

# New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Tamsin Smyth

+  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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





Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you have not been too affected by the flooding. Thankfully, the school has been unaffected and we discussed on Monday how we can feel grateful for all the services that were “ready” with their pumps etc. We celebrate the front page superstar Harry who managed to paddle down Abingdon road in what appears to be a sandpit tray? Eric is in the background, but so wrapped up, it’s hard to tell!

Huge welcome to Emma Clarke who has started as SENDCo here this week. In addition to this, she is teaching every child in school music and drama. This is very popular with the children already! Mrs Nash has started her new role as Assistant Head Teacher this week and was still smiling on Wednesday, so I haven’t frightened her off with the to do list!

Have a lovely weekend,  
Tamsin Smyth

<p><b>Attendance</b></p>	<p>You may have seen on the news the national drive to improve school attendance. It is something that needs to improve at New Hinksey. <a href="https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/09/02/back-to-school-week-everything-you-need-to-know-about-school-attendance/">https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/09/02/back-to-school-week-everything-you-need-to-know-about-school-attendance/</a></p> <p><b>When can my child be absent from school?</b> When you register your child at school, you have a legal duty to ensure your child attends that school regularly. This means that your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your child is too ill to attend that day.</li> <li>• You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.</li> <li>• Your child cannot attend school on that day because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Safeguarding</b></p>	<p>Below is a list of 10 ways for Primary children to stay safe online, please spend some time going through them with your child.</p>
<p><b>Governor opportunity</b></p>	<p>We have a space on the governing body for a parent governor, it can be a really rewarding role and a great way to understand the ins and outs of school life. We really would benefit from a governor with experience outside of education, such as finance or business as it helps us consider different points of view. If you have any questions or would like to register your interest, please contact the office.</p>

*Living life in all its fullness.*

<p>Puffins</p> 	<p>It was lovely welcoming the Puffins back this week. They have all settled so well back into the routines of school brilliantly. Thank you so much for all the kind and generous presents you all bought at Christmas. Our new topic is 'Superheroes Unite'. We will be looking at real life superheroes from the present and the past. We started this week by thinking about what an explorer does. We have a class 'Explorer Bear' so we made maps to show him how to get around parts of the school. We have talked about who is important to us and what being important means and discussed some significant people from around the world that we might already know. We all recognised the Queen. Year 1 have started learning all about writing instructions. They wrote some great bedtime routines this week. Reception continue to build their knowledge of individual sounds and blend these together to write and read more independently. In maths, Year 1 have been looking at more and less using numbers to 100. Reception have been learning all about mass and capacity and have really enjoyed comparing different sized objects using the balance scales.</p>
<p>Owls</p> 	<p>Owls Class have settled back into the new term brilliantly. An enormous thank you for all the kind presents at Christmas. We have begun our new topic with the story 'The Little Island'. This has inspired us to write descriptive paragraphs about our own islands. We have thought about what sort of plants, wildlife and geographical features there could be. In science We have learnt how to sort animals into the 5 main groups and can explain the features of birds, reptiles, fish, amphibians and mammals. We enjoyed colour mixing in art to sponge seascapes for the silhouettes of our ocean animal drawings. We are short on newspaper! If you have any spare, please could you send it in. Thank you!</p>
<p>Doves</p> 	<p>What a lovely return to school we've had in Doves class. In art we've started learning about Jean-Michel Basquiat, which the children have really enjoyed so far. In geography we started learning how earthquakes happen. In English we've been reading '<b>The Puffin Keeper</b>' by <b>Michael Morpugo</b> as our class book. It would be really useful to have more copies as soon as possible so the children can each have one, so if you can please buy one that your child can keep in school for the duration of the topic.</p> <p><u>Important notice:</u> Instead of having to bring in reading records, Doves class children need the sheet in the back of their homework books signed by an adult every week (once they have finished their 5 weekly reads). There's more information about this on said sheet.</p>
<p>Kingfishers</p> 	<p>It has been great to launch our new Wonderful Words topic with some fantasy fiction - Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone which has inspired lots of learning including the writing of <i>Howlers</i> (magical letters). Our timetable has changed so please have a look at it on Google Classroom. Please also make sure that trainers and suitable clothing for P.E is worn on Monday and Tuesday. With Ms Potier on Thursday and Friday we are focusing our English learning at on story writing – we are using dictionaries and thesaurus, expanding our sentences to add in detail and we are getting to know the story of Jim Jarvis in the book called Street Child. We have enjoyed our first drama and music lesson with Ms. Clarke who is using Oliver Twist to explore Victorian life for children.</p>
<p><b>Dates for your diary</b></p>	<p><b>Event</b></p>
<p>Monday 15 January</p>	<p><b>No</b> After School Club</p>
<p>Thursday 18 January</p>	<p>Fish and chip lunch</p>
<p>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January</p>	<p>KS2 trip to Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra</p>

**After School Club and Morning Club bills**

These were sent home earlier this week. Please pay by 19 January. Thank you.

**Please help – change of lunches**

On Thursday 18 January we have a school census and part of our funding is based on the number of school lunches taken on that day. We have changed the menu so that the children will have their fish and chip meal on Thursday and the Chicken and Sweetcorn pie on Friday. When booking in Parentpay, please select

Chicken and Sweetcorn Pie on Thursday if you wish your child to have fish and chips and select Jacket Potato if you wish your child to have a spring roll. On Friday, please select Fish Fingers for the Chicken and Sweetcorn Pie and Spring roll for the Jacket Potato. Thank you.

### **OXTRAIL – Help required.**

If you are a local business-person or have strong contacts with anyone who is, New Hinksey would very much like your help. We would like to approach for a small amount of funding. We need to raise £200 from local business **to enable the school to participate in the very exciting OXTRAIL art sculpture project during the summer.**

The school will itself be raising £200 in a sponsored event shortly. We then need to match-fund that amount. The money goes to Sobell House Hospice, based in Oxford. For further information please go to **[www.oxtrail2024](http://www.oxtrail2024)**.

If you can, please email contact details to Hazel Potier at [hpot9071@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:hpot9071@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk). Thank you.

