



Kirtlington  
C.E. School

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## Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start to the Summer term, with lots of refreshed and excited children bubbling with enthusiasm for their learning. It has been amazing to see the resilience and responsible nature that our children at Kirtlington share with each other - making Oak Class a great place to be. The leaves are coming out on the trees and the skies seem a little bluer; let's have a great end to a challenging year...

### Values

This term the school value we are focusing on is **respect** and the related Christian value is **individuality**. Please remember our school motto – **Aspire and Achieve Altogether**.

### Well-being

We will continue to support the children's mental health using the PSHE Association Programme of Study RHSE - Relationship education has become statutory this year. So, this term, as part of health and well-being, we will be looking at how we grow and change, personal identity, reproduction and keeping safe.

**Year 4:** Maintaining a balanced lifestyle; oral hygiene and dental care. Physical and emotional changes in puberty. Medicines and household products; drugs common in everyday life.

**Year 5:** Healthy sleep habits; sun safety; medicines, vaccinations, and allergies. Personal identity; recognising individuality. Keeping safe in different situations, including responding to emergencies.

**Year 6:** Managing change; loss and bereavement and time online. Human reproduction and birth; increasing independence; managing transition. Keeping personal information safe; regulations and choices; drug use and the law.

These sessions will be differentiated and delivered to the appropriate cohorts. If you have any questions or concerns, then please contact the school.

We will also continue to teach the children about our new behaviour programme 'Restorative Practise' where we support the children to identify their emotions in certain situations and work towards producing strategies to support their feelings and help them control their own behaviour. We believe children need to be happy and confident to learn well.

We are also continuing to support the children in settling back into routines and friendships. Playtime is still 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 alongside periods of free play. This will help the children to play happily together again. This is particularly important in continuing to help the children re-integrate together again and reinforce their social skills.

### **Catch up**

We have identified the main gaps in learning and are working with the children to cover the missed learning and misconceptions. Some of this will be whole class teaching and some will be in small groups to address specific areas of focus or gaps in learning.

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**

At the start of the summer term there will be a continued focus on Geography and Science skills. This is part of our catch-up plan, to ensure that all children are given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding through practical investigation. This will be linked to previous topics in science and geography, such as: states of matter, properties of materials, animals including humans and Sow, grow and farm. Our new history topic is 1066, where we will explore that particularly bloody chapter of Britain's past.

### **English**

To support the children's reading skills, there will continue to be an emphasis on 'Reciprocal Reading'. There will also be a specific focus on SPAG sessions – looking at year-group-specific targets.

As writers, this term we will be exploring historical fiction, looking specifically at how to use details about setting to make a story authentic. Our non-fiction texts will relate to our topic – including newspaper report writing and discussion texts.

All children will be given a home reading book pack. There will be a new reading diary with this and details of how to use it will be given with the books. Please return books by the week beginning Monday 24 May so that they can be quarantined over half-term. Please reread books two or three times to help your child develop fluency and understanding.

Please keep reading with your child at home, a short session of 30 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.* We will send home a list of questions that would be useful to ask the children when they are reading to you, to support their reading comprehension.



## **Maths**

Maths is taught daily during the morning. We will continue to follow the White Rose Maths programme that is differentiated for each year group and promotes problem solving skills through mastery. Catch up and small groups will be utilised to support home learners develop and consolidate specific number skills and knowledge. Please, continue to use Mathletics and Times-table Rockstars. These are valuable resources that promote the fundamental skills needed to become a successful and confident mathematician.

Please could you help your child to practise their times tables, in particular those in years 4 and 5.

## **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.

On Friday, between break and lunch, the children will have a specialist sports coach that will teach sport-specific skills.

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

### **Behaviour**

To support the children's behaviour and well-being, we are continuing to use '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.

### **May Day**

The gentle thwack of the sticks and jostle of the ribbons around the pole will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May, being recorded and uploaded onto the school website for parents to view. Please could



the children come to school that day in summer dresses, shorts or long trousers, white or coloured shirts and a tie if they would like to wear one.

### **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](mailto: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.
- Snack – Children in Oak class should bring fruit or a healthy snack to eat at break time.
- Sun-cream – As the weather turns hotter, please apply a high factor, long lasting sun-cream to your child's arms, legs and face before they come to school. We would prefer that children do not bring sun-cream into school as these can be a risk for children with allergies. Could you also provide your child with a sun-hat that they can wear on very sunny days.
- 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.

Thank you for your continued support over the coming weeks.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Protherough

Oak Class Teacher  
Curriculum Lead  
Senior Leadership Team

