



Kirtlington  
C.E. School

**Kirtlington C E School**  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! Firstly, Mrs Meager, Mrs Hodges, Sandy and myself would like to thank you for all the cards and gifts at the end of last term: it was very generous of you all. We hope you all had an enjoyable break and are looking forward to another busy and exciting term.

This term we are heading up mountains and down rivers in our geography topic 'Misty Mountain, Winding River'. Although we can't quite manage a class expedition this term, we will be making use of our map reading and computing skills to enhance our understanding of the topic and using our new knowledge in some exciting English units. Hopefully, we will also get some inspiration for our art project, which this term focuses on landscapes. Details of all the other curriculum areas to be covered this term are on the [long term plan](#) on the class page of the school website.

### **Reading**

We will continue to teach reading skills to the class through our English and Guided Reading lessons but, as we are sure that you appreciate, it is very difficult for us to hear every pupil read individually on a regular basis. Whilst we understand that family life is busy for everyone, it really does make a massive difference if you can find 10 minutes to hear your child read a few pages of their reading book. The children have chosen their own reading book, based on colour-bands determined by reading assessments and have a yellow reading record in which you can record the pages that you read together and add a comment if you wish. **Please ensure that your child / children have both their reading book and yellow reading record in school every day.**

We are also going to continue with our weekly visits to the new school library. Children are welcome to take their library books home but please can they come back to school on a **Friday** to be either returned or renewed.

### **Home learning**

We have really enjoyed looking through the home learning books that have been returned from last term – what a lot of house points everyone has earned! This term's home learning grid has gone home today and is also attached to the email with this letter.

Pupils also have access, at both school and home, to:

- **Spelling Shed** – this is our spelling scheme. Pupils are able to log on to the website and play a variety of interactive games that help to learn the week's spellings. Spellings will be set on a Monday for testing on the following **Monday** morning. I will also continue to send home paper copies of the spelling lists, as requested at the last parents' evening.
- **Times Table Rock Stars** – a fun, interactive way to practise times tables. This is especially important for year 4s who are working towards a multiplication tables check in the summer term.
- **Mathletics**

Please do come and ask us if you have difficulties accessing these resources at home and we will do our best to help!

**Belongings and equipment**

Please ensure that all your child's belongings, including clothing and shoes, are clearly labelled with your child's name. Pupils need a pair of wellies and trainers in school to change into at break times and for PE. PE this term will be on a **Monday** (ball skills led by Ignite Sports) and **Friday** (hockey led by coaches from Oxford Hawkes).

**Water Bottles and Snack**

Children should remember to bring a bottle of water (not squash) into school to keep in the classroom every day; water bottles can be refilled during the day. Please note that the free fruit provided to schools as part of the Government healthy eating initiative is for children up to Year 2 only. If your child would like a snack for break time, they are welcome to bring a fruit or vegetable snack from home. We are a nut and sesame free school, so please do not send in any snacks or packed lunch items containing nuts or sesame.

**Talking to your child about their day**

It is very common that children find it difficult to talk about their school day when they get home. Here are some questions you could ask that may help to get that conversation flowing:

Tell me one thing you've learned today that you didn't know this morning.

What did you do today that made your brain work really hard?

Who made you laugh the most?

Who thinks up the best games at play times?

Did you need to ask your teacher for help with anything?

**Queries**

We are always happy to answer any questions that you may have. You can contact us through the school office by email and we will endeavor to get back to you at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Langrish, Mrs Saville, Mrs Hodges and Sandy