



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

24th September 2021

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

It has been a busy week in school and the bright weather has been lovely. There are an awful lot of colds, sore throats and coughs around at the moment so please do read the Covid Reminders below as it is important that ill children are tested for covid to ensure we don't have outbreaks in school that are passed on in the classroom.

Covid Reminders - 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.
- **Please be advised that the nearest walk in PCR test centre is in Osney Lane- off Oxpens Road, past the ice rink and left at the mini roundabout by the post office.**

Open Afternoon for Parents – Please come to our 'Open Doors' session when you pick your children up on Wednesday next week 29th September, 3 - 4pm. You and your children can walk around all the classes, say hello to the teaching staff and see your children's classes and displays of work. 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.

Assemblies – It is lovely to be back doing assemblies in the hall for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 for now so that children are spaced out and we have all the windows open! Over the past few weeks we have focussed on rules, cooperation and our responsibility to do all that we can to protect the natural world and the environment. The children really understand that each little act that every one of us does is an important part of the global effort. Reducing waste, not dropping litter, recycling as much as possible, not chopping down trees and saving energy were the main way the children thought they could help.

Birthday Treats – Please note that cakes, cookies and bakes for the class should only be brought in for a birthday treat and not at other times. As part of our healthy smile initiative we also offered idea of birthday treats that are not sugary – fresh fruit, a special pencil or rubber for everyone, natural popcorn etc.

School Photos – The photographer will be in school to take individual photos, and family groups of siblings at this school, on **Friday 1st October** (next week). If you want your child to have a particular hairstyle or be wearing a certain top, please remember this on Friday morning before you bring your children to school! Thank you.

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!

Parents are welcome in our school

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' and school visits arrangements.

After School Club Pick Ups – The club runs till 5.30pm with **pick up anytime after 4.40pm.**

News from Classes

Robins and Ducklings – Robins have played lots of sound and rhyming games this week. We have been talking about the seasons and printing with leaves to decorate our class tree. In maths we have been sorting different objects by size, shape and colour. We have talked about what we want to be when we grow up. In the Foundation Stage we like to give the children a plain biscuit (e.g. Digestive or Rich Tea) after their fruit snack in the morning. We rely on donations of biscuits from parents. If you are able to send in a packet every now and then that would be wonderful. Ducklings have been listening to 'Maisie Mouse' stories and singing lots of songs.

Finches – This week we have explored the festival Désalpe that is celebrated in Alpine countries. We watched videos of the cows with their beautiful flower headdresses and loud cow bells, and then we created bright cow art in the style of Steven Brown. In maths we have been learning about number bonds to 10 and doubling numbers. In English we have been retelling the story 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson and have written a thought bubble for what we think the ladybird is thinking.

Owls – This week we have been writing up episodes of 'The Bird and Forest Fire' story. In maths we have been using number bonds to do some harder calculations. In science we have started to learn about materials. We have explored two festivals – the Mid Autumn Lantern festival celebrated in China, Korea and Vietnam, and the Jewish festival of Sukkot.

Doves – We have been learning the features of diary writing this week. After researching life in the Roman army, we have planned, edited and written our own diaries from the perspective of a Roman soldier. We have enjoyed making electrical circuits with buzzers and bulbs in science. We designed our own electrical safety posters. In maths we have continued to develop our place value skills and began to add and subtract large numbers.

Woodpeckers – In English we have been learning about different sorts of adverbs and started our 'How to Train Your Dragon' writing project. We have been looking at the key events during the Viking era (AD793 – AD 1066) when they invaded and eventually settled. In maths Year 4s have worked on their 6 and 9 times table knowledge while Year 5s have been looking at decimal numbers and how to multiply and divide by 10 and 100.

Kingfishers – We have written short stories for our 'Kingfisher Book of Hopes' which we hope will lift the spirits of our readers, make their eyes widen and help them to feel positive! In maths we have focused on subtraction and in science we have applied our maths skills to record and present data in our paper strength testing activity. Our Dia de Los Muertos display has livened up the staircase and we enjoyed making some festive paper picado (paper chains). The Hogacre visit at the end of a busy week was a highlight.

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.

Term Dates – The term dates and holiday dates for the whole of this year are on the school website under Information – Parents Information – scroll down the list to Term Dates 2021 -2022.

Parent Governor Needed – We have a parent governor vacancy and our looking for someone to fill this. If you think this is something you are interested in please let me, Charlotte Haynes, know and I can put you in touch with our chair of governors and other parent governors. Thank you

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

Fund Raising Anthology - A local writer is currently appealing for material for a winter anthology to raise funds for Cruse Bereavement Care. Members of the community are invited to contribute to the anthology with submissions written around the theme of 'Winter'. This could be anything from a poem, story, recipe, memory, play, etc on the condition it is their original work. The deadline for the submissions is Monday 8th November 2021. Please visit www.justtwilliams.wordpress.com for further details.