



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

9th September 2022

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

Welcome back everyone to the first newsletter of the new school year. The children have settled back in smoothly and happily and it is lovely to welcome some new families to our school community. We are delighted to welcome Miss Laufer as our Finch Class teacher, Miss Cooper as the Owl Class teacher and Tamsin to our teaching assistant team.

Response to the death of Queen Elizabeth II – As a school community we are deeply saddened by the death of the Queen, a remarkable, courageous woman who served our nation with dedication, love and a strong faith. We extend our love and prayers to all her family, friends and staff and especially hold King Charles III in our thoughts as he not only mourns the loss of his mother but takes on the role of sovereign. Today in school each class is talking about these events and on Monday we will have a school assembly ‘A Life Well Lived’, remembering the Queen.

Information - As well as sending one paper copy of this newsletter home to each family, the newsletter is also put onto our school website www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk. Please make every effort to read the newsletter carefully each week. The website also has a great deal of other information on it including the term dates for this term. They now appear in two places – under Information – Parents Information – Term Dates 2022 – 2023 and now on the home page there is also a flashing banner that says ‘click here for term dates’. We hope this makes it easier for you.

Curriculum Plans – We will no longer be sending home a paper copy of the termly curriculum overview to families each term. This is because each class’s curriculum plans are now on our website along with our two-year topic cycle and parent information about each curriculum subject. To find the curriculum plans on the website click on the curriculum section of the menu. This term is Autumn Term Cycle A. To give you a brief flavour of our varied and exciting topic themes, Foundation Stage’s topic is ‘Me and My family’, Finch Class: ‘Once Upon a Time’, Owl Class: ‘Awesome Owls and Wonderful Wolves’, and all of Key Stage 2 which is Doves, Woodpeckers and Kingfishers, have a topic called ‘Long Ago and Far Away’.

School Lunches – The price of a school meal is £2.50 per day. Children in Robins, Finches and Owls (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) do not have to pay for lunches under the Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme. For those children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are not in receipt of benefits related free school meals, the price of a school meal is £2.50 per day. Please ensure that meals are paid for in advance in ParentPay (i.e. that there is credit). It is very helpful to the class teachers if you have re booked your child’s choice with them at home, so they know what they are having for lunch. Although, during registration each class teacher does a lunch register and asks each child what they are doing for lunch it will take too much time out of learning time if children are not pre booked. Thank you.

Contact with School - We hope it will be helpful for parents to have the work email addresses of the class teachers (see below). Please be respectful of teacher workload and only email staff between 8am and 5pm on school days. Class teachers will endeavour to respond to emails within three working days, but they will not be regularly checking their email during the school day when they are busy teaching the children. If there is anything urgent please email or phone the school office.

Class	Teacher	Email
Foundation Stage	Polly Hodgson	phodgson@new-hinskey.oxon.sch.uk
Finch	Miss Keely Laufer	klaufer@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk
Owl	Miss Fiona Cooper	fcooper@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk
Dove	Mrs Rachael Tucker	rtuc1220@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk
Woodpecker	Miss Mary Kilpatrick	mkilpatrick@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk
Kingfisher	Mrs Helen Nash	hnas4139@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

Morning Club and After School Club – These are up and running again and the children have settled happily. We are very pleased to have accommodated everyone’s wishes. Please remember that now that you have your places booked this is a commitment for the whole term.

News from Classes

Robins and Ducklings – It has been so lovely welcoming the children into the classroom this week and they have all had a really positive start. Just a few things to let you know: If your child does not have a book bag yet these are £5 and can be purchased from school. They are very useful for sending home pictures and newsletters and reading books (from next term). If your child doesn’t yet have a set of spare clothes on their peg, please could you send one in next week in a bag that can stay on their peg and encourage your child to leave them at school rather than carry them to and from school every day! It’s also really important that they have their own re-fillable **water** bottle at school everyday please, preferably with their name on. Thank you.

