



Kirtlington
C.E. School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back for the last full term of what has been an amazing year! The sun is beginning to come out from behind the clouds and the evenings are drawing out. And here in Oak class, The Mighty Oaks are raring for another action and fun packed term.

Values

This term the school value we are focusing on is Individuality and the related Christian value is Respect. 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

Last term had some amazing learning opportunities, as seen when you visited for our WOW! day. In addition to all our learning about plants, we also delved back into the middle-ages to look at life on the 14th Century.

This term, we are exploring *Darwin's Delights* – a science-based topic focussing on Charles Darwin.

As Scientists we will be studying: Evolution and inheritance; living things and their habitats, Working scientifically.

As creative artists and designers we will be: Creating sketchbooks; observational drawing.

As computing scientists we will: Research safely online; morph animations and unravel the mysteries of computer networks.

As geographers we will: explore the world using maps; compare geographical differences and similarities; find out about the islands of the world.

As historians we will be studying significant individuals: Charles Darwin and Mary Anning.

English

As Writers we will keep diaries, writing letters, creating information texts and writing newspaper reports – these will be related to topic.

We have started our purposeful writing by exploring the history and traditions of May Day. Year 4 and 5 have been writing explanation texts to explain how it is celebrated in different cultures and



Year 6 have gone one step further by discussing the question: Should we celebrate May Day in a Church of England School?

As actors and playwrights we will be exploring the rich world of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. We have already started by writing haikus and incorporating them with artwork that depicts the great storm (or Tempest if you will), that occurs at the start of the play

The new (or not so new, now) spellings have been going well, with a lot of the children scoring well on their Friday tests, but please remember to keep them in your book bags for use in school. Also, I remind you that if your child runs out of space, then they can continue to practice on the back. In-school sessions will take place every day, providing a range of activities for the children to work through. Spelling test on a Friday, will be continued - 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 – in Holly class. On Tuesday and Wednesday mornings the year 6 children have a small group session with Mr Protherough, focussing on gaps in learning (this will change after SATs when I will work with Year 4 or 5 in these sessions).

As was the case in the second half of last term, we are lucky to have our Maths coordinator – Mrs Saville – working with the class on Tuesday mornings. The children will be problem solving.

We will be sending home designated x-table practise throughout the year, followed by in class x-table challenges. Also, we are grateful for all the positive feedback in regards to the Mathematics Home Learning – tasks will continue to be available to the children in correlation with the in-class learning.

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 on a Wednesday for Years 4 and 5. Don't worry Year 6 we will make up for it in the Summer... So children please ensure that you have your required clothing and footwear. Sometimes, the children in Year 6 will have the opportunity to participate on a Wednesday. On these occasions, the children will be informed the day before.

PE:

Our PE session will take place on Monday afternoon with Mr Protherough. In addition to this, Yoga will continue on Tuesday afternoons (after strings). Please note that for all inside lessons the children will need to wear shorts not tracksuit bottoms.

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.

Kind Regards

Sam Protherough

SLT

