



Kirtlington
C.E. School

Kirtlington C E School
Heyford Road
Kirtlington
Oxon OX5 3HL
Telephone (01869) 350210

E-mail: office.3500@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk
Website: www.kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a lovely Christmas and are ready for an exciting new year. We have started the term with a visit to the local shop to look at the type of food that is sold and to consider where it comes from. We hope to visit a larger supermarket later in the 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 Mind Set

This term we are continuing to work on and improve the children's growth mind set. Through this we hope to continue to improve the children's learning by fostering a positive attitude to learning.

Curriculum

Our topic this term is 'Scrumdiddlyumptious' and the children will be learning to write recipes, create adverts and write reports about food. They will also learn where food comes from and what we should and shouldn't eat! We will be sketching food and learning to make their own smoothie recipes.

English

All the children will have daily spelling/phonic lessons. Reading skills are taught through 'Reciprocal Reading' where the children learn to understand (clarify) a text, make connections to other texts, predict what might happen next, visualize scenes from the book, summarise the book or parts of it and answer questions on the text. They will work with the teacher and other children and use books appropriate to their level of reading.

In Willow Class the children have been assessed for the book band scheme and have all been issued with an appropriate reading books and a reading record book. Please listen to your child read and record in the reading record how much they read and how they got on. This earns the children house points when the reading record books are collected in each week to assess how they are getting on at home.

So please feel free to make comments or queries in the book.

We will endeavour to change your children's book at least once a week but they can ask to change them more frequently if they are reading frequently and are ready to move on.



However, please ensure that your child has read the book at least three times (if they are a Year 2) as the first read is often mainly decoding and subsequent reads then support their comprehension and understanding of the book.

Please listen to your child read at home. A short session of 10 minutes each day for year 2 and 20 minutes a day for year 3 does make a difference to their confidence, fluency and understanding. *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.

This term in writing we will be looking at instructions, recipes, adverts, report writing and nonsense poems.

Maths

Maths is taught daily during the morning and the children will work in groups. This term we will start with work division and will move onto fractions and statistics. Please could you help your child to learn to tell the time at home. Year twos need to learn O'clock, half past and quarter to and quarter past. Year 3s need to learn the time to 5 minute intervals. We encourage the wearing of analogue watches not digital.

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 Thursday so that it can be marked and time can be found towards the end of the week for sharing of tasks when appropriate. Children will have a home learning task that alternates weekly between Maths and English/Topic. The year 3s task will be slightly longer and they will also need to be learning their times tables for a weekly times tables test. 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, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. The children learn PE from our new PE scheme of work, 'Real PE', which aims to create positive relationships with physical activity for life. Please note that for all inside lessons the children will need to wear red T shirts and black coloured shorts *not tracksuit bottoms and indoor plimsols*. Please ensure that ALL items of clothing are named. Please be aware that no jewellery is allowed to be worn for PE so the children need to be able to remove earrings in order to participate.

Outdoor Learning/Forest Schools:

This term Willow Class will be having some Forest School sessions. The dates are;

Session 1: Thursday 6th Feb

Session 2: Thursday 13th Feb

(Break for Half Term)

Session 3: Thursday 27th Feb



Session 4: Thursday 5th Mar

Session 5: Thursday 12th Mar

If the dates have to change, we will advise you as soon as possible.

Please can you make sure your child has wellington boots and a waterproof in school at all times as sometimes we may be out in wet weather for outdoor learning.

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. 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 from Beech Class. Children will wait in Beech classroom until their parent or carer/child minder actually picks them up from the classroom.

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.

We will be available at the end of the day on the playground from 3pm to 3.15pm.

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 particularly if the children want to keep the water bottle on their table.
- 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 – 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 – 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.
- School Uniform – please ensure ALL uniform is clearly labelled, particularly school jumpers.

With, very many thanks, and looking forward to working with you this year.

Pat Vincent



Headteacher: Louise Williams



Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford



School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu





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