Finches – It has been delightful meeting the new finches! They are settling in beautifully. We have made our own self portrait bunting to get to know our class family. We have started to revise our Set 2 phonics, enjoyed reading to each other and worked on our handwriting including number formation of 1 – 20. We excitedly made goldfinches using arts and crafts materials as an introduction to our science and geography topics (seasonal changes and weather). **Reminder: please could children bring a morning fruit or veg snack to school each day.**

Owls – We have very much enjoyed getting to know each other this week and sharing things about ourselves. A particular highlight was creating our very own owls out of egg boxes! Miss Cooper has been impressed with the children’s respectful behaviour and the children are all looking forward to exploring more about owls over the term. Please note – that PE will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays this term.

Doves – A big well done to all the Year 3 and 4 Doves for settling back in so well, getting to know each other and working so hard. We have begun to learn about our new topic which is focusing on ‘Stone Age to Iron Age’ by drawing our own personal timelines, chronologically ordering the main parts of the Stone Age and drawing our own cave paintings.

Woodpeckers – We have had a busy week. We have started learning about the Anglo-Saxons in preparation for our trip to the Ashmolean Museum on Wednesday 14th September. We have all been working hard on our place value in maths. In English we have written about our holidays in an informal postcard to our friends and in a formal letter to a teacher.

Kingfishers – It has been wonderful getting to know each other and establishing our ‘rights and responsibilities’ in class. We are being inspired by the Ancient Greeks for our learning this term and have already followed in the footsteps of Pythagoras, Aristotle and other Greek mathematicians to reason and problem solve in maths! In art we made some line drawings to show pattern and form of Ancient Greek vases. PE will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays so please can you make sure your child is wearing appropriate clothing for sport on those days including well-fitting trainers.

Future Dates, Events and Activities

Date	Event	Notes
Wed 14 th September	Woodpeckers to Ashmolean in afternoon	
Wed 21 st September	Doves to Ashmolean in afternoon	
Fri 23 rd September	International Evening in School for children and families 6.30 – 8pm (provisional)	Details next week but please hold the date.
Tues 27 th September	3 – 4pm Open Afternoon – please come and tour the school, see your child’s classroom and meet the teachers	
Fri 30 th September	Kingfisher Class Sharing Assembly 2.30pm start in hall	Parents welcome
Fri 7 th October	Nasal Flu Immunisations for children	Details to follow
Tues 11 th October	Harvest Festival Assembly in Church 2.15pm	Families welcome
Thurs 13 th October	Year 6 Injury Minimisation Programme workshop	
Fri 21 st October	Dove Class Sharing Assembly 9am start in hall	Parents welcome
Fr 21 st October	The first half of term ends at 3pm (FS and KS1)/3.05pm (KS2)	After School Club as normal
Mon 24 th – Fri 28 th October	Half Term Holiday	School closed
Mon 31 st October	Inset day for Staff Training	
Tues 1 st November	Term starts at 8.40am for all children	

School Attendance – Regular and punctual attendance is vital for your child’s wellbeing and progress. Children are **expected to be in school for 190 school days per year**. If your child is absent for more than seven days over a school year their attendance will fall below the expected, acceptable attendance. Children should only be absent from school if they are feeling too unwell to attend. As far as possible, medical and dental appointments should be made for during school holidays or outside the school day. Please do not book holidays in term time – they will not be authorised. Please give your children the best opportunity to progress in their learning by ensuring they attend school every day and do not miss the start and ends of term.

Best wishes for the weekend from Charlotte Haynes and the New Hinksey Team

Oxfordshire Youth is delivering an online **Mental Health Awareness Session** specifically for **Parents and Carers** of children and young people. **The sessions are FREE for Oxfordshire residents.**

Our Mental Health Awareness Training for parents and carers aims to aid understanding of relevant topics surrounding young people's mental health today. The training also explores how parents/carers can talk to their young people about the struggles around ill mental health and where they can seek support. Parents and carers can sign up via the links below:

13th September: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-online-mental-health-awareness-session-for-parents-and-carers-tickets-296905380987>

27th September: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-online-mental-health-awareness-session-for-parents-and-carers-tickets-296936744797>

In order to get your free tickets please use the first part of your postcode as the promo code in capital letters (e.g: OX4).