



Kirtlington  
C.E. School

**Kirtlington C E School**  
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School value: Friendship  
Christian value: Love

20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents,

There are some school events that are very special to us and celebrating Remembrance day is one of those. Sadly, we were unable to celebrate in the usual way this year with visitors to school and being together for a whole school assembly, but we all participated in a two-minute silence. In class, the children have completed some wonderful work about Remembrance and I would like to thank the school council chair and vice chair, Lucy and Isabelle, for representing the school so well last week when they laid a wreath on behalf of the school.

### News from the classes

Rowan Class

We have all settled in well after our half term break. Last week was particularly exciting as we had a special delivery from the museum, it was full of toys and artefacts from the 1950s and we really enjoyed exploring them.

The children have really enjoyed our new story, Jack and the Beanstalk. We have made a story map to help us learn the story by heart. Year 1 are becoming experts in numbers bonds and Reception children have enjoyed exploring the numbers 1, 2 and 3 accompanied by the Numberblocks videos.



Headteacher: Louise Williams

Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford

School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

## Willow Class

Willow class have been enjoying Forest school each week this term. They have had the opportunity to use the new mud kitchen, make 'crab apple' pumpkins, and use leaves to create poppies for Remembrance Day. The children have also had the opportunity to make sling shots but they still need a bit more work to make them work really well! Last week, they showed fantastic creativity when they were asked to make a piece of art work linked to bonfire night.



## Oak Class

This term has been fantastic! We have written some really emotive poetry - thinking about the harvest that we have missed and then Remembrance. Celebrating and paying respect to those that have fought for us was really important, even in lockdown. We all went out and had our silence and then hung the poppies we had made on the railings, at the front of the school. We made a film of Oak class doing it that will go on the website. In other learning, we have been really enjoying our topic: Pharaohs! Over the last couple of weeks, we have been exploring the afterlife and the process of mummification. Year 4 have been writing some instructions on how to mummify; Year 5 have been writing persuasive texts encouraging ancient Egyptians to get mummified and finally Year 6 are writing discussion texts on the pros and cons of mummification.

## School Ambassadors

Congratulations to the following children who have been successfully voted onto the following councils:

**School Council:** Year 5 – Finley  
Year 4 - Adam

**Eco Council:** Year 5 – James  
Year 4 - Ethan M

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the following children for achieving a school value or successful learner certificate:

Oak class- Isabelle, James and Jack

Willow class- Hollie and George

Rowan class- Aaron and Bertie



## Dates for your diary

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of term collection times:

Oak class	- 1.15pm
Willow class	- 1.20pm
Rowan Y1	- 1.30pm
R	- 1.40pm

## Free School meals

Should your circumstances change over the next few weeks or months, please see this link for further support. <http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/free-school-meals>

Citizens Advice can allocate supermarket vouchers to eligible families. The maximum value is **£250 per family**. Cherwell District Council has financed this scheme using the 'DEFRA Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies'

To be eligible, the person requesting a **Covid-19 Hardship Grant** must be:

- a resident in Cherwell district and over the age of 18
- struggling to afford food or essential supplies due to the current Covid-19 situation.

A Citizens Advice advisor will talk to the person requesting the **Covid-19 Hardship Grant** about their benefits /finances and see if there is any way to improve their financial situation or if they have other advice needs. Unless an immediate solution is found to resolve the hardship, the client may be sent a voucher.

If you know of families that are in need of **immediate relief** and struggling to afford food or other essential supplies due to the Covid-19 situation, please put them in touch with Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire:

Banbury - 01295 221448

Bicester - 01869 321806

Kidlington - 01865 955919

## Breakfast club leader vacancy

Please speak to Mrs Pangu, our school business manager, if you would like more information regarding this role.

## After School clubs

In line with our risk assessment, we are sorry to have to temporarily postpone the start of our after-school clubs.

	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>
Sports Club	Tuesday	3-5pm
Sports Club	Wednesday	3-5pm
Art club	Thursday	3-4.15pm (online club)

## Morning snacks

Please remember to provide your child with a **healthy snack/ fruit** for morning break. Sadly, we are seeing an increase in crisps, biscuits and chocolate and this is not part of the school policy.

Children in reception and key stage 1 will be provided with a piece of fruit but you are welcome to provide them with extra fruit or a healthy snack from home if you wish.

## Church Team

Thank you to the church team for continuing to provide us with wonderful virtual collective worships this term. We are grateful to the team for supporting us all during this time.



## Kirtlington School Friends

KSF are now organising a **Grand Auction** as their main fundraising event this Christmas due to current restrictions. They would be very grateful for any gifts or experiences which you may be able to donate for this auction and can be contacted at [KirtKSFgroup@gmail.com](mailto:KirtKSFgroup@gmail.com). Thank you.

## Applying to start primary school for the first time.

Children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 (inclusive) need to apply for a primary school place for their children.

How to apply:

From 1 November 2020 you can apply online for a primary or infant school place.

If you cannot apply online, you can request a paper application form from schools, nurseries and from the School Admissions Team.

The deadline for receipt of completed school applications is 15 January 2021

If your application is late, it will be processed later in the year, and you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/starting-school/infant-and-primary-school>

Wishing you a safe weekend,

*Miss Williams and the team*

## Support for mental health

In these uncertain times, if you feel you may need some additional support or your children do, a 24/7 mental health helpline has been launched in Oxfordshire. This round-the-clock helpline makes it easier and quicker to get the right advice you might need for your own or others mental health. This service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and temporarily takes pressure off 111 for people who need mental health care when their situation is not life threatening. The phone numbers and further information can be found at

<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/news/24-7-mental-health-helpline-replaces-111-in-oxfordshire-and-buckinghamshire/>

## Further support is available at:

Young Minds <http://www.youngminds.org.uk> - Information on child and adolescent mental health. Services for parents and professionals. Phone: Parents helpline 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm).

**ChildLine** is a free, private and confidential service where you can talk about anything. You can get help and advice about a wide range of issues and talk to a counsellor online or on the phone from 9am – midnight. Helpline 0800 1111.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline/>



For information and support for parents/carers on keeping children safe and developing their understanding of respectful online relationships amid increased online activity, visit the following websites:

- [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#)
- [Internetmatters.org](#)
- [Kidscape](#)
- [National Bullying Helpline](#)
- [NSPCC](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

For young people on keeping safe amid increased online activity, visit the following websites:

- [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#)
- [CEOP Thinkuknow](#)
- [Childline](#)
- [Kidscape](#)
- UK Safer Internet Centre [3-11yrs](#)

### **Safeguarding**

If you have urgent concerns about a child, please call 999. For other concerns, please contact the MASH team on 0345 050 7666

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/information-providers/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub>

