



Kirtlington
C.E. School

**Heyford Road
Kirtlington
Oxon OX5 3HL
Telephone (01869) 350210**

E-mail: office.3500@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk

Website: www.kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, you Mighty Oaks! I'm glad to hear that your summers have all been restful, with lots of time outdoors – enjoying the warm weather. It has been a very positive start to the new year. The children have already begun to ease into the new academic year and are adjusting well to any changes. The classroom (and school) looks amazing – with Mrs Baker and Mrs Langrish adding lots of plants, lighting, and areas to rest and reflect. We have begun our new topics in history and science and look forward to inviting in parents and carers to share in the amazing learning that goes on in Oak Class.

As always, if there are any worries or concerns (no matter how small), please drop by and me and Mrs Baker will always make time to meet.

Well-being

“What colour are you, today?” is the question we will keep asking, as we continue to develop our understanding and skills using the zones of regulation.

We will continue to support the children's mental health using the new Discovery programme of study. This term the children will be thinking about healthy and happy friendships. Year 4 will focus on solving friendship difficulties whilst Year 5 will identify peer pressure on and offline. Positive emotional and health wellbeing will be encouraged. Year 6 will concentrate on how to cope with a wider range of emotions and discover how relationships evolve, especially as they move through the year and transition to secondary school.

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. This year we will see the children taking on new roles as 'Mend It' champions – being role models and helping younger children to develop their skills in mending relationships after fallouts.

Curriculum

This term our topic is Peasants, Princes and Pestilence – The Black Death! We will have many exciting learning opportunities to develop our skills as historians, whilst delving into a dark and turbulent times of life in the 1300s.

In addition to a history topic, we shall also be developing our skills in Art and DT with a very special topic called 'Scream Machines', where the children will research and develop their very own fairground rides – using motors and lights (all linked to science) to bring their designs to life. We look forward to inviting parents/carers in to see the finished products...



English **Reading**

To support the children's reading skills, there will continue to be an emphasis on 'Reciprocal Reading'. These sessions focus on supporting the children to develop the skills needed to be able to understand and appreciate reading high-quality texts.

All children have been given a reading book and a new reading diary. Please look through the diary to find guidance on how to question and engage with your child during home reading.

You can write a comment or not – sometimes you may want to record some feedback on how your child's reading was or whether they shared an insight during/after reading.

When you look through the reading records, you will see that your child can review their favourite books and keep a running list of all the amazing reading they have done.

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.*

Please could the children keep the diary and reading book in their book bag, when they are not reading it to you, so that it is available in school for us to listen to them read too and so they can exchange it for a new reading book when they are ready.

Writing

As writers, this term, we will be newspaper reporters – reporting on the perils of the plague. We will also be historical story tellers, by using our knowledge of the 1300s to write a gripping adventure story set in the depths of plague ridden 1300 London. We will also be writing biographies of important figures from that era.

We are particularly looking forward to fair season, when we will be making links to our Art and DT topic (Scream Machines) by writing poetry and a mystery story set in the grounds of a funfair.

All the children will have daily spelling lessons using our new Spelling Shed scheme of work. Each week a selection of fun interactive spelling activities will be available for the children to do at home to support the spelling pattern/words the children are doing that week. This should help make learning spellings easy and fun. Please support your child in doing these exciting spelling activities.

Maths

Maths is taught daily following the White Rose Maths programme of study. With myself, Mrs Baker and Mrs Langrish all teaching maths, each year group will have their very own directed teaching and support.

All children will also continue to use Times Tables Rockstars this term which is a fun and challenging programme designed to help pupils master their times tables. It is especially important for Year 4 children to engage with times tables, as they will be participating in a national assessment on times tables, later in the year.



All children in Oak Class have also been provided with logins and passwords for Mathletics – an interactive learning platform that will have home learning tasks updated weekly.

Religious Education

Children will be learning about holy journeys through Hinduism. They will find out the difference between a pilgrimage and holiday, discovering where Hindus journey to and the purpose of their pilgrimage. Children will learn the importance of the Ganges River and significance of bathing and cleansing in the river. Children will also discover how Hindus show their beliefs, comparing with Christianity.

French

This term we will be learning how to talk about our feelings and vocabulary and phrases associated with school. After half term, we will be exploring the city and doing our Christmas shopping.

Music

This year we are using Charanga for our curriculum music sessions, an interactive scheme that combines elements of musicianship, listening and responding to music, singing, playing instruments, composing using music technology and improvising through exploring a variety of different musical styles. We also look at the social aspects of music, starting with 'How does music bring us together?' and 'How does music connect us to our past?'

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 termly. Children will be set a selection of activities that they can do throughout the term. At the end of the term there will be a celebration of their home learning when they can bring in all the work they have done for a class display.

PE

Oak will be having PE on a Monday with Ignite Sports and on a Friday with the class teacher. 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.

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.uk

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

- School starts at 8:40, with the gates opening at 8:35. The school gates close at 8:50 and registers are taken at this time. If you arrive after 8:50 your child will be marked down as arriving late for the day.
- Packed lunches – please can we remind you that the school requests that packed lunches do not contain nuts or sesame – 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 are welcome to bring a healthy snack for playtime.
- 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.
- Instruction for Covid-related illness and absence will be updated in-line with ongoing government guidance.

We are all looking forward to another successful and enjoyable year in Oak Class.

Mr Protherough Mrs Baker Mrs Langrish

Oak Class Teachers



Headteacher: Joy Baker



Chair of Governors: Kevin Allison



Administrator: Nicola Allison

