

Kirtlington
C.E. School

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School value: Aspiration
Christian value: Hope

12th November 2021

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a well-deserved break over the October half term. The children have enjoyed an exciting two weeks back at school following half term. They have been enthusiastic and happy with many outdoor learning opportunities carefully planned by our wonderful team. Children have been thinking about the planet and how to become a more sustainable school.

National Outdoor Classroom Day

The staff planned wonderful activities for children to take their learning outside all day! **Oak** class measured the age of trees by measuring the girth and using a formula to calculate. They also used natural outdoor resources to make story sticks before planning and retelling their stories in the school forest. **Willow** class made cosmic conkers and then threw them as far as they could! They measured the distance thrown. They took their spelling lesson outside and explored the school's soil as part of their science project. **Rowan** Class had an outdoor phonics session, followed by maths where they partitioned numbers using natural resources. They also produced a huge story stick where they all collected natural resources to create a whole class story. The children also made firework pictures on the playground by blowing paint with straws. All of the children loved their time outside and want to know when we can do it again!



COP26

After delivering an assembly about COP26, the children have been learning about climate change and other factors that cause damage to our planet.

Oak class have been thinking about fossil fuels, deforestation and plastic pollution. They have used research to write persuasive letters and Year 6 have been writing discussion texts about what was more damaging to the planet. **Willow** class have been finding out about uses of energy, renewable energy and helping to improve the environment by planting more trees. They will be completing and presenting their persuasive posters. **Rowan** class have talked about different ways they can help to save the planet by recycling, switching off lights and computers when not in use and reducing plastic.

Composting Sessions

Mike and Jill Langrish returned to the school to deliver composting sessions in Oak and Willow class. The children found out that you need a balance of green waste (high in nitrogen) and brown waste (high in carbon) to make compost. They learnt that if you put a conker in water and it sinks, it is fertile, if it floats, it isn't! The children planted conkers in their layered compost that was placed in clear plastic bottles. They thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and sharing their new-found knowledge.



Remembrance

The children showed their respect to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Oak class laid wreaths and crosses at the village memorial. The whole school attended and the children demonstrated dignity and compassion.

Yenworthy Update from Year 6

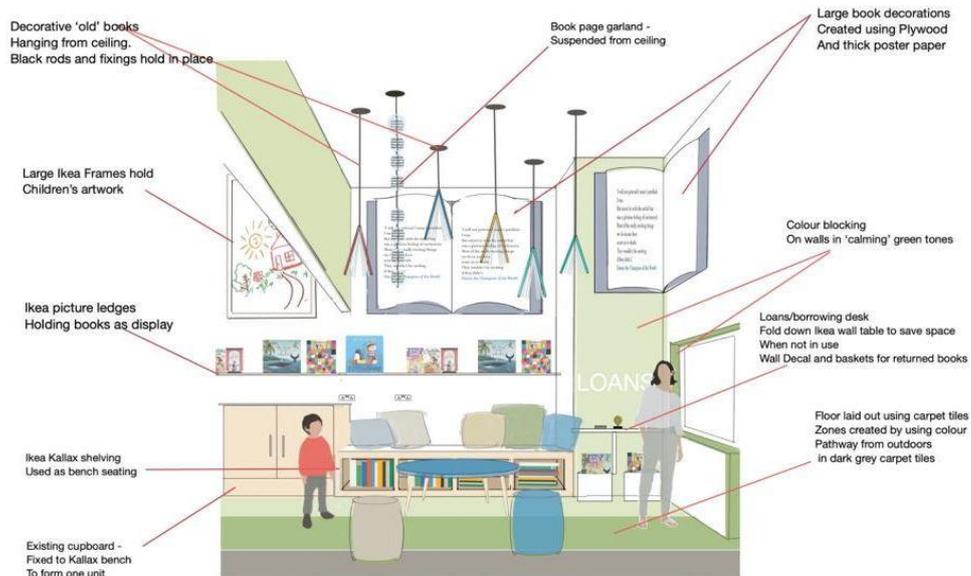
Year 6 gave us an amazing presentation describing their experience at the Yenworthy Outdoor Education Centre in North Devon. They spoke very confidently about their fantastic adventure!



Exciting News ...

This term we have asked KSF to help us transform one of the existing spaces within school to a functioning library. We would love to create a space for children to relax and enjoy books, learn about how libraries work by being able to withdraw and return books, take turns at helping as the librarian and enjoy being in a calm and inspiring space.

A friend to many at the school, and local artist and interior designer, Kelly Smith (H and Hardy, Art & Interiors, handhardy.com) is generously donating her time to make this vision a reality. All of our current fundraising is dedicated to this goal at the moment and we will keep you posted as to our progress. Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved. We will need a wide range of skills from carpentry to painting, sorting to odd jobs. You can keep an eye on our new Facebook page to stay up to date with the project and help that we might need.



School Council News Children in Need

On Friday 19 November we will be having a non-uniform day to raise funds for Children in Need. Children will ideally wear spotty clothes for the day and will be asked to bring in a minimum £1 donation for Children in Need. If you can wear spotty clothes, that would be great but don't worry if you can't find any spotty clothes. We will also be drawing a Pudsey Bear in the hall and asking people to bring in any loose change that we can fill it in with. Hopefully, there will be some fundraising games during the day so please bring plenty of change.

Paperless Christmas

Being environmentally minded, the school council have decided that we should not send individual Christmas cards to our friends, in school this year, as it uses a lot of paper. Instead, we are asking people to bring in a minimum donation of £2 to buy a bauble, stocking, wreath, Xmas tree or star on which they can write a message to all their friends. We will then put the bauble on a display in the hall so that everyone can see the messages. The money raised will be sent to



'Asylum Welcome' which is a charity based in Oxford which supports refugees and is particularly concerned about the plight of the people in Afghanistan. Children will be able to buy baubles, stockings, wreaths, Xmas trees and stars which they can colour in, decorate and write their messages on for the display starting week beginning 29 November. Please support this worthy cause and save the environment by not sending Christmas cards.

Eco Council News

The Eco Council are very excited to announce that they have a new mascot called ECO Eddie, kindly made by Mrs Lloyd. At their meeting, they talked about switch-off fortnight and ECO alternatives, both at home and at school, such as switching cling film for beeswax. The children have also been thinking carefully about Switch-Off Fortnight where we try to save as much energy as possible.

New Facebook Page Reminder

Keep liking and sharing so that we can continue share the good news and achievements from our wonderful children and school. <https://www.facebook.com/Kirtlington-CE-Primary-School-103702855403042/>

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>

Breakfast club and After School Club

Remember if you require wrap around care provision, please contact High Flyers www.highflyers.org.uk

Dates and reminders

19th November: Children in Need – dress in spots!

26th November: Pyjama Day for KSF chocolate donations

8th December 2021: Christmas Pantomime: 10am

10th December 2021: Christmas Fayre: (time and venue TBC)

15th December 2021: Christmas Carol Service: St Mary the Virgin Church – from 6pm

From myself and the rest of the team, we hope you have a lovely weekend.

Joy Baker
Interim Headteacher

