



New Hinksey CE Primary School

Vicarage Road Oxford OX1 4RQ

Tel: 01865 242169 Fax: 01865 242169

Email: office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

Website: www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

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

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. The children seem refreshed and eager in their learning.

World Book Day – We shall be marking **WORLD BOOK DAY** next week on **THURSDAY 2nd MARCH!** Children are all encouraged to **come to school dressed up as a book character and bring a favourite book from home with them.** We shall be having a special ‘parade’ assembly during the morning and there will be a variety of book inspired and related activities going on in classes. Please help us make the day special for your children by helping them to dress up as a book character and by helping them choose a favourite book to bring into school. Thank you.

News from Classes

Robins and Ducklings – Using Lucy Cousin’s story, ‘Busy Day for Birds’, Robins have spent the week learning the names of lots of birds and listening to their song. It was wonderful listening to the excitement of the children on our welly walk as they spotted quite a few birds and we were quiet enough to hear some birdsong too! In maths we have been pairing objects and also combining groups using two dice. Our word of the week was ‘love’ so we talked about what this meant to us. Ducklings have used the ‘Naughty Bus’ story to explore lots of different vehicles and we had a look at floating and sinking too! The children made a bus together and we have displayed this with the children’s photos in which they enjoyed.

Finches – Our focus sound this week is ‘er’ (a better letter) and ‘oo’ (look at a book). We have played games and practised our spelling and writing using these sounds. In maths we continued to work on counting money. And grouping coins. We have also been counting in 1s, 2s, 10s and 5s. In D.T. we enjoyed making pancakes in the cooking room and writing out the ingredients using commas and the rules of a ‘high five’ sentence. Why don’t you ask the children what this is?!

Owls – We have been creating persuasive leaflets this week about how to prevent the extinction of pandas. With Ms Potier, we have started a line dancing unit of learning in PE. We are learning to do foot movements in time with the music and each other. In computing we are drawing pictures using the graphics programme ‘Chrome Canvas’.

Doves – We have begun to read and listen to our new novel ‘Charlotte’s Webb’ and have started to write about plot and characterisation using fronted adverbials. We had a really enjoyable visit to the Ashmolean where we looked at paintings in the Renaissance gallery focussing on Uccello’s ‘Hunt in the Forest’. We used our senses to describe it, dressed up as characters and created a freeze frame of the painting. In maths we have been dividing and multiplying decimal numbers by 10 and 100.

Woodpeckers – It’s been great to have all the Woodpeckers back and hear what they got up to over half-term. In maths this week we’ve been looking at everything to do with shape, including angles and symmetry (and Year 5s also looked at different types of triangles). In English we learnt about determiners, expanded noun phrases and prepositions - quiz your children to see if they can remember. As part of a science lesson, we tested the local pond for nitrates and phosphates and identified various bugs that were living in it. The children also decided to give the bugs names such as Speedy, Larry, and Gary! To avoid any confusion: homework books always need to be back in school on a Monday so they can be sent back home by the next day at the latest.

Kingfishers – In English we have developed our computing skills by typing and presenting newspaper reports with headlines and pictures. In maths we have developed mental strategies to multiply and divide larger numbers. Investigating the best material to keep out light for bedroom curtains was the focus in science - leather was the most opaque (but we agreed this would not be a great look!). In art, we completed our colour reduction printing and we were pleased with the ‘Andy Warhol’ look. Please note that all homework continues to be on Google Classroom. Thank you for supporting your child in accessing it this way.

New School Lunch Menu – The lunch menu has now changed. There are lots of new and exciting dishes plus the old favourites of pizza, roasts and fish and chips. We hope you have found the new menus in ParentPay for pre booking. Please note that on Tuesday in the Week 1 menu the Cheesy Cottage Pie is made with meat, and the Sausage Pasta Bake is made with **vegetarian** sausages so is the vegetarian option.

Emailing About a Child's Absence – If you are emailing to let school know that your child is absent from school and the reason why, please email the school office email: office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk . Thank you.

Assemblies and Our Current Value – In assemblies for the coming month we shall be exploring the value ‘faith’ as in ‘to have complete trust or confidence in someone or something’.

Vision Tests (Reception) and Heights and Weights Checks (Reception and Year 6) – Children in Reception and Year 6 will have brought home letters about these.

Future Dates, Events and Activities

Date	Event	Notes
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day	Dress up day!
Thursday 9 th March	Vision Tests for Reception Children	
Friday 10 th March	Heights and Weights checks for Reception and Year 6	
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)	
Friday 17 th March	Owl Class afternoon visit to Story Museum	
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	

Donations – Things that we would very much like donations of are **red biros, boxes of tissues** and any **little items suitable for rewards** (stationery items such as special pens or pencils, rubbers, notepads; small gadgets, games, toys etc). Thank you.

Nut Allergies – We are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**. Please don't send in any nut products at all, even if you think that the nut element is minimal. Some children are very sensitive and cannot be exposed to any 'nuts' at all. Thank you.

Survey for Parents and Carers – Oxfordshire County Council are reviewing their 'school readiness' strategy. To give your views please go to: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/school-readiness-parent-carer-feedback> .

Super Science Saturday - This annual family science fair is taking place at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. It is on **Saturday 11th March, 12-4pm** and is drop-in. The event is free and is a great opportunity to meet scientists and learn more about nature and how all things on the planet are connected/dependent on each other to survive. There will be lots of games, activities and specimens to see and touch. It is recommended for children aged 8+.

Wishing everyone a happy weekend – hope you all stay warm as a cold snap is forecast.

Charlotte Haynes and the New Hinksey Team