



Kirtlington  
C.E. School

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**School Christian Value:** Perseverance

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a lovely fortnight at Kirtlington. A huge thank you to the KSF, in particular Hazel, for another marvellous Light Trail this month. The children and families absolutely loved it. Also thank you to the families that attended the Kirtlington Wassail last weekend. It was a wonderful occasion and the children joined in the singing beautifully after their school rehearsals with Sue.

Tuesday's collective worship this week involved an inspiring enactment of the story of David and Goliath, by volunteer children. As well as thoroughly enjoying the performance, the assembled audience took away the message of perseverance and having faith during challenging times. Many of the children have demonstrated our school value admirably over the last two weeks; I have heard numerous examples from staff of how children have persevered with difficult work and produced excellent results. Well done!

We enjoyed taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch as a school today, each class having a turn during the hour to count the birds that landed in the Kirtlington grounds. Although we didn't get too many actually landing there were lots flying around, and the children enjoyed spotting and identifying the different types of birds. Well done to Year 1 who managed to spot a whole flock of long-tailed tits, and to Year 5 who stayed super quiet and spotted lots of different birds. Thank you to our Year 6s who buddied up with Rowan class and supported them in their birdwatching. Rowan class made 'binoculars' this week and used some of their class time to learn about different kinds of birds, and Willow class have created some amazing bird artworks which will be going up on display. There was lots of enthusiasm around the event. If you would like to participate in the Big Garden Birdwatch at home this weekend, please go to the RSPB website.

I hope that everyone is able to get out and enjoy the outdoors this weekend following the up-turn in the weather

Kyla Bates  
Headteacher

### **Attendance update**

Our target is for at least 96% attendance and we are currently at 96.47%. Well done Rowan Class on achieving a super 98% so far this term.

Rowan Class	98.52%
Lime Class	96.30%
Willow Class	96.13%
Oak Class	93.33%

## Keeping well

We know that there are quite a few bugs circulating at the moment. There are lots of ways to help prevent the spread and stay well including frequent handwashing, eating healthily to boost our immune system, drinking plenty and getting enough sleep.

We are always grateful of donations of tissues for the classroom at this time of year.

## Eco Tip

In every newsletter we'll bring you a tip from Eco Council to help us be more environmentally friendly. This week we're encouraging everyone to turn the tap off when you brush your teeth to help save water.

## News from Rowan Class

Rowan Class have been enjoying playing with ice and making binoculars in preparation for the Big Schools Birdwatch. We have been writing about the story of 'Peace at Last'. We have enjoyed developing our dance skills by being vehicles in PE and counting the beats. We have been using the scales to learn about mass, using the words 'heavier' and 'lighter'.



## News from Lime Class

Lime Class have had a lovely week. In Science, they have been looking at what materials different objects are made of and discussing why each material has been used, thinking about the properties of the material. In Art, they have been doing collagraphy, making templates for printing next week. And, in topic (Coastlines) they have been looking at coastal features formed by erosion and deposition such as caves, arches, stacks and stumps for erosion and beaches, spits and lagoons for deposition. They also looked at coastal defences. We made our own model to see how the coastal defences protected the coastline. There were a lot of sandcastles washed away before we made the defences and not quite so many after we made the coastal defences!



## News from Willow Class

Willow Class have been enjoying using the Chromebooks to support our learning about rivers and mountains. We also had fun making an origami boat – great for listening skills and learning how to help each other.



## News from Oak

Oak Class have started the new year with so much enthusiasm and hard work! We began the year by choosing one word that we wanted to work on over 2024. Hopefully you will find Oak Class being more patient, compassionate, hopeful, and respectful as the year continues!

In English, we have read *Ice Trap!* and *Shackleton's Journey* which have prompted us into writing our own adventure narratives set in a polar climate. The figurative language the children have been using is outstanding:

*"Snowflakes fell relentlessly, some carpeting the houses and streets of the lively town, others descending into the sea like icy skydivers. The town was so joyful, you could taste the happiness. The bliss warmed his heart, even through the rioting cold."* – Freddie.

We have started our new topic of *Frozen Kingdoms* and in our Geography lessons, we have been finding about polar climates and polar day and night. Our new class novel is *The Wolf Wilder* by Katerine Rundell: we are completely hooked.

## Oxfordshire Museum

The museum in Woodstock have lots of activities over half term that you might enjoy. You can [find out more online](#).

## High Flyers Breakfast and Afterschool Club

What a fantastic few weeks we've had at High Flyers! The children have been busy sculpting and creating bespoke clay fridge magnets, each one unique. Our colouring and painting sessions have been great fun and a highlight has been the start of our dragon puppet making in anticipation of Chinese New Year. We had friendly table tennis tournaments, showcasing both skill and sportsmanship when the weather was chilly and, as it got milder this week, the children have been revelling in outdoor play. These moments of free play are crucial for their physical and social development, and it is a delight to see them make the most of it.

A special round of applause goes to our High Flyers of the Week! Robyn has been an outstanding example of what friendship is all about, offering a helping hand and a smile to everyone. Elsie's consistent display of kindness and her eagerness to help others have truly set her apart. Elsie embodies the values we cherish at High Flyers.

You can book through our website: <https://www.highflyers.org.uk> or on our booking platform: <https://highflyersoxfordlimited.ipalbookings.com/>.

## Dates and reminders

Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Willow Class Bake for Books – 3:10pm

**Term Ends – 3:10pm**

**Term Starts – 8:40am**

Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Community Dental Survey – Reception/Y1
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics, The Marlborough School
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Reception Vision Screening
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents Evening – 3:30-6pm
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents Evening – 3:30-6pm
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Easter Service, St Mary's Church - 2pm (TBC)
<b>Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>Term Ends – 1:30pm</b>
<b>Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	<b>Term Starts – 8:40am</b>

### **Parking reminder**

Please avoid parking outside the school when dropping off and picking up. The road is extremely busy at this time of day – try to use the Village Hall car park and walk up to school.

### **Change of footwear**

Please remember that children should have a pair of trainers and a pair of welly boots in school for use during outdoor play. On PE days, they should come in their school shoes and will change into trainers when they do PE.

### **Safeguarding**

May we take this opportunity to remind you that the school has responsibility for each child's safeguarding and welfare. Kyla Bates is the Designated Safeguarding Lead, with Victoria Grocutt and Cheryl Evans being the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Should you have any safeguarding concerns please telephone the office and ask to speak with one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads or, alternatively, the MASH (Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub for all child protection and immediate safeguarding concerns) can be contacted on 0345 050 7666.

### **Free School meals**

Should your circumstances change over the next few weeks or months, please see this link for further support. <http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/free-school-meals>