



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

17th September 2021

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

We hope everyone has had a good week. We have some lovely news to share with you all: Our teaching assistant Mark and his partner became parents, welcoming a beautiful baby boy into the world on Friday last week. Baby and parents all doing fine!

Covid Reminders – With the need for children under 18 and adults who are double vaccinated to isolate no longer in place and schools no longer responsible for tracking and tracing close contacts, there is 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. We must all be vigilant to ensure any symptomatic children are not in school until it is verified by a PCR test that they do not have covid. This is to reduce the chance of the infection being passed to other children or adults in school and then brought home to the rest of your family.

- **Any child 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 some 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.

These are our drop off and pick up times:

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

Open Afternoon for Parents – We would like to offer parents and carers the opportunity to come into school, walk around all the classes, say hello to the teaching staff and see your children's classes and displays of work. This 'open doors' session will take place on **Wednesday 29th September from 3pm - 4pm**. We encourage you to visit the whole school to get a flavour of our unique, creative and engaging curriculum. Your children will love showing you around. The school will be well ventilated with windows and doors open and **we will ask visitors to wear face coverings and hand sanitise on arrival**. Parents evenings, for 1:1 discussions about your children's progress, will be offered in November.

After School Club Pick Ups – The club runs till 5.30pm each day and pick up is from the door in School Place. **From Monday 20th September it will be possible for parents/carers to pick up anytime after 4.40pm once outdoor play and tea-time are finished** and staff are available to safely supervise the door.

Parents are welcome in our school

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.

Please Don't Bring Cars Down Vicarage Road – a reminder that we ask all parents to try to walk, scoot, cycle or bus to school, and if you do have to drive, please don't come down Vicarage Road - park elsewhere and walk the last bit!

The Latest SOAP Newsletter is posted on our school website. There is a Community Open day tomorrow, Saturday 18th September from 12noon till 5pm. Do see the newsletter for more information about when SOAP is open.

Primary School Health Team Newsletter – Please take a few minutes to go on the school website to read this important and informative newsletter.

News from Classes

Robins and Ducklings – In Robins we have started painting our self portraits with Sarah. When these are all done we will display them in the window. We have been talking in small groups about our 'All About Me' bags and our favourite colours, and we have spent time reading and discussing our own and others' feelings using the 'Colour Monster' stories. As the children settle into routines and lunches, would you chat through the school lunch menu to make sure they are happy with the choices, so that we can ensure they enjoy their lunch and have the energy they need for the rest of the school day! Thanks. Ducklings have enjoyed some 'Spot' stories and singing nursery rhymes.

Finches – This week we have learnt about the Japanese festival Hanami, also known as Cherry Blossom Festival. We made beautiful tissue paper flower crowns and had our own Hanami festival in class. We also recreated van Gogh's 'Almond Blossom' artwork using oil pastels. In English we practised writing sentences, and we wrote about our families. In maths, we have solved simple missing box additions to 5 and 6.

Owls – We finished our Owl fact books and learnt the story of 'The Bird and The Forest Fire' which we will tell you for our homework. We have created striking nest pictures and colourful bird mobiles, and in science learnt about the key characteristics of birds. We had our second RHCE lesson (Relationships, Health and Citizenship Education) which was about feeling better by thinking positively. We had a good discussion about the positives of a rainy day!

Doves – We have been learning all about Julius Caesar this week. We have written notes and used these to create detailed fact files. We have also made our own laurel wreaths. We have begun to learn the notes on a recorder and to play some simple songs. In maths we have all worked hard on our place value. We have enjoyed using the apparatus in PE.

Woodpeckers – We all enjoyed our trip to Hogacre this morning. We collected lots of seeds and learned about different trees and bushes, as well as having fun exploring the forest school site – the first visit here for some of us! In maths this week we've been practising our mental addition and subtraction skills.

Kingfishers – In English we have continued to enjoy 'The Book of Hopes' and looked at poems which use relative clauses, commas and semi colons, to learn more about how to use these features in our own descriptive writing. In maths we looked at decimals and added amounts of money. In art we have made a start on decorating our own colourful skulls for the Day of the Dead festival and enjoyed making some body percussion sounds in music. Our science challenge this week related to exploring thermal properties of materials.

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. Please look at individual secondary school websites for information about their 'open evening' arrangements. Matthew Arnold has an open evening on 7th October. Go to www.maschool.org.uk to find more details.

Pupil Update Form – Please have a check that this is not still in your child's bag or in your house! If you have not yet returned it, please check it, amend if necessary, sign it and return to school as soon as possible.

Tennis Ball Donations Grateful Received – we seem to get through tennis balls very quickly as they get stuck on the roof, go over the wall or fence and go missing! We'd welcome donations of tennis balls from families and friends of the school to help keep our stock replenished.

School Association/PTA Start of Term Drinks: Tonight Friday 17th, 8pm, Duke of Monmouth pub, Sunningwell Road Old and new parents: join us for a catch up and to meet new people; get back into the swing of the new school year!

Best wishes for a happy weekend from Charlotte Haynes and the team at New Hinksey.