



Kirtlington
C.E. School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a restful Christmas break. After so many amazing learning experiences last term, we are very excited about our new topic. It will take us by plane, boat and tank to 1939 and the outbreak of War!

Values

This term the school value we are focusing on is Resilience and the related Christian value is Courage. 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 spring 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

As last term we had a greater focus on Misty mountains – science and geography, this term our main area of study will be on developing History skills.

English

Last term delivered some amazing examples of creative writing and non-fiction texts – my favourite being the Yeti tales. Now, we will continue to develop our understanding of the English language and how we can influence, interest and excite the reader. This term will see the children writing stories from another culture and information/persuasive texts.

Spellings continue to go out on a Friday – please keep them in your book bags so we can refer to them in class. 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 twenty 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. Reading skills are taught through comprehension activities and our Reciprocal Reading Scheme, where the children read a text and then complete a variety activities and questions to enable them to develop a deeper understanding. It is still very important that the children read at home,



Headteacher: Louise Williams

Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford

School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

and vital that it is their levelled-school-scheme book that they are reading, this will ensure that the children are being challenged and exposed to age-appropriate reading material.

Maths

Maths is taught daily each morning – following the White Rose scheme of learning that focuses on developing concrete knowledge before abstract problem solving. For each session there is a differentiated approach in both the input (teacher lead delivery) and the independent learning activities (tasks). We 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.

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 Mathletics Home Learning – tasks will continue to be available to the children in correlation with the in-class learning. Please can you take special care to practise x-tables in year 4, as there is a national test in June (more information to follow on this). Specific x-table home learning will be provided for year four from January.

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 Thursday 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. In addition to the expectation for reading and spelling practice, please refer to the home learning policy on the school website:

Year 4: One longer task alternating between Topic, English and maths; x-table home learning.

Year 5/6: 2 longer tasks each week.

Year 6: Specific revision-based task for SATS.

Weekly Routines

PE:

Our PE session will take place on Friday afternoon with Mr Protherough. In addition to this, Games (Badminton) will continue, on Tuesday afternoons. Please note that for all inside lessons the children will need to wear shorts not tracksuit bottoms and indoor plimsols.

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 end of the day. After school, we will be available and on the playground from 3.00 – 3.15.

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.
- It is now a school policy that children wear trainers when playing on the playground at break and lunch and wear wellington boots when on the field. Please ensure that they are in school every day.

Many thanks,



Sam Protherough

Oak class teacher



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