



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,

4th September 2020

We hope you had a lovely summer holiday and managed to have a break despite the unusual circumstances. We are delighted to have all the children back in class and are looking forward to providing a safe, supportive, fun and educationally exciting new year.

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 Year 1 will be asked to arrive at school at 8.55am and children in Reception at 9.00am. 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 Rowan Class entrance where they will wash their hands as they enter school.

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 belongings in an allocated cubby hole. Children will be seated in forward facing rows and 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 and whiteboards.

Playtimes and Lunch

The school will be staggering playtimes so that each class is outside at different times. Playtime will be organised, socially distanced games led by the teachers and TAs and any equipment used will be cleaned after use. A morning snack of fruit or vegetables and milk or water will be provided but please send your child with a healthy snack for the afternoon if you think they will need one.

Rowan Class will eat their lunch at their desks between 11.50 and 12.30pm. The children will wash their hands before and after lunch and the desks will be cleaned before and after. Then the children will have playtime outside between 12.30 and 1pm once again washing hands before and after and enjoying organised socially distanced games.



Headteacher: Louise Williams

Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford

School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

Rowan Class will have an afternoon break at 2pm until 2.15pm following the same hand washing and playtime guidelines.

Departure

Year 1 children will finish school at 3.00pm and Reception children will finish at 3:15pm. 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'. 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 and their uses, as this was a topic that was less easy to teach remotely. If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress, missed learning or general confidence, please let me know.

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

Our new topic for this term will be 'Childhood' where, as historians, we will learn about historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses. As artists and designers, we will be learning about the work of historically significant artists both local and international such as William Turner, Vincent Van Gogh, Picasso and Joan Miro. As scientists, we will be looking at the properties and uses of everyday materials.



A curriculum information evening for Reception parents will be held before half term, details of this will be sent out shortly.

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 on Rowan Class play equipment 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

All the children will have daily phonics lessons. Children will also have a teacher led reading session once a week and books appropriate to their level of reading will be used. This reading session will be concentrating on the technique known as '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.

In Rowan Class, Year 1 children will be assessed for the new book band scheme and will be issued with an appropriate new reading book every week where possible. Reception children will be sent a book matched to their phonic ability and a selection of high frequency words to practise. Old books will be left for 72 hours before being cleaned and returned to the library. Please listen to your child read the book, rereading the book two or three times to help your child develop fluency and understanding.

Please keep reading with and to your child at home, a short session of 10 to 15 minutes each day 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, Reception children will continue mark-making and begin to form letters. We will then look at using our phonic knowledge to write simple words. In Year 1, we will be creating our own picture books inspired by the text, 'Grandad's Island'. For non-fiction, we will be looking at toys and games in the past.

Maths



Maths is taught daily during the morning. This term in Year 1, we will start with work on place value within ten and addition and subtraction within ten. In Reception, we will explore matching, sorting and comparing amounts, as well as comparing size, mass, capacity and exploring pattern.

Homework

This year we will not be giving out homework books but homework will normally be available for Year 1 children on Google Classroom every Friday. Please let us know if you require a paper copy. We ask that you complete the homework 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.

Information will be sent out to Reception parents shortly regarding the use of Tapestry, our online Learning Journey system and any short tasks we wish you to complete with your child at home.

Weekly Routines

PE:

We will be having one longer PE session a week which will take place on Thursday 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.

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.

Miss Grocutt

Class Teacher



Headteacher: Louise Williams



Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford



School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

