



Kirtlington
C.E. School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a lovely summer break and are all looking forward to a new and exciting year. We have started the term with a visit from a local author, Haydn Middleton. Following his visit the children have completed some descriptive writing which is on display in the hall. Please take time to look at our first piece of writing for this 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 Mind Set

This term we are continuing to work on improving the 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 the term will be 'Predators'. We will learn what all animals need to survive and how they are adapted for their environment. We will also be finding out about food chains, about plants and humans.

We are starting the topic with a memorable experience and are planning a class visit to 'Crocodiles of the World' in Carterton, on Wednesday 10 October. More details will follow shortly.

English

All the children will have daily spelling/phonic lessons. Each child will have a reciprocal reading /reading comprehension session once a week, with the teacher and other children and books appropriate to their level of reading. In Willow Class the children take responsibility for changing their own books to reflect their reading ability. We will continue to remind the children of this process but please feel free to come into class at the end of the day to change their books. However, please ensure that your child has read the book at least three times (if they are a year two) as the first read is often mainly decoding and subsequent reads then support their comprehension and understanding of the book. 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 ask at the office for a volunteer form.

This term in writing we will be looking at non-chronological reports, instruction writing, poetry, story writing and writing for different purposes.

Maths

Maths is taught daily during the morning. The children will work in groups and may work both inside and outside the classroom. Children in Willow Class will continue to learn their times tables this term. Children in year two should know their two, ten and five times table by the end of the year. Children in year three should know their four, eight and three times tables. Please help your children to practise the appropriate time tables they are working on each week (the children will know their individual times table target). When they have instant recall, they will be moved onto the next times table.

Homework

Normally 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 spelling lists which will be given out each week to be learnt for a test the following week.

Weekly Routines

PE:

Our PE sessions will take place on Monday afternoons and Friday afternoons. This term the children will be learning dance and ball skills. 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.

Outdoor Learning/Forest Schools:

Outdoor learning may take place at any time during the week. We will always try to advise you in advance of trips into the forest which may require forest school kit. Please can you make sure your child has wellington boots and a waterproof in school at all times as sometimes we will be out in wet weather.

Morning/Evening Routine:

In the morning the school gates will be open at 8.35am and the children will go straight into class, via Beech 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 Beech Class so that parents can pick them up by the pond area. Children have been told that they should stay with the class teacher until their parent or carer/child minder actually 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 very 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 – Willow 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 in the past.

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

Pat Vincent

