



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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10th February 2023

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

The first half of the Spring term has rushed by and what a lot of learning has taken place. It has been a great term and all the children and staff deserve a well-earned rest next week.

Emergency Support for Victims of the Turkey/Syria Earthquake – Whilst we are all looking forward to our half term, we are also thinking about the plight and devastation being faced by thousands of people in Syria and Turkey left homeless following the terrible earthquakes. The UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) is an umbrella group of charities that coordinates and launches appeals to provide emergency humanitarian aid across the world. The British Red Cross is part of the DEC and has launched appeals for both Turkey and Syria. Those who are able to are being asked to donate [via the Red Cross website](#). Alternatively, you can donate by calling 0300 004 0339. I'm sure every little bit helps so please do take a moment to make a donation if you can.

News from Classes

Robins and Ducklings – Robins spent the first half of the week with the dog puppet Ben, listening to his story and learning a song about how to stay safe online. In maths we have been exploring and discussing 3D shape. We have been on a shape hunt and tried making 3D shapes using spaghetti and marshmallows! We have also been creating repeating patterns. Our author is Lucy Cousins and we enjoyed watching her create one of her illustrations and then had a lovely painty afternoon creating our own fish. Ducklings have been using the story of 'Hooray for Fish' to sing lots of fishy songs, make clay sea creatures and do lots of painting.

Finches – In phonics we focussed on the sound 'ur' (nurse with a purse) and in English we worked on our handwriting and days of the week. Counting in 10s, 2s and 1s and how to bridge a ten on a hundred square was the focus of our maths this week. We also practised counting on from any given number up to 100. We have enjoyed making some arts and craft for our families for Valentine's Day. Thank you, Finches, for a wonderful half term, have a lovely holiday with plenty of rest!

Owls – In maths we have been using number lines to compare the value of different 2- and 3-digit numbers. In English we have been exploring the character of Willy in various Anthony Browne books and we have worked especially hard at answering retrieval and inference questions in reading comprehension.

Doves – We have worked hard on fractions this week in maths. We have used fraction lines, added and converted fractions to their simplest form. We have also completed our half termly maths assessments. In English we have focussed on newspaper articles. We have highlighted features in articles and planned and written our own articles. In art we have learnt about the artist Stubbs and practised drawing animals in detail. Doves have worked so hard this term and should be really proud of themselves.

Woodpeckers – Woodpeckers have had a fantastic first half of Spring term and they should all be feeling very proud. This week we've started looking at persuasive writing in English, we had our science trip to Hogacre Common, and in computing some of the children gave presentations on the history of the internet to the rest of the class. There is no formal homework for half term, but Mr Wilson has given each child a list of challenges to complete (there will be prizes for people who try to do them all).

Kingfishers – We have taken on the role of reporters to interview 'eyewitnesses' at the scene of a Percy Jackson event and written up our interviews. In maths we have done well to check our next steps. In art we made our first colour prints and we will add further layers after the holiday.

After School Club and Morning Club Bills – The invoices for January went home via book bags last week and are also in ParentPay. The deadline for paying these is Friday 17th February please.

New School Lunch Menu – The lunch menu is changing from after half-term. There are lots of new and exciting dishes plus the old favourites of pizza, roasts and fish and chips. The new menus are available in ParentPay for looking at and prebooking over the half term holiday. Please also top up your accounts, if you pay, so that there is credit.

Nut Free School – Please can everyone help us to keep all our children safe and NOT send any food into school that contains nuts so that there is no risk of serious allergic reaction. This means children should not have peanut butter sandwiches, other food items that contain nuts or bring nuts to nibble as part of their packed lunch. Thank you.

Assemblies and Our Current Value – We continued to explore our value for February which is ‘love’ by brainstorming different ways of saying love – passion, adore, devoted to, really like etc. – and by hearing about the origins of Valentine’s Day and the life of Saint Valentine. Did you know that the word love is mentioned in the bible more than 300 times?!

Days off school add up to lost learning - We are committed to ensuring that your child receives the best possible education to prepare them for the next stage of their life. Each school day is carefully planned, and each lesson informs a wider programme of learning. Therefore, **every lesson really does count**. Your child is a valued member of our school and **every day missed adds up to lost learning for them**. There are 190 school days each year, and 175 non school days a year to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household events and other appointments. Research **evidence shows that children who have attendance of 90% or below (that’s 19 days off school in a year) find it harder to make progress and are less likely to be successful in secondary school. Please don’t let your child miss out on the education they deserve for anything other than them being too ill for school.** Thank you.

Goodbye and Good Luck to Stella, Danil and their mum who are returning to live back in Australia. We will miss you and wish you lots of happiness for the future.

Future Dates, Events and Activities

Date	Event	Notes
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th Feb	School closed for half term holiday week	No school this week
Wed 22 nd Feb	Dove Class to Ashmolean Museum	
Friday 10 th March	Dove Class to Hogacre (weather permitting)	
13 th – 17 th March	Science Week	
Friday 17 th March	Dove Class Sharing assembly in hall at 9am	Parents welcome
Friday 17 th March	Kingfisher Class to Hogacre (weather permitting)	
Wednesday 22 nd March	Parents’ Evening between 4pm and 7pm	Sign up sheets later in term
Tuesday 28 th March	Parents’ Evening between 4pm and 7pm	
Friday 31 st March	End of term	
Mon 3 rd – Fri 14 th April	School closed for Easter holiday	

We look forward to seeing the children back in school at 8.40am on Monday 20th February.

Best wishes for a happy and relaxing half term holiday week.

Charlotte Haynes and the New Hinksey Team

On Sunday 19th February 2023 at 3pm in the Town Hall, Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra are performing a FUNomusica Family Concert ‘Mission Earth’. It is most suitable for 4-8year olds and there are pre-concert craft activities at 2pm. Come and join the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Mission Earth Tour Guide Alasdair Malloy. They join a school trip from another galaxy to approach and orbit the Earth, with the mission to discover what the four colours which can be seen from space represent. We hear fantastic music which reveals what the blue, red, white, and green areas are on the planet, as well as discovering amazing wonders of nature such as animal and insect life, weather and a beautiful sunset. Visit

<https://oxfordphil.com/event/mission-earth-funomusica-family-concert/> for booking details.