



Kirtlington
C.E. School

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School value: Friendship
Christian value: Love

11th December 2020

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of term, we would like to thank you all for your support in following our protective measures and keeping our school as safe as we can this term. This time last year, we were singing our hearts out practising for the Big Sing in Oxford, some background scenery was being painted and our wonderful KSF team were busy putting up the tree in the hall and preparing for the Christmas Bazaar. I will certainly miss the school carol service this year, the applause at the end of the nativity and the odd mince pie (or two!) at the KSF Christmas Bazaar. These are just some of the things that make our school a truly special place to be and whilst things may be a little different this year, we will look forward to them even more next year!

News from the classes

We are delighted to reveal some work that was mentioned in the previous newsletter on Remembrance day. Please go to the school website, select the links tab and then select videos on the school links list. The password for these videos will be sent with the email for this newsletter. Please remember this is for your own personal use only and should not be shared. To comply with GDPR requirements we can confirm that the lawful basis for making and sharing these videos are that they comply with the elements of legitimate interest.

We hope to be able to share a Christmas surprise from each class before the end of term.

Rowan Class

Rowan Class have had another busy week. (I can see a pattern forming!) The reception children have been working hard on their nativity, their singing is wonderful and they are doing so well remembering their lines. We can't wait for you to see the finished product.

We hope to video the nativity next week and send it out for your viewing. Due to Covid restrictions we are supplying all costumes and props within school so there is no need for anything to be brought in from home. Thank you for your kind offers.

Year 1 children have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes and have been busy writing letters to the giant at the top of the beanstalk. They have also enjoyed doing some programming using the BeeBots.
Miss Grocutt.

Willow Class

As part of their topic, 'Movers and Shakers,' Willow Class have been looking at some historically important people. In Art they have looked at the work and influence of the artist Joan Miro. They have produced some fantastic artwork, such as magical realism pictures, where a normal landscape has some dreamlike objects in it eg a farm yard with unusual objects such as a piano or a stair case with a table and vase on top. They also learnt about surrealism and printing, using every-day objects to create some lovely surrealist illustrations for an artist's book on the alphabet. Mrs Vincent.



Headteacher: Louise Williams

Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford

School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

Oak Class

For our topic on Pharaohs, we have been learning about their language - hieroglyphics! We can now read and write our own messages. We used these skills to create a special charm/spell for our journey to the afterlife; this came after learning about the Egyptian Book of the Dead. We then created our own amulets to store the charms in.

Last Friday, we went for an amazing winter wellbeing walk in the grounds of Kirtlington Park. We then thought about the things in life that make us happy and what we are lucky to have. After talking about this in circle time, we watched collective worship with Paul and Joanna, which introduced us to the Children's Society Christingle appeal.

Mr Protherough

Dates for your diary

Monday 14th December – Winning house group, Diamond, non uniform day

Wednesday 16th December - Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day

- Peter Pan production

Friday 18th December - Last day of term collection times:

Oak class - 1.15pm

Willow class - 1.20pm

Rowan Y1 - 1.30pm

Reception - 1.40pm

Start of term - Tuesday 5th January

Christmas lunch

On Wednesday 16th December, we will be holding our Christmas lunch. To help us to celebrate the event, children can wear a Christmas jumper if they wish in aid of Save the Children. Children can wear their Christmas Jumper instead of their school sweatshirt on this day (all other uniform as normal please). Please do not go out and buy a jumper especially for this event, an old jumper could be decorated just with tinsel.

On this occasion, instead of collecting £2 donations in school, please can we ask you to donate via

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day>

There will be no PE for Oak Class on this day.

Christmas Cards

In line with our risk assessment and safety processes, we are still discouraging children from bringing in extra items from home. However, if your child has already written some Christmas cards these can be brought into school on Monday 14th December ONLY and will be given out on Friday 18th December ONLY. This will allow us to ensure the cards are as safe as possible to distribute.

Class attendance award

Well done to all of the children in Reception Year in Rowan class who scored the highest year group attendance rate for term 2- 99.07%. All of the children will receive house points for their house group as a reward.

Annual Parent survey Attached with this newsletter will be a link to the annual parent survey. The closing date for this will be 8th January 2021. Thank you for taking the time to complete this.



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.

	Day	Time
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.

Christingle candles

We will be sending these home early next week, to be returned 8th January. When you are returning them, please leave them in the box by the main reception area.

We would like to give a special thank you to Joanna Clifford who has donated some resources for the children to make their own Christingle at school this year.



Kirtlington School Friends

We are in the closing hours of our first ever **online auction** which ends at **8.30pm this evening**. It has already raised more than £1500 thanks to the generosity of both donors and bidders. There is a real range of unique items on offer and family and friends can bid via this link https://www.pta-events.co.uk/ksf/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=32360&fbclid=IwAR2lej_X0I25v8NnUtemlEtD9crky_F_gX77A3oktnpF3Oi03YjJNNxJ9nDg#.X9KmuHP7S1v

[Kirtlington School Friends Christmas Auction](https://www.pta-events.co.uk)

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Kirtlington Christmas market is taking place at the Dashwood on Sunday morning from 9am until midday and we will be there selling items to raise money for KSF. We will have lots of Christmas gifts and decorations as well as reindeer food for Christmas Eve.

At the market, on behalf of pre-school and ourselves we will also be selling the last of the whole school tea-towels which we produced. Featuring self portraits of all the children and staff. The tea towels are in colour and will make a great Christmas gift.

Hannah Cole

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>

Community news

Parentalk – Please remember to book for this 6-week parenting course running by zoom, 7.30 – 9.30pm, from Tuesday 26th January by emailing Joanna Clifford on joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com or for more information, please email parenting@standrewsoxford.org.

Latest government response to Covid for the end of term

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school will assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

Thank you again for your continued support and patience as we have dealt with this ever-changing situation.

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas,



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





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