



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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10th December 2021

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

It's a pity that it has been so cold and rainy this week as the children have had to have indoor playtimes on some days. However, the weather has not dampened the children's enthusiasm for learning and lots of exciting things have been going on in classes which you can read about below.

News from Classes

Robins and Ducklings – In Robins we have had lots of creative fun. We have made clay decorations, reindeers and swirly snowflake twirlers from paper plates. We have all enjoyed drawing along to Christmas music and finding all the different ways we can make 5 using 2 snowmen and 5 buttons! The ducklings have really enjoyed lots of singing about Christmas and making star Santas. We are so impressed with the Robins and the singing they have been doing for the performance at the church.

Finches – In English we have written facts about volcanoes. We have also looked at the importance of instructions being detailed and in the correct order. We then followed instructions to make gingerbread people. In maths we have looked at the value of notes and coins. The children found this tricky so please practise at home. We have made lovely Christmas cards and we have been practising the nativity ready for our performance next week.

Owls – This week we have been doing maths assessments and practising how to answer similar questions in future. We have been writing up 'The Apple Tree Man' story that we learnt last week. We have also explored 'The Winter Hedgehog' story and made our own clay hedgehogs. (The clay was bought with some of our sponsored run money). We continue to sew our felt owl decorations.

Doves – We have had a fantastic Roman day. We made bread in the shape of mice as we didn't want to eat real ones! We made mosaics, learnt about Roman numerals and had a delicious banquet. Thank you for all your amazing efforts with the fabulous costumes. In geography we are learning about volcanoes. In science we created our own volcanoes using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. The results were very impressive to see. We have enjoyed developing our sewing skills. We have also begun our maths assessments.

Woodpeckers – After working hard at our end-of-term maths assessments at the beginning of the week, we've been designing (and beginning to make) our own board games. We've been looking again at the length of our shadows and reminding ourselves that it's the tilt of the Earth that gives us our seasons. We had a great time at Hogacre this morning.

Kingfishers – We've had another look at elements of poetry this week including onomatopoeia, alliteration, rhythm and rhyme and have developed our own verses for 'The Sound Collector' poem by Roger McGough. In maths we have used this week to improve written methods of addition and multiplication and solve word problems. We were very impressed at the final presentation of our festive lights which demonstrated some of the components from our circuit diagrams including a red light for a reindeer, a buzzer for a snowman's nose, a motor for the sparkling spinner and light behind a Chinese dragon!

Covid Update – As we are still getting some positive cases and there is also a great deal of the usual coughs and colds around, please don't send ill children into school. Get them tested to check that it's not covid please. Children with non-covid illness should only come to school if they are well enough to manage a day in school and if they are not coughing and spluttering over everyone else or have streaming noses that they can't cope with. We really don't want for the children, their families and staff to be ill all over the Christmas break so please be considerate and help us control the spread of covid and winter colds. Thank you.

Parents are welcome in our school

Next Week in School

Key Stage 1 Nativity acted by Finch Class with singing from Finch and Owl Classes – for Key Stage 1 parents on **Tuesday 14th December at 2pm in the church**. Please could parents (two visitors per child only please) wear masks in the church. Thank you.

School Christmas Lunch and Santa Presents on Wednesday 15th December. *** **The deadline for booking the school Christmas Lunch was Thursday 2nd, so if you did not make that deadline it's too late.** **Reminder slips have been sent home this week to those children who need to bring a packed lunch on that day. Everyone gets a cracker! *****

Whole School Festive Songs on Wednesday 15th December at 2.30pm performed on the playground. Parents welcome to watch and listen from the other end of the playground. Please wear face masks – thank you.

Starting School in Reception in September 2022 – Parents/Carers of children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 (inclusive) need to apply for a school place for September 2022. If this applies to you, please go to <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications> to make an application. The window for making on-line applications opened on 2nd November and closes on January 15th 2022. If your child is currently in our nursery, you still need to apply for their school place as explained above.

After School Club and Morning Club Bills – The deadline for paying the invoices for November is today, Friday 10th December.

Donations of Boxes of Tissues – We'd be most grateful for donations of boxes of tissues as classes are getting through loads at the moment with so many colds and runny noses. Many thanks.

Start of Term on Tuesday January 4th - We are carrying on as if the start of the new term will happen as normal with the same school arrangements that we currently have, but as we know from this time last year, the situation may change at the last minute depending on the pandemic. Please check the school website the day before term starts www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk and **there will be an update only if there are any changes**. Thanks.

This will be the last newsletter of this term. We wish everyone a very happy, safe and healthy Christmas holiday and very best wishes for the new year.

Charlotte Haynes and The New Hinksey Team.

Key Dates

This term ends on Friday 17th December after lunch at 1.15pm.

School Holiday: Monday 20th December 2021 to Monday 3rd January 2022.

Next term starts on Tuesday 4th January 2022 – Gates open at 8.40am

Oxfordshire Libraries is delighted to tell you about The Winter Reading Challenge

The Reading Agency's Winter Mini Challenge is a follow-up to the Summer Reading Challenge, which many of your children will have enjoyed. Once again, they are in partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Challenge dates: Wednesday 1st December 2021 - Sunday 16th January 2022

To take part in the challenge, children simply choose a reading goal, choose any number of books, eBooks and audiobooks, then rate and review them online.

Books added to the website during the six-week Mini Challenge period will count towards unlocking rewards including a virtual badge and certificate. The website will also feature games, reading activities and book reviews.

More information can be found at www.wintermini.org.uk