Kirtlington
C.E. School

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School value: Resilience
Christian value: Perseverance

10th February 2021

Dear Parents,

As we near half term, I would like to say a huge congratulations to all the children for working so hard this term but also say a huge congratulations to you as parents who have made all this possible this term. We acknowledge this has been an incredibly challenging time for you all and the team and I have nothing but admiration for the way you have managed to engage with the remote learning structure and content.
We hope you can take some time to recharge over the half term and have a well-deserved break.

Class highlights

Rowan Class

Rowan class children have done some super learning at home and in school this term. The Year 1s have done some fantastic writing about the story of the Magic Paintbrush and the Reception children have been working hard on their persuasive writing about the Gingerbread Man.
The children have really enjoyed their Forest School Friday sessions and have sent in photos of their brilliant ice decorations and creatures using natural resources. We also had great fun taking part in our first Karate lesson and we look forward to the next one.
We have enjoyed learning about beaches in Geography and about the human body in science, taking part in a taste test and a touch test.

Willow Class

This term, Willow Class have been enjoying their topic, “Coast lines” and have worked really hard both in school and at home.
They have learnt about the seven continents of the world, the five oceans and the countries of the UK. They have learnt the geographical skills of using the 8pt compass to give directions and using the keys on a map to help with map reading. They have also looked at human and physical features of the landscape and have learnt about coastal erosion and the damage it does. This included a practical session where they were building sandcastles in a water tray to represent houses on a cliff, simulating waves to knock them down by erosion and using stones as flood defences to prevent this happening. There has been some amazing learning and some fun activities, and all the children should be very proud of themselves.

Oak Class

What an eventful term we have had in Oak Class! There have been so many highlights. After taking a class poll there were a few stand out learning experiences. The most popular parts of our learning have definitely been Mrs Meager's amazing outdoor learning sessions - where we have done everything from building indoor (and outdoor) bases that were inspired by IKEA instructions - to the natural tree decorations and snow sculptures.

The PE sessions have also been great fun, with loads of games and activities to do at home - including some sessions where we learned to work out like a professional sportsperson.
The online Charanga music lessons have been great - showing us about rhythm and tempo, with loads of funny warm ups.
We have all loved taking part in the English sessions, in particular Year 5 created some amazing writing based around an Oliver Twist film.
Finally, our new topic has got us really thinking about the food we eat and how we grow it both locally and nationally.

Friday 12th February
In recognition of the children's hard work this term and following on from the wellbeing theme last week, children can wear clothes that make them happy or clothes that help them to express themselves on Friday.

Kirtlington's 20's Plenty Traffic calming project.
Congratulations to all the children in Oak class who took part in designing a poster for the traffic calming project. This week we received an email from Councillor Yvonne Constance in recognition of the children's work and some of the designs are included at the end of the newsletter;

"Dear Ms Williams

Jean Conway who is the Campaign Leader for the 20's Plenty for Oxfordshire forwarded me the drawings from some of your pupils. I would like to pass on my congratulations to the children who drew such amazing pictures. Can you please reassure them that Oxfordshire County Council are looking at some remedies to help make our roads safer.

Kind regards.
Cllr Yvonne Constance
Cabinet Member for the Environment (including Transport)"

Reading books return Monday 8th February.
Thank you to those parents who have been able to return the reading books in the same named pack. We will be providing new packs after half term and will inform you of the collection times shortly.

Message from Oxfordshire Safeguarding Board
We wish to make you aware of a game currently available that is causing some concern amongst professionals nationwide.

The game is free to download onto any android or Apple device and is called 'Cunch-Line Chronicles'. The games focus is on running your own County Lines 'Cunch' Operation and has been rated Pegi-18.
The full description of the game states: *A light-hearted, satirical take on the darker side of urban UK culture. This is not your usual casual game! Cunch-Line Chronicles is an endless 2D runner game that moves away from the common fantasised, softcore concept and leads more towards the gritty reality of life while keeping a comedic factor.*
Due to the concerning nature of the game, and many reviews from young people stating the game had provided them with "valuable information on how to run their own Cunch Line", the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre are investigating if any action can be taken to remove the game from app stores.
This game could be an indicator that an individual is at risk of exploitation.
Many thanks.

Parent evenings
After the success of our first virtual parent evenings last term, we will be holding our next virtual parent consultation meetings on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th March.

