

Kirtlington  
C.E. School

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**School Christian Value:** Perseverance

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear parents and carers,

I can't quite believe that it is half term already – the weeks have flown by! It has been Children's Mental Health week this week and the theme this year is 'My Voice Matters'. In their Monday assembly the children learnt about why sharing their views and opinions is a fundamental right, the difference it can make in the world, and how it can support their good mental health. We had some super ideas of how children can use their voice to produce positive change in our school environment. One of these was the suggestion of child-led clubs, and we have been lucky enough to have some enterprising pupils who have already initiated clubs this half term. We now have a gardening club (starting after half term), a comic-book club for drawing and writing comics, and a KS2 reading club, all running at lunchtimes. Please see the request for garden-related donations from our gardening club leaders below.

Huge congratulations to Freddie (Y3) and Zach (Y6) who participated in the West Oxfordshire Partnership cross country event last week. They came a fantastic 3<sup>rd</sup> in U9 and 11<sup>th</sup> in U11 boys respectively, out of more than 60 entrants in each race. The whole school is very proud of their commitment and perseverance.

You will see later in the newsletter that we are preparing for World Book Day. As ever, we are keen to promote children's reading and we welcome good quality donations of books to enable fresh material for our classroom and school libraries. We encourage parent volunteers to read with children during the school day, and if you would be interested in dedicating a little time each week for this, please let the school office know.

The start of Lent during the half-term week gives us an opportunity to reflect on and prepare for Easter. Some children may choose to make a Lenten promise to mark this special time and reflect on how they can show its importance in their actions. This might involve giving something up in order to remember Jesus' self-discipline in the desert, or it may involve changing a habit or starting something new in order to consciously make a wise choice and honour God. The Church of England's Lent theme for 2024 is 'Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life', which encourages us to reflect and invites us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places this Lent. Families can sign up for free to receive daily Lent reflection emails, or purchase a print booklet for a small cost here [watch-and-pray-lent-reflections](#).

I wish all of you an enjoyable half term holiday.

Kyla Bates  
Headteacher

## Attendance update

Our target is for at least 96% attendance and we are currently at 95.71%.

Rowan Class	96.98%
Lime Class	96.06%
Willow Class	96.00%
Oak Class	91.67%

## 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 for donations of tissues for the classrooms at this time of year.

## World Book Day

World Book Day is coming up on 7<sup>th</sup> March and we are busy preparing lots of exciting book related activities for the children. Below are just a few of the activities that you can get involved in at home:

- Children are invited to come into school **dressed up as their favourite book character** and enter the whole school 'toilet roll book character' competition – see photo for ideas!
- We will be holding a **Reading Café** in the hall after school for parents and carers to join the children reading their favourite books.



We will send out more detailed information closer to the time.



## Request for Gardening Club Donations from Freddie and Jojo (Y6)

We are setting up a gardening club for all the schools budding (pun intended) gardeners. It will be on a Thursday lunchtime and we will be grateful for donations of: seeds, saplings and trowels or gardening items.

## Road Safety

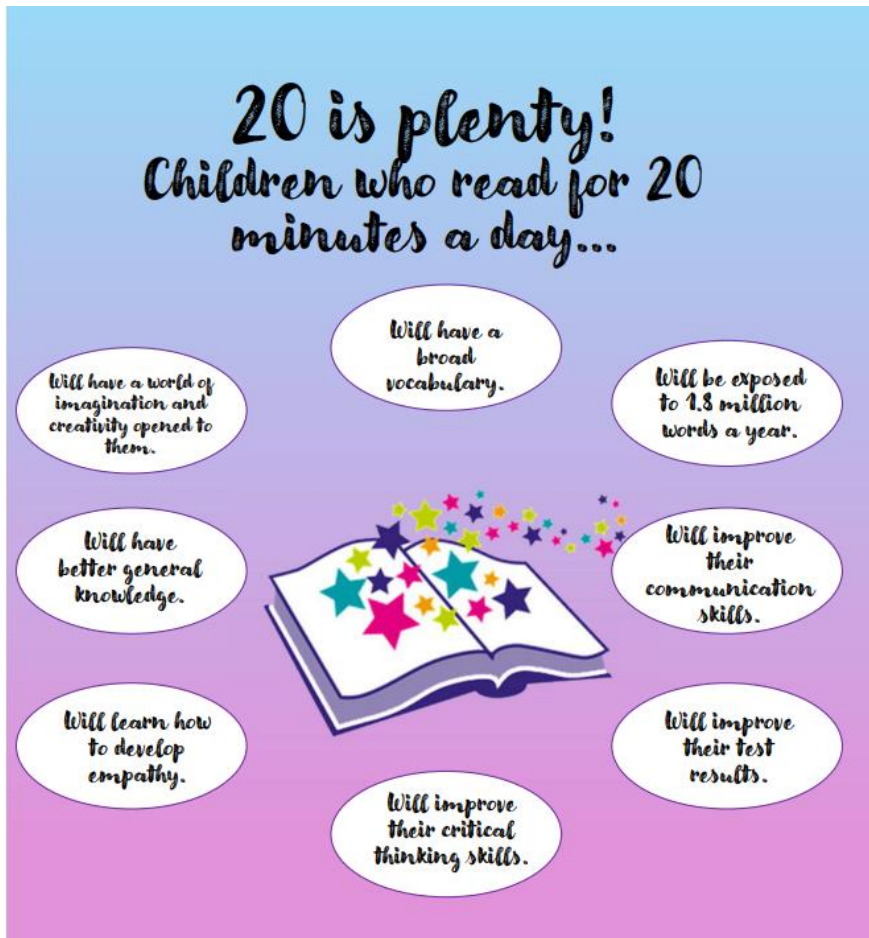
Please see the attached letter from the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service regarding their 'Footsteps' programme to promote road safety awareness and support children to develop their road safety skills. Downloading and following their easy-to-follow guide would be a great half term activity.

