



Kirtlington  
C.E. School

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## **Dear Parents and Carers,**

Welcome back, you Mighty Oaks! It has been an amazing start to the new term, with many exciting new changes. Firstly, welcome to the new year fours, I am very impressed so far by their determination and mature attitudes to learning, I think you will be a valuable asset to Oak Class. Another warm welcome goes to Mrs Baker, who we are lucky to have as a class teacher for English and maths in the morning. Already, we are seeing the benefits of having another experienced teacher in upper key stage 2.

I hope you have all had a restful and revitalising summer and I am very much looking forward to working with teachers, parents and all the Oaklings this year.

### **Well-being**

We will continue to support the children's mental health using the PSHE Association Programme of Study including RHSE (Relationship education) which became statutory last year.

We will also continue to teach the children about our new behaviour programme 'Restorative Practice' 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.

### **Catch up**

We will continue to identify gaps in learning and will arrange interventions to support the children who need to catch up. Some of this will be whole class teaching and some will be in small groups to address specific issues.

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

### **Curriculum**

As historians, we will be building on our Anglo-Saxon learning from last term. I have taken the decision to switch our topics to a history focus, instead of a geography focus. This is because I feel that we didn't get the opportunity to fully explore our final topic of last year. As luck may have it, we will be developing our skills as historians by exploring the Vikings (closely linked to the Anglo-Saxons) in our new topic: Traders and Raiders.



Headteacher: Joy Baker



Chair of Governors: Kevin Allison



Administrator: Alison Dodsworth



We have an exciting opportunity to extend our knowledge and explore how Anglo-Saxon and wider cultures evolved with the coming of the Norsemen (Norsepeople).

## **English**

As creative writers we will start to explore the Nordic wonders of Beowulf with an exploration of the poem, The Dreadful Menace. We will extend the use of figurative, poetic language to enrich our narrative storytelling. And of course, yes, lots of monster writing (as usual...).

Additionally, we will be writing non-chronological reports (linked to topic) and discussing the key question (as years 5/6): Were the Vikings a good thing for Europe and the wider world? In year 4, we will be writing explanation texts around the question: How did the Vikings change the world?

All children will be given a levelled reading book that they can take home and bring to school to read. As the texts in KS2 become longer, it is important that the children have the opportunity get lost within the pages of a novel both in school and at home.

To support the children's reading skills, there will continue to be an emphasis on 'Reciprocal Reading' in school. There is an **exciting new reading diary** that has been created specifically for Kirtlington that closely mirrors the reciprocal reading skills we use in school. Please look through the diary to find guidance on how to question and engage with your child during home reading.

Please keep reading with your child at home, a short session of 20 minutes each day does make a difference to their confidence, fluency and understanding. Although, as KS2 children, they can read independently, it is still very important to practice reading aloud. *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.*

## **Maths**

As mathematicians, we will be working on Place Value, Addition, Subtraction and Multiplication and Division. We aim to refresh and develop the children's base understanding and number knowledge to help us confidently move onto more challenging new concepts – continuing to find gaps in learning to address in our catch-up curriculum. We will then have a focus on fractions, decimals and shape and space.

In addition to Mathletics home learning challenges, we will also continue to use Times Table Rockstars. It is very important that the children develop a confidence and fluency with all times tables that will help them to understand many areas of mathematics, namely: fractions, percentages; division and multiplication.

## **Active Learning**

We will supplement our English and Maths lessons with 'Active Learning'. This is a programme of study that gets the children outside to learn practically and in a fun manner.

## **Home learning**

Home learning will be set on a Friday and should be given in on a Wednesday so that there is time to mark it and address any misconceptions before the next week's home learning is set. Home learning will generally be set on Google classroom, but it sometimes may take a different format. Please continue to support your child with daily reading and in learning their spellings.



As the year progresses, year 6 will have additional SATS challenges.

## **PE**

Oak class PE will take place on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon. 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.

## **Forest Schools**

Years 4 and 5 will have a Forest School activity every Friday afternoon this half term. They will need waterproof trousers, long sleeved tops, a waterproof, hat, gloves, wellies and they own plastic or metal mug.

## **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 are asked to be provided with a healthy snack, such as fruit.
- 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.

Mr Protherough

**Class Teacher**



Mrs Baker  
Class Teacher/Head Teacher

Mrs Langrish  
Teacher/Teaching Assistant



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