



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 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 Willow Class will be asked to arrive at school at 8.45am. 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.

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. Willow 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.

Willow Class will eat their lunch at their desks between 12.00 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. Willow Class will have an afternoon break at 2pm until 2.10pm following the same hand washing and playtime guidelines.

Departure

Willow Class will finish school at 3.05pm. 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 including rocks for year 3. This was a topic that was less easy to teach remotely. Year 2 children were unable to sit the year 1 phonics assessment and therefore we will be revising year 1 phonics work with them ready for a belated phonics assessment at the beginning of November. In Maths the children followed the White Rose Hub home learning which completed the year's work. Therefore, we will continue the White Rose Hub plans whilst keeping aware that some children may need extra support with some aspects. 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 'Movers and Shakers' where, as historians, we will be looking at what is a significant historical individual. We will then look at famous explorers such as Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong and social activists such as Rosa Parks and Emmeline Pankhurst. In the current circumstances we are not able to arrange a class visit but



instead we will be looking at local historically significant individuals such as Winston Churchill, Stephen Hawking, CS Lewis and William Shakespeare. 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 and rocks.

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

All the children will have daily spelling/phonic lessons. Each child will 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 Willow Class the children will be reassessed for the new book band scheme and will be issued with an appropriate new reading book every week 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 rereading the book two or three times to help your child develop fluency and understanding.

Please keep reading with 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 we will be looking at information writing and biographies which links in with our topic on 'Movers and Shakers' and adventure stories.

Maths

Maths is taught daily during the morning. This term we will start with work on place value and addition and subtraction and towards the end of the term we will start multiplication and division. There will also be some work on shapes, measurement and time.



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

This year we will not be giving out homework books but homework 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 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. 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 homework and send out reading books next Friday.

Weekly Routines

PE:

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

Outdoor Learning

This term Willow Class will be having outdoor learning on a Friday morning between 11am and 12 noon. Please can you make sure your child has wellington boots in school and brings waterproof clothing with them on Fridays.

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.

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.

Pat Vincent

Class Teacher



Headteacher: Louise Williams



Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford



School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

