



Kirtlington  
C.E. School

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## **Dear Parents and Carers,**

Happy New Year! From the mighty Oaks. After feedback from parents and carers, we are going to trial keeping our termly letters briefer and to the point, focusing on key information. However, if you have any questions about the curriculum coverage, then you may refer to the long-term plans or feel free to arrange a meeting with myself (Mr P). Additionally, this year we are looking forward to inviting parents in to share in our learning.

## **Reading**

Please ensure that your child is reading **every day**. Even though your child is in KS2, it is great practice to read aloud to an adult or sibling. Your child will be provided with a levelled book from our scheme that will provide appropriate challenge. Although we also encourage all the children to read their own books based upon their interests, we need to see that your child can access the provided levelled book to monitor and track their reading progress.

**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. 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.

We have timetabled in a reading record check, each week to monitor progress and recording.

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.

## **Spellings**

We have invested in Spelling Shed. This offers fun and interactive spellings that are automatically uploaded and assigned each week – your child's new spellings will be assigned by Monday evening. We will provide lessons on Wednesday morning, looking at etymology, syllables, phonemes, graphemes and spelling rules for the week. **The children will be tested on the previous week's spellings every Monday. It is important that your child accesses the games and activities at home to ensure that they are making the most of the new programme and developing their spelling skills.**



Headteacher: Joy Baker



Chair of Governors: Kevin Allison



Administrator: Nicola Allison



## Home learning

Children will receive another home learning grid for this term, linked to our topic and other areas of work. At the end of term there will be a celebration of the children's home learning in the school hall.

## Weekly Routines

### PE:

PE will take place on Monday afternoons. 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 the trainers can remain in school.) Whenever possible, PE will take place outside so children will need to wear tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt.

Our second PE session will take place on Friday, when we go swimming. Your child does not need to come in PE kit on this day.

### Forest school

We are not scheduled to have forest school this term.

### 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 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** – your child is welcome to bring a healthy snack such as fruit or vegetables to school for a morning snack.
- **Absence and sickness** – please let the office know by 9am at the latest if your child is not attending because they are ill. Obviously, in the current climate please do not bring your child to school if they have a temperature and feel unwell. 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.

- **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.
- **Bags** - We have limited space in our cloakroom, so please only bring one school bag if possible.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Mr Protherough*

**Oak Class Teacher**



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