



# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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

It has been a very science focussed week in school in recognition of it being British Science Week, with the theme 'connections'. Great fun has been had by all and the wonderful range of science talks by parents, grandparents and friends of the school has been inspirational.

## News from Classes

**Robins and Ducklings** – We've had a great science week in Foundation Stage. Thank you to Samrah and Katherine for coming into talk to us. Our word of the week was 'connections'. We have all spent the week making connections with how our brains work, what keeps our brain healthy, discussing space, investigating materials with magnets, making slime, watching a film of a volcano and then experimenting with our own exploding and messy one! It's been great watching all the excitement. Ducklings have been exploring feelings using a story by Nick Sharratt and making different expressions with their faces!

**Finches** – We've loved making cards this week and look forward to presenting them to our mothers. We have also been exploring odd and even numbers and writing lots of 'high five' sentences. We enjoyed the fascinating, hands-on science talk about senses with Anna on Tuesday.

**Owls** – We have had a fantastic science week! We really enjoyed learning about tornados on Monday and watching how these start in an experiment with two plastic bottles with water inside - many thanks to Sophie's meteorologist dad for this. On Tuesday we made gloop out of cornflour and water and this prompted lots of discussion around solids, liquids and gases. Wednesday found us being engineers trying to construct the tallest building we could out of marshmallows and dried spaghetti. Yesterday we designed our own Victorian inventions and presented our ideas to the rest of the class. We finished the week with a fun and inspirational literacy trip to the Story Museum. \*\* Please note that next Friday (**March 24<sup>th</sup>**) **we are going out locally to Hogacre and/or the allotment** so we must all have **waterproof coats and suitable footwear**. We will be back in time for our usual lunchtime routine.\*\*

**Doves** – We have all had great fun learning new facts and experimenting during science week. Thank you to Zakariya's mum and Charlotte's dad for their interesting and enjoyable science presentations. We have tested our fingerprints using graphite sticks and flour, designed imaginative inventions, built bridges and observed how bread becomes mouldy! Everyone in Doves has worked hard on telling the time. Year 3s have added on time intervals and Year 4s have answered questions about bus timetables.

**Woodpeckers** – This week in Woodpeckers we've been celebrating science week. Thanks so much to Dr Tim for coming in to talk to us all about weather and climate. Tim showed us a fantastic live visualisation of wind patterns around the world. In English we've been working on speech marks. In maths, Year 4s have been using the grid multiplication method whilst Year 5s have been learning some amazing algebra.

**Kingfishers** – It has been a very different week of learning and problem solving! We discovered the connection between being a scientist and using skills of creativity, teamwork and cooperation. Our bridge building challenge and shadow puppet shows certainly tested these skills. Many thanks to Paul Bolam (Tarn and Ayliffe's grandfather) who kindly delivered a fascinating talk about how our brains connect with the outside world, our bodies and between nerve cells inside the brain. Our trip to Hogacre, to explore vegetation and habitats, provided further opportunities to use scientific skills including close observation and deep thinking.

**Easter Raffle** - We will be holding our traditional, fundraising Easter raffle on the last day of term (Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March). **We rely on donations for this so please start donating items by sending them into school:** Easter eggs and any easter chocolates are always a favourite, as well as other easter confectionery, spring and Easter arts and crafts etc. Thank you. Raffle tickets will start being sold at the gates at drop off and pick up time from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**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](mailto:office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk) . Thank you.

**Class Group Photos** – These were taken today and, after we are sent them, you will receive a proof and instructions on how to order if you would like copies.

**Future Dates, Events and Activities**

Date	Event	Notes
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>Parents' Evening between 4pm and 7pm</b>	Please try to keep to your allotted time slot – thanks.
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Parents' Evening between 4pm and 7pm</b>	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Dove Class sharing Assembly in hall at 9am – parents and carers please come through the playground gates at 8.50am and take your seats in hall – thanks.</b>	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Owls to allotment/Hogacre</b>	Suitable shoes please
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Easter Raffle End of term at the usual time (FS and KS1 3pm; KS2 3.05pm)</b>	No A.S. Club today
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>School closed for Easter holiday</b>	
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Term Starts at 8.40am</b>	

**McDonalds FREE Fun Football Sessions** (for ages 5-11) start on Saturday 22nd April - 17th June and are at Oxford City FC, Marsh Lane, Marston, OX3 0NQ from 9am - 10am. You can choose what dates you book - you don't have to attend all of them. [mcdonalds.com/gb/en-gb/football/fun-football-centres.html](http://mcdonalds.com/gb/en-gb/football/fun-football-centres.html)

Wishing you all a happy weekend.

Charlotte Haynes and the New Hinksey Team

**Message from the School Governors:**

As you know our long-standing headteacher, Charlotte Haynes, is leaving us at the end of the school year this July. The school governors have started the process of finding a new headteacher who can build on the excellent work that Mrs Haynes has accomplished over the past 20 years. We are planning to advertise the vacancy shortly after the Easter holidays. We would like to hear from you what kind of a headteacher you think would be suitable for our school: what should they be able to do in building on the school's strengths, and addressing the school's challenges? How would you like them to relate to you and your children? Your ideas and suggestions will help governors to build a profile and person specification which will be part of the job description.

Please send your ideas by emailing [hjfricke@btinternet.com](mailto:hjfricke@btinternet.com) or contact us in writing via the school office with your message marked 'Recruitment Panel'. Suggestions will be treated confidentially and will not be linked to named individuals.

We will keep you informed of the process.

On behalf of the governors,

Harm-Jan Fricke, Chair of Governors