



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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

Headteacher: Mrs Tamsin Smyth

Tuesday, 05 September 2023

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

Welcome back everyone to a brand-new year! It was so lovely to hear the chatter of excited children this morning. I hope you all managed to enjoy some relaxing family time over the summer. A huge welcome to all our new families too.

It would normally be customary to welcome any new members of the staff to the team, however, as I am the only new member, I am welcoming myself! I have been made to feel at home already as I worked closely with Mrs Haynes throughout the summer plus the staff here are extremely kind and thoughtful, as you know. I look forward to getting to know the children and you better over the coming weeks.

Timings:

Please be aware that the timings of the day have changed. The main gate at the playground will open to all year groups at **8.35**. The teachers will take children to class at **8.40**. The gates will be locked at 8.50 so anyone arriving after this time will need to go to the reception office and sign in. *Please note, children will be marked as "late" if they arrive after 8.50.*

Cars:

A reminder that it is unsafe to bring cars down Vicarage Road, so please park elsewhere and walk if you are coming by car.

Newsletters:

A newsletter will be coming out every Friday. It is also published on the school website www.new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk. The website also has a great deal of other information on it including term dates. It will be updated throughout the year with more news about our school activities.

Concrete in school buildings:

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

We wanted to inform you that **we are not affected** by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more

Living life in all its fullness.

through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub (<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/08/31/new-guidance-on-raac-in-education-settings/>).

Contact

If you have changed your details such as your mobile phone number, please email your new details to the office, or drop us a note.

If you need to ask a question or pass on information, please see our methods of contact:

- Face to face in the playground – please keep any messages to teachers in the morning very short. Mrs Smyth will usually be available to answer questions and take messages.
- Contact the school via the school office email office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk messages can be passed on to staff from there.
- Call the school office on 01865 242 169 (not between 12 and 1pm)
- Make an appointment – please contact the office if you wish to have a longer appointment with your child's teacher.

Things to remember:

- Children will need a water bottle and can bring a healthy snack (fruit or vegetables) into school each day.
- Now is a good time to top up your parent pay account as you must have credit before a lunch is ordered. *You will be called to bring a packed lunch if there are insufficient funds.*
- For further information as to whether you may qualify for free school meals in KS2 please visit <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/school/school-meals>.
- If your child is absent from school for any reason, please email office.3213@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk or phone 01865 242169 after 9.15 to explain why they are absent.
- Long hair which reaches the shoulders needs to be tied back in school.
- Jewellery should not be worn, with the exception of a wrist watch and stud style earrings.
- Children should not bring a mobile phone into school.

Look out for another newsletter this Friday.

Kind regards,

Tamsin Smyth

Mrs Tamsin Smyth
Headteacher