



Kirtlington
C.E. School

**Heyford Road
Kirtlington
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Website: www.kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you enjoyed a lovely break over the Christmas holidays. It has been lovely to hear all the children's exciting stories from Christmas and what they all got from Santa!

Reading

To support the children's reading skills, there will continue to be an emphasis on 'Reciprocal Reading'. All children should continue to read at home and complete their 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 if you wish – sometimes you may want to record 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 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 we can record and change their books when necessary. It's up to the children to let us know when they need a new reading book, although we will try to remind them as frequently as possible.

Spelling

Most children will have daily spelling/phonic lessons using our Spelling Shed scheme of work. Each week a selection of fun interactive spelling activities will be available for the children to carry out 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, as there will be a spelling test every Monday morning. However, a few of the Year 2 children are following the 'Little Wandle' phonics scheme of work and therefore don't take part in the Spelling Shed activities and test on a Monday morning.

Maths

Year 3 will continue to use Times Tables Rockstars this term, which is a fun and challenging programme designed to help pupils master their times tables. Year 3's are expected to know the two, three, four, five, eight and ten times tables by the end of Year 3. Year 2's will be given access to Times Table Rockstars this



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term, and once it has been set up, we will let you know their login details. By the end of the year, Year 2 need to know the two, five and ten times tables.

Forest Schools

During the first half of the Spring term the Year 3 children will be taking part in Forest Schools on a Friday afternoon with Mrs Meager, therefore they will need to have the appropriate outdoor clothing brought in to school every Friday.

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 the children's home learning in the school hall. As well as a termly grid of self-chosen homework activities, children are expected to learn their spellings (spelling shed) ready for a spelling test on Monday morning, Mathematics to practice their maths and Times Table Rockstars to learn and practice their times tables.

PE

Willow class PE will take place on a Monday afternoon (with 'Ignite Sports') and a Friday afternoon (with 'Oxford Hawks Hockey'). 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. Y3 will take part in PE after half term when their forest school sessions have finished.

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 appropriately 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 during 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 seeds 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. Children are welcome to bring a healthy snack for playtime as well as fruit that is provided in school.
- **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.

With very many thanks and looking forward to working with you this term.

Ali Saville and Pat Vincent (Willow Class Teachers)



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