



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,

I hope that you had a lovely Summer break and that you are all looking forward to a new and exciting year. Oak Class have started the Autumn Term by launching into our new topic, 'Scream Machine'. We will be undertaking research projects, designing our very own rollercoasters and theme parks, learning all about the natural forces that make up our planet and make rides so exciting. We will be using our topic to inspire some amazing poetry, narrative tales and non-fiction texts based around fairs and theme parks.

Values

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

Growth Mind Set

The children continue to embrace our whole school focus on Growth Mind set. During the summer term, we will still be discussing this during our learning time by highlighting opportunities where thinking in this way can help us and celebrating when children demonstrate that they are taking this approach to their learning.

Curriculum

We will be making many cross curricular links between History, Geography, DT, Art, Science and English – all using our Scream Machine topic as a launching pad.

English

We are really looking forward to starting some exciting writing this year. We already have wetted our appetites by starting to read *Stig of the Dump*, as a whole class. We will be using this text to inspire our Reciprocal Reading Sessions, by asking questions about the text to delve deeper into meaning and themes. We may even use some of Stig's inventiveness to create some roller coaster-themed junk modelling, later in the term.

A new style of practising our spellings this year, has been started in Oak Class. You may have noticed the Look/Cover/Write/Check format. This can be used at home for a few nights a week and over the weekend. If your child runs out of space, then they can continue on the back. In-school sessions will take place every day, providing a range of activities for the children to work through. There will be a spelling test on a Friday, followed by the providing of next week's spellings.



Year four children should be reading with an adult for ten to fifteen minutes, every day. In year 5 and 6 the children should be independently reading for half an hour a day. In addition to this, it is beneficial for older children to read aloud and share in questioning and conversation about a text. We will endeavour to read with children throughout the week, but it is important that they get the support at home by having someone to read with.

Maths

Maths is taught daily each morning. For each session there is a differentiated approach in both the input (teacher lead delivery) and the independent learning activities (tasks). We are fortunate to have a TA that can offer additional support to both whole class and small group learning. Further to this, we have a fantastic space that can be used to deliver stand-alone sessions throughout the year.

We will be sending home designated x-table practise throughout the year, followed by in class x-table challenges. Also, we look forward to setting up our new online Maths programme *Mathletics*, which will enable the children to login to an individual account and access Maths learning online.

Homework

Homework will be available on the school website every Friday. Please let us know if you require a paper copy. 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 times tables and spelling lists which will be given out each week to be learnt for a test the following week.

Weekly Routines

Forest School:

Will be taking place in the Spring or Summer terms.

PE:

Our PE session will take place on Tuesday afternoon. This term the children will be focusing on Yoga. Please note that for all inside lessons the children will need to wear shorts not tracksuit bottoms. On Wednesdays, the children will be going swimming (as per the previous correspondence).

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. 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 and a waterproof coat. Wellies can be left at school so that they are available every day for your child to use. These should be clearly named. Please also, remember sunhats and sun cream during the warmer weather.
- 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.

Thank you all for the warm welcome I have received here at Kirtlington. I look forward to joining the school community in this wonderful village.

Many thanks,
Sam Protherough

SLT

