



Kirtlington
C.E. School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted that all children will be back in school on 8 March and look forward to seeing everyone in person. Thank you and well done to everyone who has worked so hard at home supporting the on-line learning and especially to the children who have been amazing. It has been lovely to see them each day and to see how hard they have been working. Now we look forward to seeing them back in class.

We will be returning to the school routine we were using in the Autumn term before the current lockdown. This will help us to continue to create a safe new, 'normal,' school routine.

Values

This term the school value we are focusing on is **resilience** and the related Christian value is **perseverance**. 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, to provide a normal school routine, reduce anxiety and support the children with any worries and concerns. Therefore, we will be using the PSHE Association Programme of Study moving onto the theme, 'Health and Well-being. There will be a greater emphasis on PSHE and well-being activities for the rest of this term and weekly throughout the year. We believe children need to be happy and confident to learn well.

It is vital to support the children in settling back into school routines and friendships. Playtime will be an important time to help the children re-establish friendships but still in a safe bubble environment. Therefore, playtime will be organised with socially distanced games led by the teachers and TAs to help the children play happily together again. This will be particularly important in helping children re-integrate together again and reinforce their social skills.

Catch up

Although during lockdown we have successfully followed the school curriculum with online lessons we are aware that some children may have missed some deeper aspects of learning and may be a little worried about returning to school. Therefore, when the children return, we will be focussing extra attention on those who have been home schooling by providing quality first teaching in small groups.



Mornings will continue to have a maths and English focus whereas in the afternoons we are planning whole school themed activities such as a science investigations, Easter activities and other creative curriculum sessions.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress, missed learning or general confidence, please let me know.

Growth Mind Set

We will continue 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

This Spring term our topic has been: Sow, Grow and Farm!

This project teaches children about the features and characteristics of land use in agricultural regions across the world, including a detailed exploration of significant environmental areas. Upon the children's return, we will begin to develop practical skills that are used in the cultivation of plants and crops.

English

All the children will have daily spelling/phonic lessons. To support the children's reading skills, there will continue to be an emphasis on 'Reciprocal Reading'

All children will be given Home reading book packs. Children currently home schooling can collect their packs from school from Monday 1 March. Children already in school will be given theirs to take home. Please return books by the end of term so that they can be quarantined.

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.*

The genres we will be exploring are: dilemma stories – taking inspiration from Michael Morpurgo's *Farm boy*. We will be writing a range of non-fiction texts: from writing reports and explanations about farming to a discussion text on ethical farming.

Maths

We will continue to follow the White-Rose scheme of learning with a focus on division, fractions, decimal numbers and percentages. Using the online resources of X-table Rockstars and Mathletics, children can continue to practice their number knowledge and times table skills. Year 4 need to continue to dedicate time at home to develop their knowledge of times tables as national expectation is for all tables to be consolidated by the end the academic year. Upon returning to school, there will be a focus on small group-quality first teaching to establish gaps in learning – with a specific focus on active problem solving skills.

Homework

We will not be setting homework this term but please continue to support your child with daily reading and in learning their spellings.



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. In addition, we will be reintroducing the 'daily mile' and yoga relaxation.

Behaviour

To support the children's behaviour and well-being, we are using 'Restorative Practice' an approach which gives the children more opportunity to explain and understand their actions and which teaches them how to address and resolve situations and learn from them.

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. Children will wash their hands when entering school in the morning and before and after break and lunch. They will also wash their hands before leaving at the end of the day.

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.



- 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.

Sam Protherough

**Senior Leadership Team
Oak Class Teacher**



Headteacher: Louise Williams



Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford



School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

