



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

1st October 2021

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

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you into school at our Open Afternoon on Wednesday. Thank you for coming and for all the lovely positive feedback about the exciting learning going on in the classes. There was lots of amazement about just how much the children have done in under four weeks. We felt very proud of the school and the pupils.

Covid Reminders - 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 and should have a PCR test. 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.
- If a child tests positive please could parents let us know in school as soon as possible as Test and Trace do not contact us – thanks.

Cake Sales are back! – New Hinksey School Association will be holding its first post-pandemic event on **Friday 15 October: an after school cake sale (3pm)** in the over-the-road playground. Donations of cakes and bakes will be much appreciated, and if anyone would be able to help set up and sell, that would be fantastic - let April Jones know: april.elizabeth.jones@gmail.com. Cakes and cookies can be brought in on the morning and we can store them in the Learning Suite till the end of the day.

After School Club and Morning Club Invoices for September – These have been sent home today via book bags and are also in ParentPay. The deadline for paying these bills is Friday 15th October please.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT A MENU CHANGE NEXT WEEK – Please help us get as much funding as possible for the school! Thursday next week is a school census day and some funding for the school is based on the number of school meals taken up on the day. Therefore, **FISH AND CHIPS WILL BE SERVED FOR LUNCH ON THURSDAY 7th NEXT WEEK**, and the usual Thursday meal of **pasta bake will be served on Friday**. If you want your child to have fish and chips on Thursday please book them a lunch for Thursday by ticking either of the pasta choices and remember not to send them in with a packed lunch on Thursday! If you want to book pasta for Friday just tick the fish and chips. We will be asking each child in school on Thursday and Friday what they want for lunch anyway. If you pay for lunches and your child wants fish and chips on THURSDAY please ensure there is some credit for that day. Thanks.

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! **PLEASE STOP TURNING CARS AROUND ON THE CORNER OF THE SCHOOL, BY SCHOOL PLACE. Please be respectful to our neighbours who may want to move their cars.**

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.

Parents are welcome in our school

News from Classes

Robins and Ducklings – Robins planted a daffodil bulb each on Monday and we planted lots of other winter flowering plants too in the garden. In maths we have been comparing amounts using ‘more’ and ‘fewer’ language and length using ‘taller’, ‘tallest’, ‘shorter’ and ‘shortest’ language. The children have been talking to Polly about what their bodies can do and drawing their bodies with Sarah. We have been focusing on hibernating animals and reading owl and hedgehog stories. The Ducklings have painted lovely rainbows and have been singing ‘Five Green Frogs’.

Finches – This week we have been learning about harvest. We took part in the National Farmers Union (NFU) live lesson about making a rainbow salad and we drew amazing harvest still lifes. We had a fantastic time when the fire fighters from Rewley Road Fire Station came to teach us about fire safety – they even let us have a go spraying water from the hose! In English we have been learning and retelling ‘The Enormous Turnip’ and in maths we have looked at 2D shapes.

Owls – In maths we have been exploring 2D shapes. We enjoyed learning more about the farming of tomatoes, carrots, peppers and blueberries by watching ‘Harvest Live’ – a live lesson led by the National Farmers Union. We created lovely, mixed-media harvest pictures. We read some seasonal poems and stories. We enjoyed the Fire and Rescue Service visit and learnt a lot and we loved using the powerful hose to knock down cones in the playground!

Doves – This week we have enjoyed learning about shapes in maths. We all experimented with drawing circles using compasses. The Year 3s worked hard on naming, describing and finding lines of symmetry within shapes. The Year 4s have drawn circles with different radii and made accurate models of shapes. In our RHCE (Relationships, Health and Citizenship Education) lessons we are learning about being more responsible and independent in school and at home. We were proud to show our Roman sandals and crowns in the open afternoon.

Woodpeckers – We have been learning to tell the time and to calculate the duration of train journeys. We have been enjoying ‘How to Train Your Dragon’ by listening to the story, analysing the setting and finding the meaning of unfamiliar words. This week we joined a National Farmers Union live harvest lesson about the production of pizza ingredients in the UK (along with 33,000 other school children). We’ve enjoyed finding out about the lives and work of Copernicus and Galileo in connection with our science topic ‘Earth and Space’.

Kingfishers – We have compiled our own lovely ‘Book of Hopes’ – and anthology of our stories, which we illustrated. We hope our readers’ spirits will be uplifted by it! Our new English topic is biographies, and we hope to learn more about Black History through it. In maths we have focussed on the properties of shape and in science, we continued to use testing to problem solve the café challenge of finding suitable furniture which was both strong and waterproof. Our body percussion music sessions are developing as we compose motifs and perform canons!

Additional Day’s Holiday – You may be aware that the government have put an additional bank holiday on 3rd June 2022 to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. As this falls in the school half term break, the DfE have announced that schools can close for an additional day at another point in the school year. **New Hinksey will therefore be closed on Friday 27th May**, just before the half term holiday starts. We hope it is useful telling you this now if you are thinking about and planning holidays for next year.

Parent Governor Needed – We have a parent governor vacancy and are 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

School Photos – The photographer was in school today taking photos of individual children and sibling groups. As soon as we receive the packs of proofs and ordering instructions, we will distribute them to you.

West Oxford Young Singers - Does your child enjoy singing? Would they like to sing with children from other schools and perform in concerts? Oxfordshire County Music Service are hoping to start a brand new Young Singers choir in West Oxford. The choir will meet **at West Oxford Primary School on Wednesdays from 4-5pm** in term time, and be **open to children in school years 3-6**. We will sing a wide range of songs as well as developing the children's singing and wider musical skills. There will be regular performance opportunities, including joining together with other Music Service choirs and ensembles. The choir will be led by two experienced teachers from the County Music Service and will cost £4.50 per session. We plan to have our first practice on 15th October, and children are welcome to come for a trial session before committing. If your child would like to give the choir a try, please contact Jo Gill:

jo.gill@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Best wishes for a happy weekend.

Charlotte Haynes and The New Hinksey Team.