



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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2nd July 2021

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

Another busy week has passed, and the children are happy and motivated in their learning and activities. Please read the news further below to hear about the wonderful things going on in classes.

URGENT COVID UPDATE – PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OPEN AND STAY SAFE

You will have read about, and heard about, the rapidly increasing number of positive coronavirus cases in the community and in many schools. Our rigorous measures over the past 16 months have helped keep the school free from covid cases and we have not had to close any bubbles for ten days of isolation. Thank you for being sensible and cautious when your children have been ill, keeping them off until it is established that its not Covid, and adhering to household isolation when other members of the family have tested positive. **This is a critical time with only a few weeks to go to the end of term. We are experiencing more families having to keep children at home in isolation because parents, other siblings or close contacts have tested positive (today 15 children are having to isolate).** Please could everyone step up your infection control measures to help us try to get to the end of term without sending whole bubbles home to isolate? This means:

- **Always wearing a mask** at drop off and pick up times.
- **Maintaining social distancing from other families and staff** at drop off and pick up times even though you are outside.
- **Limiting close contacts**, and if you and your children are socialising out of school, being very aware of who you have been with so that children do not come into school if they have had close contact with someone out of school who turns out to be a positive case. There is sometimes a delay in the Track and Trace system so if you suspect your child should be isolating, please take action straight away and do not wait till you are officially contacted by Track and Trace.
- **Keeping your children at home and getting them tested (PCR test) if they are ill.** There seems to be a bigger variety of possible Delta variant symptoms in children now – fever, cough, sore throats, runny nose, upset tummies, headaches. Please err on the side of caution, which may be a nuisance to you for a day or two but is far better than a case being in school and the whole bubble having to close and stay at home for ten days.
- **If anyone in your household is waiting for a PCR result or has had a positive LFD test children should not come into school until/unless a confirmatory negative PCR is received for the person waiting the result.**

After School Club and Morning Club Requirements for September – Please email as soon as possible to office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk any requirements for next term as some days are filling up fast. Thanks.

After School Club and Morning Club Bills – The invoices for June have been sent home via book bags and are in ParentPay. The deadline for paying these bills is **Friday 16th July**. Thank you.

Important Notice for Current Year 2 Children – Once your child is in Year 3 in September they are no longer part of the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme meaning that any lunches that they have need to be paid for by parents/carers, unless your child is entitled to benefits related free school meals. All payments have to be made using ParentPay. Please could you check NOW that you are able to log in to your child's parent pay account. Many of you have helpfully been looking at menus and pre booking anyway but if you have not been doing that, now is the time to get used to using ParentPay. All parents/carers were issued with letters about ParentPay and your log in details when your children first started at school.

Parents are welcome in our school

News from the Classes

Foundation Stage – Robins have been reading lots of Alan Ahlberg stories this week. We have been talking about spiders, their lifecycle, making clay ones and making paper plate spider webs. The Robins have been doing some incredible independent writing, reading and maths this week and it has been lovely to watch them using their learning within their play. The children have all drawn a minibeast this week using lots of detail and then painted a bright background to mount them on. We will display these in the window for you to see soon. Ducklings have also made lovely spiders and superb webs!

Finches – This week we have had a very exciting trip to the allotments where we spent time with Miss K looking at lots of different plants and drawing them. In English we have been learning the story 'Elmer and Wilbur' as our question this week has been 'Which colour represents you?'. In maths we have looked at addition and subtraction, particularly looking at number bonds to 20. In history we have been talking about how we have changed since birth and we have started creating timelines of our lives. **Finch class will be spending the morning and having a picnic lunch at SOAP on Wednesday 7th (next week) so please make sure we are appropriately dressed for being outside depending on the weather conditions and that we are wearing well fitted trainers. If we usually have school lunches on Wednesday, we can still do so as it is a baguette so can be taken to SOAP for us to eat there.**

Owls – Reading Anthony Browne's book 'ZOO' inspired some discussion about the pros and cons of zoos and everyone designed their own zoos. Our 'cress seed' (second attempt) investigation is providing interest and sewing our bookmarks is providing calm. In maths we have been revising methods for adding, subtraction, multiplying and dividing. We enjoyed our trip to the allotment and park, reflecting on things that are alive, no longer alive or never alive. **Owl class will be spending the morning and having a picnic lunch at SOAP on Wednesday 7th (next week) so please make sure we are appropriately dressed for being outside depending on the weather conditions and that we are wearing well fitted trainers. If we usually have school lunches on Wednesday, we can still do so as it is a baguette so can be taken to SOAP for us to eat there.**

Doves – We have begun to listen to 'Charlotte's Web'. We have discussed characteristics of Charlotte, Templeton and Wilbur. We have thought about the theme of friendship and how it is shown in the text. We have planned our own stories about kindness and loyalty. We had a wonderful trip to SOAP. We had lots of fun building dens, playing table tennis and enjoying being outside. In science we dissected flowers and learnt about the function of each part. We have used the artwork of Georgia O'Keefe to inspire our own floral pictures.

Woodpeckers – We have been learning 'The ABC of what you can be' this week and discovered some weird and wonderful jobs which we used in our own poems. In maths, Year 4s have focused on multiplication and division (including finding fractions or amounts). Year 5s have looked at percentages, decimals and fractions. We enjoyed a science trip to the allotment to begin our topic on plant reproduction. We have also been learning about the changes which occur when boys and girls grow up so please talk to your child about this in case they have any questions.

Kingfishers – It was great to go swimming! We have all been assessed ready for lots of swimming practice and improvement in our next lessons. We are planning a poster presentation so that we can share our independent learning project about an aspect of World War 2. We are reading 'Friend or Foe' by Michael Morpurgo – another story about evacuees, to help us better understand the experience of many children during the war years. In our science lessons we are continuing to learn about what we need to do to maintain a healthy lifestyle. **Kingfisher Class will be going to SOAP for a picnic lunch and the afternoon on Wednesday 7th (next week) so please make sure we are appropriately dressed for being outside depending on the weather conditions and that we are wearing well fitted trainers. If we usually have school lunches on Wednesday, we can still do so as it is a baguette so can be taken to SOAP for us to eat there.**

Recruiting New String Players and Woodwind Players to start in September - If you are interested in your child learning to play a stringed or woodwind musical instrument, then the music service is looking for more children. The lessons happen in school but are paid for by the parents. Lessons need to have a viable group of children starting at the same time. How the lessons run in September will be dependent on the Covid situation at that time. Parents should enrol on www.Oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest

Online Safety – On the school website in the 'information' section under safety there is a very useful updated poster which is 'What parents and carers need to know about Tiktok'. Please take a look.

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).

Wishing you all a happy and safe weekend.
Charlotte Haynes