



Kirtlington  
C.E. School

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**Dear Parents and Carers,**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

It has been amazing to see the return of the mighty Oaks! Some now seem to have grown ever-higher into the blue skies over Kirtlington. I hope that your summers have been restful and in good health, leaving you and the children raring to get back to school.

There will obviously have to be some changes to our school practises and procedures to create a safe new, 'normal,' school routine.

### **Arrival**

Children in Oak Class will be asked to arrive at school at 8.35am. Please could the children be dropped off and picked up by one parent only. The children will enter via the main gates, with their parent, and will line up on painted footsteps, 2 metres apart from each other, in the school car parking area. The children will then move through the gates to stand on balloons within the school grounds, whilst parents depart via the EXIT which is the side gate onto the road. Adults will not be able to accompany children into school. Class teachers and TAs will be at the gates to welcome the children and to accompany them around the school to Beech Class entrance where they will wash their hands as they enter school. Please do not wait on the pavement before or after collecting your child as it causes others passing by to step into the road to maintain social distancing.

### **Classroom**

Children will need to bring a waterproof coat, indoor shoes, a water bottle and a packed lunch. Please do not bring anything else or any extra bags particularly large backpacks as we will not be using the cloakroom so children will have to put their coat on the back of their chair and their lunchbox on or under their table. Children will have separate desks, which will be cleaned frequently throughout the day, with individual trays containing their books and their own 'pencil case' providing specific items that they may need during the day such as pencils, sharpeners, rubbers, whiteboards and rulers.

### **Playtimes and Lunch**

The school will be staggering playtimes so that each class is outside at different times. Oak Class will have their morning playtime at 10.30am until 10.45am and the children will wash their hands before going out to play and on their return into the school buildings. Playtime will be organised, socially distanced games led by the teachers and TAs and any equipment used will be cleaned before and after use.



Headteacher: Louise Williams

Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford

School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

Oak Class will play outside in two groups between 12.00 and 12.30pm. Then the children will have lunch at their desks between 12.30 and 1.00pm. The children will wash their hands before and after eating and upon re-entry after play. Their desks will be cleaned before and after eating.

### Departure

Oak Class will finish school at 3.00pm. Having washed their hands before leaving, the children will be waiting on socially distanced balloons next to the school gates by the side entrance onto the road. Parents are asked to enter school via the main gates and wait on the footsteps in the school car park. As children and parents are matched up could parents please come into the school grounds and around the gates, to join their child in departing via the EXIT which is the side gate leading onto the road. This will help people to flow and socially distance more easily. Please do not wait on the pavement as families departing will need to walk past you.

### Values

This term the school value we are focusing on is **aspiration** and the related Christian value is **hope**. Please remember our school motto – **Aspire and Achieve Altogether**.

### Well-being

Despite the essential change of procedures in school, it is our intention to, as much as possible, provide a normal school routine, reduce anxiety and support the children with any worries and concerns. Therefore, we will be using the new statutory PSHE Association Programme of Study starting with the theme, 'Relationships', specifically: Families and Friendships; Safe Relationships; Respecting ourselves and others.

There will be a greater emphasis on PSHE and well-being activities at the beginning of term and weekly throughout the year. We believe children need to be happy and confident to learn well.

### Catch up

Some children may have missed some aspects of the curriculum during lockdown and may be a little worried about returning to school learning. Therefore, at the beginning of term we will be assessing gaps and addressing some of the missed topics first. In Science that means we will be learning about the properties of materials, as this was not covered in school or online, last academic year.

### Growth Mind Set

This year 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

Let's travel back 5000 years, to the dusty realms of ancient Egypt. Cruise along the Nile, entering a world of mysteries and curses, mummies and kings. Find out about life on the river's fertile banks, discovering Egypt and its fascinating culture. Unravel the secrets of ancient tombs, using historical sources and ancient artefacts. Find out about powerful pharaohs and grandiose gods. Make yourself a nemes and you'll really look the part. Become an apprentice and work for Ramose, the chief embalmer at the Beautiful House. Help him prepare a body for its journey into the afterlife. Now open the doorway to ancient Egypt. Who knows what treasures you will find?



## **Uniform & Indoor/Outdoor Shoes**

In an effort to improve the smartness and presentation of our children we would appreciate your support in helping us enforce the school uniform code as stated in our home/school agreement.

Last year we reviewed our policy regarding indoor and outdoor footwear. For health and safety reasons, the children have to wear trainers on the fort and because it can be muddy, particularly in Autumn and Spring, wellies are needed on the grass. Therefore, all children have to change into outdoor footwear choosing either wellies or trainers, for playtime and dinner time break. They will then only use their school shoes to travel to and from school and when inside school. We will be making every effort to have wellies and trainers located close to the exits to make it easier for the children to change as they come in and out at playtimes.

We are hoping that these changes will help keep our school cleaner and will reduce confusion and we hope you will support us in this matter.

## **English**

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, 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.

In Oak Class the children will be reassessed for the new book band scheme and will be issued with an appropriate new reading book, where possible. Old books will be left for 72 hours before being cleaned and returned to the library. Please listen to your child read the book and ask questions about the story and characters – particularly why a character did something (motive) or how they are portrayed by the author (authorial intention).

Spellings continue to go out on a Friday. 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.

Our writing will be inspired by our topic: Pharaohs. We will be exploring classical tales of Gods and mortals, writing non-chronological Reports and exploring the lives of important rulers – writing biographies.

## **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.

### **Home Learning**

This year we will not be giving out home learning books but home learning will normally be available on Google Classroom every Friday. Please let us know if you require a paper copy. We ask that you complete the home learning by 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. There will also be spelling lists which will be given out, via Google classroom, each week to be learnt for a test the following week. We hope to start home learning and send out reading books next 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.

### **Weekly Routines**

#### **PE:**

We will be having one longer PE session a week which will take place on Tuesday afternoon. On that day, the children should come to school in their PE kit which they will stay in for the whole day. This will avoid the need for children changing clothes in school. The children learn PE from our PE scheme of work, 'Real PE', which aims to create positive relationships with physical activity for life. Whenever possible, PE will take place outside so children will need to wear tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt. The lesson will be as socially distanced as we can make it and any PE equipment used will be cleaned before and after the lesson.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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 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. Obviously in the current climate please do not bring your child to school if they have a temperature, a cough, have lost their sense of smell or have any other symptoms that could be associated with the Corona Virus.
- Hair – please can you ensure that long hair is tied back. This helps ensure children's safety when using climbing equipment etc. and it also curbs the spread of head lice.

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

*Mr Protherough*

**Class Teacher and SLT**



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