This will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's wellbeing during remote learning at home, receive information about autumn assessments and understand your child's next steps based upon this data in preparation for their return to school.
If your child has special education needs, this will be the opportunity for you to review their profile targets. We would prefer to be able to have a meeting without the children present and you are welcome to have the video function turned off if you feel this is more appropriate for your household.
We will be using a new online booking system called School Cloud and more information about this will be sent out with this newsletter. We will be offering 10-minute slots from 4.00pm on both days. We hope this new system will be successful but please bear with us and we hope there will not be too many initial IT difficulties.

Breakfast club survey
In preparation for a return to normal school life, we are keen to be able to provide high quality breakfast and after school provision again. In an attempt to secure a provider, we are conducting a feasibility study with 'High Flyers' to see if they would be able to support us. We would be very grateful if you could return the form by 1st March if this is something you would be interested in.

Please see below a message from Alison Ighani, manager of High Flyers.

High Flyers is a before and after school 'Play' setting, that your child can attend within the safety and familiarity of their school environment. We are a privately run, quality Ofsted registered childcare provider within Oxfordshire, with years of experience. Children get to have fun, be creative and play.
We are looking at running a Breakfast and After School at your lovely school. Please take a look at our website: www.highflyers.org.uk, so you can get a feel of what we do. Throughout our themed terms we do fun things like painting, cooking, dancing and crafting. Most of the time children enjoy 'free play', this is where they can play freely and embrace their own imagination.
We have an on-line boking system which can be easy controlled by you, we are extremely flexible, and you are able to make ad hoc bookings for those emergencies.
In the current economic climate, everyone's situations are changing but predict that even if you are working from home you will need to complete a full day. We are asking if you would kindly complete the questionnaire, so we can provide the best service tailored to your needs.
We can't wait to welcome you on board this journey with us.

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

Remote learning equipment support.
Please let us know if you are experiencing difficulties regarding having enough access to laptops in your family. We are contacted by individuals or companies at times who are keen to donate or loan a device and we will do our best to support you with this. Please email the school office to register any support needed and add confidential to the subject line if you wish.

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

Fundraising opportunity through A Plan Insurance
We have been notified of a fundraising opportunity through A Plan Insurance who will donate £10 to school for every new client request for an insurance quote before 5th March using the link;
https://www.aplan.co.uk/personal/campaigns/a-plan-helping-local-schools?int=8261

Supporting Parents Helpfinder (Young Minds)

This is a resource that has been sent to school.
Times are tough for many people right now. Parents find themselves pulled in many different direction and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual.

A mixture of concern about covid, work from home and children at home, along with a possible financial impact make for a stressful household.

Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Helpfinder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond).

Find the help finder here: https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/

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**

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

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.

Our school community

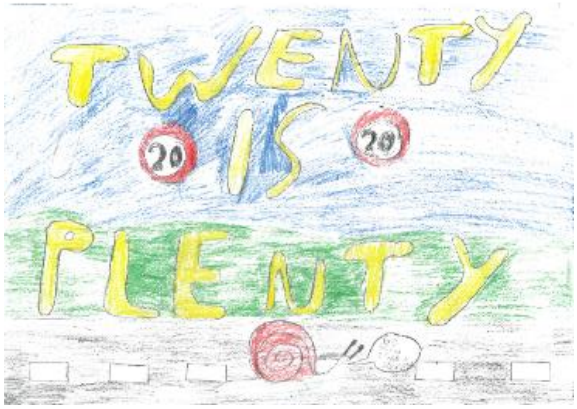
We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our school community who is currently working on the front line and doing such a wonderful job in these very difficult and challenging times.

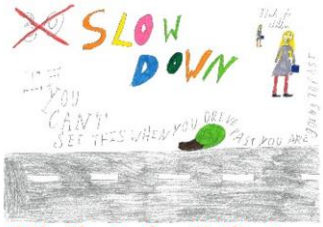
Thank you for your continued support. We really appreciate all the positive feedback this term which is helping to keep us smiling.

Wishing you all a safe and happy half term,

Miss Williams and the team

20's Plenty for Kirtlington





20's Plenty for Kirtlington

Thank you for driving slowly in Kirtlington

SCHOOL GAMES GOLD 2018/19

OUTSTANDING SIAMS
OXFORD DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ofsted Good Provider

OTSA
OXFORDSHIRE TEACHING SCHOOLS ALLIANCE