on the day, or get in touch to arrange drop off in advance -

april.elizabeth.jones@gmail.com. Thanks all!

After School Club and Morning Club Invoices – the deadline for paying the May bills is today Friday 18th June.

Testing of Children with Corona Virus Symptoms – PHE (Public Health England) are advising that primary aged pupils should be tested with a full PCR test 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. PHE are also advising that any members of a household who are isolating because one person in the household has tested positive, should also book and have a PCR test on day 5 of their isolation. The booking system allows for you to put this down as the reason even if you do not have symptoms.

Infection Control Measures around the School Gates – As infection rates continue to rise in Oxford city please can parents and carers dropping off and collecting from school wear face coverings and maintain social distancing from other families. Thank you for helping us do all that we can to keep everyone safe and keep school fully open.

Parents are welcome in our school

End of Term - The Summer Term ends on Thursday 22nd July (12.50pm for Owls and Woodpeckers; 1.00pm for Robins, Finches and Doves; 1.05pm for Kingfishers).

BBC Radio 2 Big Bee Challenge – This is a competition for children in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society and is a fun and creative way to learn more about bees and other insects that help provide the food we eat and are essential for a healthy environment. The competition is open to 6 – 12 year olds and involves designing a bright buzzy garden that will attract bees and other pollinating insects. For more details and to download a pack please go to bbc.co.uk/bigbeechallenge .

Being prepared for the weather - In sunny summer weather please can children have their **shoulders covered**, not be in strappy vest type of tops, wear sensible shoes/sandals for school (not backless slip-ons), have a **sun hat/cap in school** and have **day long sun cream put on at home before school**. We also know that the British weather can change very quickly so children should still have a lightweight rain jacket in school each day.

Water Bottles and Drinks in School – Every child must have a water bottle in school every day with healthy, fresh water in it – NOT squash or fizzy drinks. All the taps in school are drinking quality water so in very hot weather when children are drinking more bottles can be refilled but should go home each day to be washed.

News from the Classes

Foundation Stage – Ducklings have made caterpillars and butterflies and are observing a snail! Robins have been fascinated watching the caterpillars spin their chrysalis' this week. We have also been thinking about ladybirds and so we had lots of fun making story maps in teams of four using the characters from 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson. We are learning a new song 'sing' for the end of term and we have been drawing our faces using half a photograph of our face and drawing the rest!

Finches – This week our question was 'How far does a banana travel?' In English we have looked at the prefix 'un-'. We also used the iPads to research where food comes from, and we wrote facts for our display. In maths we have looked at doubling, halving and multiplication using arrays to help us. In art we have drawn the food that we wrote about in English and rainforest pictures in the style of Henri Rousseau.

Owls – We have been exploring fairy tales via the intriguing books of Anthony Browne, in particular 'Into the Forest', 'The Tunnel' and 'Hide and Seek'. We have become experts at spotting details and making connections between his books. The whole class joins in brilliantly. In maths we have been practising multiplying and dividing by 2, 5, 10 and 3 using arrays. In science we learnt the names of different types of teeth and what is inside a tooth. We talked about the best drinks for our teeth being water or milk. In history we looked at some Victorian objects e.g. a button hook and an iron iron! We made our own silhouette portraits after looking at a Victorian example.

Doves – We have used our bird research to write books on the chromebooks using Book Creator. We have developed our ICT skills by changing fonts, adding images and adding emojis as well as using our knowledge of information books to include a contents page and an index. We have planned science investigations to choose the best conditions in which to grow rocket and beans. We have really enjoyed sewing our flower and plant designs and have learnt some new stitches. In art we have begun to learn about Uccello's 'Hunt in the Forest'.

Woodpeckers – We have had a lovely week of poetry and stories based on themes of 'dreams' and 'hopes'. The wonderful storytelling session inspired our imaginations, drama and artwork. In maths Year 4s have worked well on written addition and subtraction and Year 5s have become very proficient at short division and long multiplication. Our science lesson involved investigating which materials sound can or cannot travel through.

Kingfishers – We have enjoyed going to the field in our class bubble for some running races. We have continued our puberty learning (whole class) – please ask your child about this - and the Year 6s have had a session on human reproduction. We really enjoyed our Story Museum sessions and have created some beautiful artwork. We hope you get the opportunity to visit the upcoming exhibition at the museum where it will be displayed. Details to follow when we have them. Sadly, as a result of the delay in ending lockdown restrictions, we have started hearing from secondary schools that they are having to cancel their transition days. We have heard from Cherwell and Cheney so far and believe that secondary schools are sending information directly to parents.

Wishing you all a happy weekend,

Charlotte Haynes