



Kirtlington  
C.E. School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone. We hope you had a lovely holiday and have come back refreshed and ready for a new and exciting year.

### 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 Mindset

This term we are continuing to work on and improve the children's growth mindset. Through this we hope to continue to improve the children's learning by fostering a positive attitude to learning.

### Curriculum

Our new topic for this term is called, 'The Memory Box'. It is a history based topic looking at changes within the children's living memory. We will be asking them what they can remember about being a baby/toddler. What helps us to remember? Do they recall or still have a favourite toy, maybe a teddy bear or a favourite book? How have we changed over the last 4-5 years?

### RE

In RE this term we will be finding out about what makes us special and asking the question, Is everybody special? We will also continue with daily collective worship which takes place as a whole school or in our individual classes. We will also be visiting the village church to celebrate Harvest and Christmas.

### English

All the children will have daily phonics lessons and will be taught through the 'Phonics Play' program. This will give them building blocks and confidence in their writing.

We will also be teaching the Year 1 children handwriting using cursive script, which prepares them for joining their letters further up the school.



We will endeavor to read with each child once a week as well as teach whole class reading, through class and group discussion. In these sessions the children will have the opportunity to look at different text types, clarify unfamiliar words/content, make connections and verbalise what has been read and understood.

The year 1 children have been assessed in reading and, under adult supervision, will be allowed to choose a book from the colour band appropriate to their individual ability. Likewise, the reception children have been given books appropriate to their level of reading to bring home and share with you. For the first term this might be books with no words: this allows your child to talk about the story, the characters and events happening in the book. As well as reading **with** your child daily it is equally as important to read **to** your child, in order to harness a rich knowledge of books and story. Please remember to fill in your child's reading diary each time you read with them at home as this earns them house points. We will monitor these books frequently but will not necessarily sign them as we keep our own reading records.

This term we will be looking at recounts, diary writing, rhymes and mnemonics, descriptions and information text, as well as story.

## **Maths**

Maths is taught daily during the morning. The children will work together as a whole class as well as in groups and may work both inside and outside the classroom. Throughout the term the Year 1 children will cover many topics in maths: number and place value, addition and subtraction, shape, space, and measure. Maths for the reception children will be planned using the 'Numbers and Patterns' Early Years document. Remember to keep counting (up and back) with your children, identifying numbers and shapes in the environment and keep playing those board games, ie snakes and ladders, the snail race, dominoes, number snap etc.

## **Homework**

Homework for the Year 1 children will be available on the school website every Friday. Please let us know if you require a paper copy. Homework books will be given out on Friday and therefore need to be back in school completed by the following Friday. Please could reception parents read with your child at home, a short session each day does make a difference to their confidence (remember it can be 'read with' or 'read to').

## **Weekly Routines:**

### **PE**

Rowan Class will be doing Yoga on a Tuesday afternoon. Please note that for all inside lessons the children will need to wear shorts and a red school PE top and bare feet. However, for outside lessons the children will need trainers, tracksuit bottoms, a red PE top and a warm jumper. Please make sure that ALL items of clothing are named and in a PE bag in school every day.

## **Outdoor Learning**



Outdoor leaning may take place at any time during the week. On Wednesdays Year 1 will have Forest School for this term and will require their forest school kit. Please can you make sure your child has wellington boots and waterproofs in school at all times as sometimes we will be out in wet weather.

## **Morning/Evening Routine**

The school gate will be unlocked at 8.35 every morning. The children are expected to walk sensibly to the classroom with their parents who will be greeted by a member of Rowan Class staff where they can hand over their children and pass any messages to the class teacher. However for this term the parents of the reception children are welcome to walk around to the Rowan Class outside door to help settle their children and if necessary speak to the teacher. When they feel that their children are ready please feel free to drop off at Rowan Class gate. If there are any changes to the child's routine at the end of the day please contact the office and they will pass a message onto us.

## **Making Contact**

Should you need to contact us about any matters arising, please speak to the office staff in the morning or send an email to the school office and they will then pass the message on to us when time allows.

## **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 or cherry tomatoes included in lunch boxes are cut in half to help prevent choking.
- Water Bottles – please make sure children have a named 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).
- 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 diarrhea.
- 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 – make sure that your child is prepared for outdoor play by providing wellies which can be left at school to use when necessary. These should be clearly named.
- Trainers – Children will also need a pair of trainers left in school if they want to access the climbing equipment during morning and lunchtime play.
- Tissues – Rowan Class would be very grateful for any donations of boxes of tissues to help us in dealing with winter snuffles!

With very many thanks, and looking forward to working with you all during the coming year.

Mrs Saville and Mrs Orme

