



Kirtlington
C.E. School

Kirtlington C E School
Heyford Road
Kirtlington
Oxon OX5 3HL

Telephone (01869) 350210

Fax (01869) 351961

E-mail: office.3500@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk

Website: www.kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you had a lovely summer break and are all looking forward to a new and exciting year. This term, we have started the year with an RE project considering Creation. Oak Class have been learning what the Bible tells us about the creation of the Earth and how Christians believe that we should look after the planet. They have thought about how humans are responsible for taking care the Earth and what this means in terms of sustainability of the environment. The children have also created some poetry and art work based on the Creation Story and this is displayed in the hall. Hopefully you will have a chance to look at it this term.

Values

This term the school value we are focusing on is aspiration and the related Christian value is thankfulness. Please remember our school motto – *Aspire and Achieve Altogether*.

Growth Mind Set

This term we are introducing and working on improving children's growth mind set. Through this we hope to improve the children's learning by fostering a positive attitude to learning.

Curriculum

Our new topic for this term is 'Road Trip USA!' where we will be using world and US maps to learn about human and physical geography. We will also be exploring Native American literature, music, model making and totem pole design. In addition to this, we will create Native American dreamcatchers and prepare some US dishes.

English

All the children will have daily spelling lessons. Each child will have a guided reading /reading comprehension session once a week, with the teacher and other children and books appropriate to their level of reading. In Oak Class, the children take responsibility for changing their own books to reflect their reading ability. Please keep reading with your child at home, a short session of 10 to 15 minutes each day does make a difference to their confidence, fluency and understanding. Please remember to write in the school diary what they have read. This earns the children house points. *Please remember that we do not have the time to do one to one reading with the children every day in school so it is vital for them to have this one to one reading time with an adult at home.* We will send home a list of questions that would be useful to ask the children when they are reading to you, to support their reading comprehension.

We welcome parent readers into the classroom. If you can spare some time each week then do come and see one of us and we will be happy to explain what is involved and how you can help.



This term in writing we will be looking at postcards, emails, diary writing, myths and legends and poetry. We will be reading 'The Indian in the Cupboard' to support us in our topic work and as inspiration for some of our writing.

Maths

Maths is taught daily during the morning. The children will work in groups and may work both inside and outside the classroom. Children will have a weekly maths investigation lesson, where they will develop and apply their reasoning and problem solving skills. Students in Oak Class will continue to learn their times tables this term. Please help your children to practise their time tables as this really will support them in the rest of the curriculum and they will be tested on them weekly.

Homework

Normally homework will be available on the school website every Friday. Please let us know if you require a paper copy. At the moment the website is down, whilst it is being revamped, so we will send out paper copies until it is up and running again. We ask that completed homework be handed in each Wednesday so that it can be marked and time can be found towards the end of the week for sharing of tasks when appropriate. Homework books will be returned home on a Friday. There will also be spelling lists which will be given out each week to be learnt for a test the following week.

Weekly Routines

PE:

Our PE session will take place on Wednesday afternoon. This term the children will be learning gym and team games involving attacking and defending. Please note that for all inside lessons the children will need to wear shorts not tracksuit bottoms. However, for outside lessons the children will need trainers, tracksuit bottoms and a warm jumper. Please ensure that ALL items of clothing are named.

Morning/Evening Routine:

In the morning the school gates will be open at 8.35am and the children will go straight into class, via Oak Class entrance. Please say goodbye to your child on the playground by the hall doors and let them walk the rest of the way independently. There will be an early morning activity for the children to do in class, while they are waiting for the rest of the class and during the register. At the end of the day the children will be let out into the playground via Oak Class. Children have been told that they should stay with the class teacher until their parent or carer/child minder picks them up.

If you have any change to your child's routine at the end of the day please contact the office and they will pass a message onto us. If someone new is picking up your child, a password will be required.

Making Contact

Should you need to contact us about any matters arising, please contact the school office and they will make sure that mail is re-directed:

office.3500@kirtlington.oxon.sch.



Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as we are often busy with classroom duties and teaching earlier in the day. In all cases we will endeavour to reply to you within 3 working days, within school hours. Obviously if the matter is more urgent, for example about attendance or changes to the routine of collecting your child then you should contact the school office or speak to one of us at the start of the day.

Reminders

- Packed lunches – please can we remind you that the school requests that packed lunches do not contain nuts – as we do have children in school who have life-threatening allergic reactions to them. We also ask that grapes and cherry tomatoes included in lunch boxes are cut in half to help prevent choking.
- Water Bottles – please make sure children have a water bottle with them every day (separate from any drink in their lunch box) as this allows them to access water as and when they require it. Water only in these bottles please (not squash, juice or flavoured water). Also, please ensure that water bottles have a spout (‘ideally an ‘anyway up’ spout) and do not need the tops to be unscrewed and removed to drink. This will help us to avoid spillages.
- Absence and sickness – please let the office know if your child is not attending because they are ill. Also please note that Health Protection Agency guidance states that children should not return to school for 48 hours after the last episode of either sickness or diarrhoea.
- Hair – please can you ensure that long hair is tied back. This helps ensure children’s safety when using climbing equipment etc. and also curbs the spread of head lice.
- Wellingtons/Outdoor Shoes – make sure that your child is prepared for the outdoor play by providing wellies or outdoor shoes/trainers and a warm, waterproof coat particularly now as Autumn and Winter approaches. Wellies can be left at school so that they are available every day for your child to use. These should be clearly named.
- Tissues – Oak Class would be very grateful for any donations of boxes of tissues throughout the term. Thank you to the people who have already sent some in.

I am very much looking forward to working with you all during the year.

Many thanks,

Sophia Green



Headteacher: Louise Williams



Chair of Governors: Sara Carey



School Business Manager: Alie Haynes