



Kirtlington  
C.E. School

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## **Dear Parents and Carers,**

A warm welcome to our new reception children and their families, and a big welcome back to our Year 1 children. We hope you had a wonderful, relaxing summer.

### **Well-being**

We will be learning to use of the Zones of Regulation to support our well-being and will continue to support the children's mental health using the Discovery RSE programme of study. We will also continue to teach the children about our 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.

### **Curriculum**

Our topic this term is Childhood. As historians, we will be learning to use historical vocabulary as well as exploring historical artefacts. We will create timelines and learn about everyday life and childhood in the 1950s. We will also explore significant events including the Queen's coronation.

### **English**

#### **Reading**

All children will be given a phonically decodable book and a 'reading for pleasure' book that will be changed once a week. Children will need to bring their phonics book into school **every day** as it will be used during our reading practice sessions throughout week. Please note, children are not expected to read all the words in their 'reading for pleasure' books, they are for enjoying with family. There will be an information evening about our new phonics and reading programme later in the term.

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 reread books two or three times to help your child develop fluency and understanding.

Some parents have asked for clarity on how to use the reading records effectively, so here is a quick rundown:

Find the relevant week – or just carry on from the last place you read and recorded.



Headteacher: Joy Baker



Chair of Governors: Kevin Allison



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Add the date and then initial.

After reading, record the page numbers covered.

Now turn to the front of the book and find the example question starters.

Pick one, for example:

*Looking* questions: Which porridge did Goldilocks eat first?

*Thinking* questions: How did the little bear feel when he got home?

Asking questions about the text is a great way to develop your child's skills in inference and textual understanding.

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.

Please continue to use the Reading records provided. They are part of a school wide initiative to improve standards in reading by helping parents/carers to have access to the type of questioning we use during Reciprocal Reading sessions in school. We have certificates and stickers to celebrate your child's reading at home and at school – please see the instructions on the final page.

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

All the children will have daily phonics lessons. To support the children's reading skills, there will continue to be an emphasis on 'Reciprocal Reading', where we will explore a story together and learn different skills to support us in our reading and understanding.

## **Writing**

As Year 1 creative writers, we will be exploring traditional tales through story mapping, sequencing, character and setting descriptions and identifying the features of a traditional tale. This will lead up to us writing our own Rowan Class tradition tale. As Reception writers, we will practise our gross and fine motor skills in order to develop our pencil grip. We will explore mark-making and writing through real-life examples such as tickets, lists and messages. We will use different media such as chalk, water, sand, flour etc.

## **Maths**

As Year 1 mathematicians, we will be taking part in daily maths lessons during the morning. This term Year 1 will be learning about place value within ten, addition and subtraction within ten, shape, and later on, place value within twenty. As Reception mathematicians, we will be exploring number by matching, sorting and comparing amounts. We will begin by focussing on numbers one to five, as part of a mastery approach. We will learn about spatial reasoning through comparing mass, size and capacity.

## **RE:**

Children in Year 1 will be learning about Hinduism, thinking about our big question, 'Is the story of Rama and Sita important?'. They will then explore Christianity, thinking about the big question 'Why does Christmas matter to Christians?'. Children in Reception will think about why the word God is so important to Christians and then, why Christians perform a nativity play at Christmas.



## **Music**

Music will be taught using the Charanga scheme of work. Children will learn about beat, pitch and rhythm through listening, singing, playing, composing and performing. They will think about the following questions: How Can We Make Friends When We Sing Together? and How Does Music Tell Stories About the 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 is slightly different this year. Year 1 children will receive a grid of tasks based on this term's learning. They will then choose a task to complete each week in their home learning books in order to win house points. At the end of the term, these books need to be returned to school where children can display and present their work.

## **Weekly Routines**

### **PE:**

PE will take place on Wednesday afternoon for children in reception and year 1. Children should come to school in their PE kit which they will stay in for the whole day. (It is helpful for children to come to school in their school shoes and change into their school trainers so that they can remain 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 or shorts in hot weather and a sweatshirt. Year 1 children will take part in an additional PE session run by Ignite Sports on a Monday morning. Please come to school in PE kit.

### **Outdoor Learning**

In Rowan class, we enjoy spending plenty of time outside no matter the weather, so please make sure your child has wellington boots, waterproof trousers (these can be left in school) and a waterproof coat. **(Waterproof all in ones are particularly useful for keeping school uniforms clean and dry.)**

### **Forest school**

Rowan class will take part in Forest School later in the year.

### **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

- 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 provided with fruit and vegetables for morning snack, please provide an additional healthy snack if you think your child may require an extra bite to eat in the afternoon.
- 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.
- Bags - We have limited space in our cloakroom, so please only bring one school bag if possible.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Miss Grocutt*

**Rowan Class Teacher**



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