## Eco Tip

When you can, make waste-free lunches and where possible limit the amount of individually wrapped food items you buy. You could try beeswax wraps as a substitute for cling film.

## Reading tips to support your child

In each newsletter we'll be offering some information or a tip to help support reading at home. If you have any specific questions, please contact the office.



## News from Rowan Class

Children in Rowan Class have been busy exploring shades of colour and creating their own versions of Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. In maths, we have been exploring capacity and finding and representing 6, 7 and 8. In English, we have enjoyed listening to and writing about the story 'How to Catch a Star'. In PE, we made up a dance based on our morning routine and learnt to count and move to the beat. We have made good use of the mud kitchen in this wet weather and have, of course, enjoyed jumping in (muddy) puddles.



## News from Lime Class

Lime Class have all worked hard right until the end of term. Well done everyone.

We were delighted with the year 1 end of term phonics assessments which proves how hard they have all worked this term.

This week in topic, the children used the chrome books to locate and research RNLI lifeboat stations around the coast to find out if they had just inshore boats or all-weather boats or both.

We finished the week learning about the Chinese New Year and making Chinese lanterns in lovely bright red colours.



## News from Willow Class

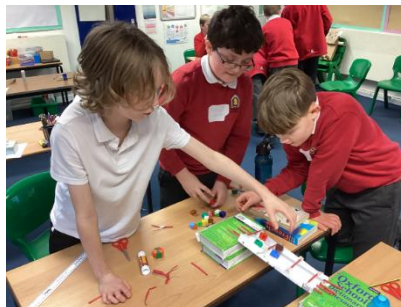
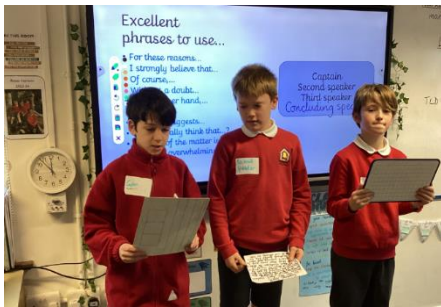
Our latest English unit has been based on the book 'Ten Word Tiny Tales' by Joseph Coelho. We have enjoyed exploring how, when you only have ten words, each word has to count! We had a great morning working in trios trying to creating ten word tales to go with some very bizarre pictures.

After floating down the river, we have been climbing mountains during the last fortnight in our topic work. We have learnt about the five different types of mountains, researched some significant world mountains and located them on a world map. We then extended our map work skills by learning how to give a four-figure grid reference and looking at contour lines on OS map. We all agreed that maps on your phone would be a lot easier to handle than large paper OS maps at the summit of a mountain!



## News from Oak

As always, Oak class have been incredibly busy and working hard. We have been learning all about balanced arguments and held a class debate on who was responsible for the sinking of the *Titanic*. We then used what we had learned during our debate to write our own balanced argument on the same topic. In Design and Technology, we have been studying different types of bridges and had an exciting afternoon investigating triangles for strength. We also had the opportunity to design and build our own bridges and test how strong they were. Congratulations to Hollie and Harvey for winning the bridge building challenge! Whole class reading has been wonderful this week, giving us the opportunity to explore the openings of *Around the World in 80 Days*, *The Hobbit* and *The Jungle Book*.



## Oxfordshire Museum

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

## Uniform reminder

We just wanted to remind everyone of our uniform policy. Every child in Reception to Year 6 should be wearing:

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan **with school logo**
- White polo shirt (optional: white polo shirt with school logo)
- Grey or black trousers/skirts/shorts (additionally red and white checked dresses in summer)
- White, grey or black socks or red or grey tights
- Black shoes

Children should also always have a pair of trainers and wellies in school. Children in Rowan class should always have a set of waterproofs (we recommend all in ones). More information on school uniform can be found [on our website](#).

## High Flyers Breakfast and Afterschool Club

This week at High Flyers, creativity has taken flight with our little artists crafting magnificent dragons from their very own handprints and whimsical unicorns from heart shapes, infusing our space with imagination and colour. The addition of a newly donated kitchen has sparked joy and exploration, offering endless hours of play and discovery.

A special shoutout goes to Hugo, our High Flyer of the Week, who has shone brightly through his enthusiasm and spirited engagement in all activities.

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

## Dates and reminders (new items/changes in red)

Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Willow Class Bake for Books – 3:10pm
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Term Ends – 3:10pm</b>
<b>Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Term Starts – 8:40am</b>
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
<b>Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>World Book Day – dress as your favourite book character</b>
<b>Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>World Book Day Reading Café – in the hall from 3:10pm</b>
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>