



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](mailto:office.3500@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk)  
**Website:** [www.kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk).

School value: Resilience  
Christian value: Perseverance

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

As our third week of term draws to a close, we have again seen some super work from children in class and at home and would like to thank you for all you are doing to support your children in their learning. We acknowledge how difficult a task this is for you all and we do appreciate the time you are able to spend with your child. We know that some children will work differently at home to in school, and that motivation levels may vary on some days. If you know your child has worked hard enough, please do not worry if they have not completed the whole task. If they were in school, they may not have completed the whole task either. If your child is faced with a learning challenge, encourage them to have a growth mind set, and when this does not solve the challenge, encourage them to use the online teacher support sessions or to leave that question and move onto the next one.

### Staff testing in Primary schools

As from next week, Primary school staff will be part of the lateral flow testing programme, using rapid lateral flow tests to find asymptomatic staff. We will endeavour to contact parents of critical and vulnerable children as soon as possible should we not have enough staff to operate a particular part of the school. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused.

In response to our plea last week, we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers who are critical workers who are able to keep their children at home on a part time basis, so that we can continue to reduce the overall social contact across the school.

### Reading books return

A huge thank you to KSF who have enabled us to buy new reading books this term and we hope some of you are enjoying reading the new books at home. As from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February, we would be grateful if you could return the books in the same named pack. To limit transition as much as possible we suggest the following collection and return times (but making one visit if you have children in different classes):

Class	Return
Rowan Reception	8.2.21 am
Rowan Year 1	8.2.21 pm
Willow	9.2.21 am
Oak	9.2.21 pm

### Reception Year exercise books

We are pleased to say these have now arrived and are able to be collected from the main reception from Monday.



Headteacher: Louise Williams

Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford

School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

## Morning procedures

If you have a message for a class teacher, please use our usual methods for communication by emailing the school office at [office.3500@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3500@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk). If your child is unwell and will not be working online that day, please continue to inform the school office. Whilst we may not currently respond to every email, we are forwarding emails to class teachers when required for their attention. Unfortunately, teachers do not have the capacity to answer extra emails at the moment. The google classroom message function should only be used for children to ask questions about their work.

## Emergency school closures

In the event of bad weather, please listen to BBC radio Oxford, Heart FM and Jack FM for confirmation of any school closures. Every effort will be made to open the school but final decisions will be based upon the health and safety of pupils and staff. Thank you.

## 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>

## School menu

Please be aware that whilst school is only open for a limited number of children at the moment, the kitchen is slightly adjusting the menu options from those showing in ParentPay. This is mainly on Tuesdays and Thursdays when jacket potatoes are offered on Tuesdays and pasta dishes are available on Thursdays.

## Free virtual online safety workshop for parents from 123ICT Wednesday 10th February 2021 8-9pm via Zoom

Join this live webinar workshop to help you as parents or grandparents understand more about the risks young people face online, and what you can do to support them and to help minimise those risks. We also explain how you can get help if your young person encounters issues online.

Lots of great resources and links will be shared during the session. There will be an opportunity at the end to ask questions.

This workshop lasts around an hour and will take place exclusively on Zoom. Because this session is being run single-handedly there will be NO ADMISSION after 8pm. You will be able to join the Zoom session from 7:45pm.

Places are strictly limited. Book your free place via the link at <https://123parents.oxon.in>

## 10 Top Tips Parent Resource

This is a resource that has been sent to schools. We will continue to share any information we receive with you.

Amid the Covid 19 pandemic, supporting the wellbeing of children has never been so important. This resource is designed to offer advice on how parents can safeguard their child/ren's mental health and promote their wellbeing and is available as a document and short video presentation.

The link to both resources is here: <https://ssscpd.co.uk/education/parentsandguardians/child-mental-health-10-tips-for-parents/-/pj==>

## 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](#)

### Church Team

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

You are warmly invited to Parentalk – the Primary Years: a six-week parenting course created by the national charity Care for the Family, running on zoom on Tuesday Evenings next term.

Parenting is a tough job – a rollercoaster ride of joy and fun, anxiety and heartache. Parentalk is an opportunity to reflect, learn and support one another. It's not just for people with problems – we can learn from each other's experiences both in the good times and the hard times.

The course is a mixture of video material and group discussion and is both informative and great fun.

Parentalk – the Teenage Years has been run in three secondary schools in Oxford and over 400 parents have done the course. You can see more information and a short video about the course on the Care for the Family website .

The course is being organized by the Akeman Benefice (local churches) and will be led by Vicky Lavy, a Care for the Family facilitator and local mum with three grown-up boys.

The course will run from 7:30-9:30pm on Tuesdays, starting on 26 January 2021. We plan to run it online, using zoom, due to the Covid restrictions,.

The following dates for the course are 2,9,23 February and 2,9 March - there is no session in half term.

The course fee is £10 per family. A Financial Assistance Fund is available for parents who are in receipt of specific benefits. To book your place please email Joanna Clifford, Children and Families' Coordinator, Akeman Benefice, [joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com](mailto:joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com) - closing date 20th January, 2021.

If you have any questions or would like more information then please do email Vicky at [parenting@standrewsoxford.org](mailto:parenting@standrewsoxford.org)

### Our school community

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our school community who is currently working on the front line and doing such a wonderful job in these very difficult and challenging times. Please let us know if there are any acts of kindness you feel we can support as a school community.



Thank you for your continued support. We really appreciate all the positive feedback this term which is helping to keep us smiling.

Wishing you all a safe weekend,

*Miss Williams and the team*



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