



Kirtlington
C.E. School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you have all enjoyed a safe and lovely Christmas and are ready to learn in 2024.

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 Discovery programme of study – looking closely at being healthy in both body and mind. This Spring term, the children will concentrate on ‘caring and responsibilities’ and ‘similarities and differences’.

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.

Curriculum

This term our topic is ‘Coastlines’. This is predominantly a Geography topic where we will learn about coastal erosion and the formation of coastal features, we will look at a coastal village and we will consider the dangers involved at the coast. In Science this term, we will be learning about the uses of everyday materials, looking at their properties and their suitability’s.

English

Reading:

To support the children’s reading skills, year 1s will be supported by Little Wandle Reading sessions and year 2s will be taught through ‘Reciprocal Reading’.

Please remember to 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.

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 it’s available in school. Please could year 1 children return their books every Friday for a change of books. Year 2s can change their books on any day during the week.

Writing:

All the children will have daily spelling/phonic lessons – year 1s will follow the Little Wandle Phonics Scheme and year 2s will follow the Spelling Shed scheme of work. This means that (for year 2s) 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.

This term in writing, we are starting with letter writing and descriptive writing. Then, we will be learning to write adventure stories and non-chronological reports.

Maths

Maths is taught daily following the White Rose Maths programme of study. This term, year 1 will be working on Place Value within 20 and 50, Addition & Subtraction, length and height, mass and volume.

Year 2 children will be looking at money, multiplication and division, length and height, mass, capacity and temperature.

Please could you help your child to learn to tell the time at home. Year 1s need to learn O'clock and half past and year 2s need to learn O'clock, half past and quarter to and quarter past. We hope you are still finding Mathletics useful in supporting your child's learning.

Active Learning

We will supplement our English and Maths lessons with 'Active Learning'. This gets the children outside to learn practically and in a fun manner.

RE

We are starting the term learning about Judaism with the Big Question 'What does the Torah mean for Jewish People?' Then we will move on to Christianity with the Big Question, 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?' as we learn more about and celebrate Easter.

Home Learning

Thank you very much for all the wonderful Autumn home learning. It was lovely to share the home learning with the class. 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. Spelling activities will also be available every week. We will also set activities on the interactive online programme Mathletics. Logins for Spelling Shed activities and Mathletics can be found at the front of homework books.

PE

Lime Class PE will take place on a Monday (with 'Ignite Sports') and 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. 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 three 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 a piece of fruit or vegetable at snack time.
- 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.
- 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

Class Teachers