



Kirtlington  
C.E. School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Summer Term, please take a moment to read through the Rowan class Summer Term letter.

## 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 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, 'Bright Lights, Big City'. It is a Geography based topic that explores countries and capital cities of the UK with a focus on London and the Great Fire of London. We will be looking at maps and London landmarks, as well as comparing London to where we live.

## RE

In RE this term we will be asking the big question, 'What is the good news Jesus brings?' We will discuss friendship, forgiveness and peace, and will relate this to stories told in the bible and how Christians put these beliefs into practice in the church community. We will also continue with our daily collective worship, which takes place, either as a whole school or as an individual class.

## 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 reading and writing. Some of the Phonics Play phase 3, 4 and 5 games can be accessed online, from home at [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk).



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.

Please remember to read with your child as often as possible in order to continue their progression in reading. Please fill in your child's reading diary each time you read with them at home as this earns them house points, this could even be library books or books from home. We will monitor their reading diaries frequently but will not necessarily sign them as we keep our own reading records.

## **Maths**

In Year 1, 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: multiplication and division, fractions, position and direction, money and time. In Reception, maths will be planned using the 'Numbers and Patterns' Early Years document and taught daily through a short adult-led activity. The children will have maths activities available throughout the week as part of their continuous provision. Remember to keep counting on and back with your children, identifying numbers and shapes in the environment and keep playing board games such as 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 and a paper copy will also be stuck in their books. Homework books will be given out on Friday and therefore need to be back in school completed by the following Thursday. 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**

PE takes place on a Wednesday and Friday 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 learning will take place on Friday mornings 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. It is advisable to bring in Forest School kit on a Monday as we may do outdoor learning on an alternate day if necessary.

## 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. 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 Headteacher or School Business Manager in the morning or send an email to the school office and they will then pass the message on to us when time allows. If your contact details have changed, please inform the office.

## 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 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!
- School Uniform – please ensure all uniform is clearly labelled, particularly school jumpers.
- Warmer Weather – please ensure your child brings an appropriate sun hat to school (red if possible) and that sun cream is applied **before** coming to school.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Grocutt and Mrs Saville.





Headteacher: Louise Williams



Chair of Governors: Sara Carey



School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

