



Kirtlington
C.E. School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and are ready for another exciting term.

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 Mindset

We continue to encourage the children to develop and use their growth mindsets. Evidence of this is celebrated during class and through our learning certificates.

Curriculum

Our new topic for this term is called, 'Superheroes'

KERPOW! Intergalactic greetings young heroes. It's time to rescue the planet from evil villains!

Who's your favourite superhero? Spider-Man? Wonder Woman? Maybe your heroes are ordinary people who've achieved great things. Or it is those people who save lives in our emergency services that you admire most?

Superheroes have super sense. Use yours to identify mystery items by their smells, tastes, sound and touch. What do true superheroes eat to keep their senses and special powers sharp?

Can we stop the dastardly plans of professor slime? He's dropping his villainous instructions around town. We must stop people following them, but can we make it in time?

Is that phone box free? Please excuse me...I have to save the world! ZAP! WHIZZ! ZOOOOM!



RE

In RE this term we will be asking the big questions, 'Who made the world?' and 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?' We will discuss how and why people choose to belong to groups and religions and the difference that makes to our lives. We will continue with our daily collective worship, which takes place either as a school or as class worship.

English

All the children will continue to 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 2, 3, 4 and 5 games can be accessed online, from home at www.phonicsplay.co.uk.

We will continue to teach the Year 1 children handwriting using cursive script, which prepares them for joining their letters further up the school.

As writers we continue to develop our understanding of story genres and non-fiction texts. Linking to our topic (Superheroes), we will be creating a comic strip and writing our own superhero story. We will also be completing some non-fiction writing based on a real life 'superhero'.

In addition to teaching reading through phonics, 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

Maths is taught daily in the morning using the White Rose scheme of learning. In Year 1 children will cover the following areas throughout the term: addition and subtraction, place value, and measurement, including length, height, weight and volume.

In Reception, children will be exploring numbers 6-10 in depth, including one more/less and number bonds. We will also focus on comparing and combining groups of objects and 2D and 3D shape, with regular practice in counting on and back.

Home Learning

Home learning is now given for both year groups, Reception home learning will consist of enjoyable, practical activities. It is recommended that Reception children read for five minutes daily and revise their tricky words. Year 1 homework topics will alternate between maths, English and topic focused activities and it is recommended that Year 1 children read for ten minutes daily



and complete their spellings. Home learning for both year groups will be available on the school website every Friday and a paper copy will also be stuck in Year 1 books and sent home for Reception children. Home learning books will be given out on Friday and therefore need to be back in school completed by the following Thursday.

Weekly Routines:

PE

PE now takes place on a Monday and Thursday afternoon. Please note that for all indoor lessons the children will need to wear shorts, a red school PE top and pumps (indoor only trainers can be worn but pumps are preferable). For outdoor 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 and Forest School will begin later-on in the term, we will inform you of these dates.

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. If someone new is picking your child up, a password will be required.

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. We will be available at the end of the day from 3-3.15pm.

Parents Evening

Confirmation of Reception and Year 1 parents evening will be given in the school newsletter.



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.

Thank you for your continued support, I look forward to another exciting term with the Rowan Class superheroes!

Miss Grocutt and Mrs Saville.

