



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

21st January 2022

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

Although it's been a cold week, it's been uplifting to have bright, sunny dry weather a lot of the time and thankfully the children have been able to get outside in the fresh air for playtimes. There's been a lot of thoughtful and creative work going on in classes based around the 'Amazing Authors' being studied. It's been delightful to share in the children's successes when handing out Star Awards in assembly.

Could you help us by being a parent Governor? – We have a vacancy which we'd like to fill as soon as possible. Parent governors play a vital role on governing bodies, holding **the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school**. Parent governors bring their wealth of experience and knowledge, contributing to the successful running of their child's school. Being a governor involves being part of decisions made by the board which influence the whole school's strategic development, rather than the day to day running of the school. If you are interested and think you could support the school in this way, please let us know and we can give you more information and put you in touch with current parent governors or the chair of governors, who would be happy to talk further.

News from Classes

Robins and Ducklings – Robins have been looking at Elmer stories this week and our new author, David McKee. We have all designed our own elephant. In maths we have been comparing weight and capacity using heavier, lighter, empty, full language. We have been thinking about our class rules of kindness, honesty and respect and talking about how we can show these as we play with our friends and look after our toys. Our sounds this week were 'u' and 'b'. Ducklings have continued to enjoy Eric Carle books including 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear', 'Panda Bear, Panda Bear' and 'From Head to Toe'.

Finches – In English we read 'The Gruffalo', drew our own monstrous creatures and then wrote sentences to describe them. In maths we have been adding 1-digit numbers to 2-digit numbers and revising number bonds to 10. In science we explored reptiles and birds and talked about their similarities and differences. Our geographical learning focussed on the weather in each season.

Owls – We have been comparing Anthony Browne's books 'A Walk in the Park' and 'Voices in the Park', which have the same story and characters but radical differences. In science we were learning about the life cycles of insects. In history we were exploring Victorian buildings around New Hinksey (houses, church and our school) and Oxford. We have started to make big mixed media Victorian street pictures.

Doves – We have thought about the themes of love, friendship and loneliness within 'The Puffin Keeper'. We are now using narrative planners to structure our own lighthouse stories. In D.T. we have researched different types of boat and are designing our own. We will be using balsa wood. **We are short of small hammers and nails. If you have any you are happy to donate to our DT resources, we would be very grateful.** In PE we have combined gymnastic partner work with dance to create sequences inspired by 'Carnival of the Animals'.

Woodpeckers – Please can your child bring in any colour magazines you no longer need. In coming weeks we will be making a collage river scene. This week we have researched Monet in art and also learnt about rubber tree plantations in Brazil as part of our book study. In maths Year 4 children have been learning about equivalence and how to simplify fractions; Year 5 children have been learning about square and prime numbers and practising mental methods for division and multiplication.

Kingfishers – In English we listened to more of the Harry Potter story and focused on using expanded noun phrases, relative clauses, and modal verbs for our descriptive writing. In maths we worked with decimal numbers. In Art, we have produced an interesting set of abstract "broomstick view" drawings which we will work with, in different media, over the coming weeks.

Parents of Reception and Year 6 Children – Heights and weights measuring will take place in school on 28th January.

Covid Cases in School – Please be advised that this week we have had further positive covid cases – in Finch, Woodpecker and Kingfisher classes. Therefore, we ask you to continue to watch your children’s health very carefully and not take any chances with sending ill children into school but do LFD tests to make sure they are covid free – many thanks.

Chicken Pox Alert – We have an outbreak of chicken pox in school this week!

Assemblies – We continued to think about the value of ‘**Compassion**’, using the story ‘Pumpkin Soup’ and reflecting on where compassion was demonstrated in the story by the characters.

No Nuts in School - We try very hard to be nut free at snack and lunchtimes as we have children with nut allergies in school. Please support this and avoid nuts and nutty products such as peanut butter or nutty cakes and cookies in lunchboxes. Many thanks.

Thank you to the parents who donated photocopier paper and tissues, as well as books that their children had grown out of – much appreciated.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend from Charlotte Haynes and The New Hinksey Team.

Key Dates

School is closed to all children on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 for Staff Training (INSET)

The first half of term ends on Friday 18th February 2022 at the usual end of day times

Half Term Holiday is Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February 2022

The second half of term starts on Monday 28th February 2022

The term ends on Friday 8th April 2022 at 1.15pm after lunch.

Easter Holiday is Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April 2022

Free Maths Sessions - *Would you like to help your child feel more confident about maths, but don't know how? Education charity Quest for Learning is running an online fun maths session on Saturday 12th February, from 10am - 11am. There will be lots of simple games and activities for you to try at home, which are ideal for children in Years 2, 3 and 4, or for older children who find maths difficult. The event is free but places are limited. If you register before 31st January you will receive a free activity pack. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/250106604587>*

Tech Holiday Camps are running on the 21st – 25th February 2022 at St Ebbe’s Primary School, Oxford, OX1 4NA. With the world becoming more digital, this is the perfect camp to develop STEM skills and keep your child ahead. Our camps are for ages 5-11 (years 1- 6) only. Spaces are limited, for more information, please see attached flyer or to enrol now simply visit: www.nextthing.education

Oxford Brookes Science Bazaar Saturdays will be hosting a one hour, interactive, virtual session on Saturday 22nd January at 11am - 12pm. This session is FREE, fun for all the family and most suitable for 5-12 years. In the session you will learn about diseases and how our bodies battle them! As well as exploring antibiotic resistance! This session is hosted by Oxford Brookes microbiology researcher Dr Hee-Jeon Hong in collaboration with Bright Sparks Science. Registration for the event is required (https://brookes.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkc--rrzluH9OwNZKZuRNtY0_hn3TC6PP5).

Candlemas Family Fun Afternoon – 30 January 1.30-3.00 pm at St John’s Church. Come and learn about the feast of Candlemas through creative and fun activities! Free refreshments. You are also welcome to join the church community for a free lunch beforehand at 12.15. For any information please call 07865 168266.