



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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10th September 2021

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

We have enjoyed the summery, warm weather this week, although the intense heat at the start of the week coupled with a full five days in school has been a little tiring for many of the younger children. They have still seemed excited to be back with their friends in class and have been engaged and enthusiastic in the wide range of learning activities going on. We hope you enjoy reading the Class News further on in this letter and looking at the topic web for your children attached to this newsletter and also available on the school website.

Covid Update – Children under 18 and adults who are double vaccinated no longer need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive covid case, but Test and Trace are likely to require identified close contacts to take a PCR test. Schools are no longer responsible for tracking and tracing close contacts, it is all carried out by NHS Test and Trace. There is, therefore, a great responsibility on all parents to monitor their children's health very closely indeed and not take any chances with sending children to school with symptoms of illness.

- **Any child or adult displaying any covid 19 symptoms (high temperature, a new or persistent cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste) or being 'off colour' must not come into school.** It appears that in other schools, they are finding that quite a few of the children are not displaying the three usual symptoms but are just not themselves and not feeling well and are then turning out to be positive for Covid 19.
- Anyone displaying symptoms of illness should immediately arrange to have a **PCR** coronavirus test.
- Any child or adult displaying symptoms must self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or until they have received a negative PCR test result and their symptoms have cleared.
- Unless you have a negative PCR test result for a child who is, or recently has been, symptomatic the child will need to self-isolate for 10 days.
- We cannot allow any child to come to school whilst they are required to self-isolate because they are symptomatic.

*****VERY IMPORTANT CHANGES TO DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES*** – To try to make this easier for everyone especially those with children of different ages we are making some small changes (in bold) which affect Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2. These will start on MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER. No change for KS2.**

Class	Drop Off Time	Gate for Entry and Exit	Pick Up Time
Nursery Ducklings and Reception Robins	*8.40- 8.50am*	Main playground gate closest to the Foundation Stage classroom ramp to cloakroom door.	Ducklings at 12 noon Robins 3.00pm
Yr 1 Finches	*8.40 – 8.50am*	Gate by the office, off School Place.	*3.00pm*
Yr 2 Owls	*8.40 – 8.50 am*	Gate by the office, off School Place.	*3.00pm*
Doves Woodpeckers Kingfishers	Gates open at 8.40am for lining up and prompt 8.45am into class	Corner main playground gate closest to Vicarage Lane.	3.05pm

Plastic Pen Recycling - We have a pen recycling collection scheme in school. Please send your used-up plastic pens (not pencils) in with your child, and the School Association will ensure they get recycled rather than going to landfill.

Parents are welcome in our school

After School Club and Morning Club Bills for July – The deadline for payment is Friday 17th September – thanks.

News from Classes

Robins and Ducklings – We have been having a wonderful first full week of school. We have spent lots of time getting to know the children and they have played lots of circle time games helping them to learn one another's names. On Wednesday Robins met Loraine who will be covering the class during the afternoon when Polly has her PPA time.

Finches – This week we have been learning about the International Kite Festival. In English we drew our own kite designs and wrote about them. In maths we have been practising counting accurately and writing numbers. We made bright and colourful carp kites and we started learning the song 'Let's Go Fly a Kite'.

Owls – This week we have been learning about and writing about different types of British Owls. We have drawn Owls in art. In maths we have been ordering and comparing 2-digit numbers. The first autumn festival we learnt about was Rosh Hashanah, which is the Jewish New Year. We enjoyed eating apples dipped in honey which is a traditional food at this festival.

Doves – we have settled back into school brilliantly. We have begun a topic about the Romans. We have learnt about the beginning of the Roman Empire and when this time was historically. Year 3s have acted out and written story boards of the story of Romulus and Remus. Year 4s have acted out and performed the Roman legend of Juno. We had an enjoyable trip to the allotment where we watered, weeded and picked beans, carrots and courgettes. We have begun a science topic about electricity.

Woodpeckers – It has been lovely to start the new school year with beautiful weather! We have been immersing ourselves in the Vikings – drawing ourselves as a Viking, giving ourselves a Viking name, drawing a Viking longship and a dragon for the prow, and learning about why the Vikings invaded Britain around 1300 years ago. **Please could Woodpecker children bring in empty cereal boxes on Monday – thanks.**

Kingfishers – We have worked very hard during our first full week back. Our English focus is poetry and we've been enjoying reading various poems from 'The Book of Hopes'. We hope your children have used their free tickets from last year to visit the exhibition at The Story Museum. In maths we have been understanding the place value of large numbers. We have also enjoyed being material consultants in science!

Year 6 Children Transferring to Secondary School in September 2022 – The Year 6 to Year 7 application process is now open for parents to complete applications online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is 31st October 2021. Those that apply on time will be contacted on 1st March 2022 with the offer of a school place. Those who miss the deadline will be contacted later in the year and have a much lower chance of securing a place at a preferred school. **Please look at individual secondary school websites for information about their 'open evening' arrangements, as many of them have events in the next week or two.**

Would you like to learn to play the flute? A flute teacher from The County Music Services visits the school each week to teach the flute. These are lessons paid for by parents, unless your child is entitled to benefits related Free School Meals in which case, they are free. If you are interested in this for your child please visit <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/music-service/music-lessons> and go to the section 'Learning an Instrument'.

Pupil Update Form – Your child will have bought home a printed pupil update form. Please check, amend if necessary, sign and return to school by 17th September as it is vital we have correct contact details – thanks.

Finally, as everyone comes back together again in school, please could all families check heads for itchy head lice and treat if necessary – many thanks indeed!

Best wishes for a happy and relaxing weekend.

Charlotte Haynes

School Association/PTA Start of Term Drinks: 17 September, 8pm, Duke of Monmouth pub, Sunningwell Road (outside unless the weather is against us). Old and new parents: join us for a catch up and to meet new people; get (back) into the swing of things for the new school year.

Calling all potential rugby players - Oxford Rugby Club are looking for players of all ages for their minis and juniors sessions starting Sunday 5th Sept. To join parents can contact the club on Facebook.