Kirtlington
C.E. School

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School Christian Value: Perseverance 14th March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a jam-packed couple of weeks at Kirtlington!

We have had two fantastic whole-school events, the first being World Book Day on the 7th March. The children enjoyed a wonderful day of activities and I was so impressed with all the costumes, the creativity displayed in the toilet-roll characters and above all the enthusiasm for books that was demonstrated throughout the day. Do see Mrs Clark's summary of the day below, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Clark again for all her efforts in organising the whole day of activities for the school. I would also like to thank all the parents and carers for their support and, by valuing the event, demonstrating to the children the importance of books and reading. I would particularly like to thank parents who have subsequently donated books through the class Amazon wish-lists. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our families and are truly touched.

Today is Comic Relief and the school has been even more red than usual! Well done to everyone for finding so many red clothes and supporting our school council to raise money for such a good cause. We enjoyed an entertaining comedy show, a quiz and a very high-standard Comic Relief bake-off.

An enthusiastic Kirtlington team represented our school at the Partnership netball tournament at Marlborough this week. Despite illness and injury, we managed to field a full team who played magnificently, coming a fantastic 2nd place out of 9 teams. The team did not lose a match and were only narrowly pipped for the top spot by Coombe scoring a winning goal against Woodstock in the final match. As always, the team displayed excellent teamwork and sportsmanship and were superb representatives of the school.

Kirtlington has hosted the release of five more hedgehogs from Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital this week. We have been able to capture some of the activity with a motion-sensitive trap camera (kindly donated by Mrs Meager as a leaving present to the children) and the classes enjoyed seeing footage from this in assembly. We hope that the hedgehogs will continue to come back and visit us as they settle into their new environment.

This week, many parents were able to attend the Maths workshops run by the teachers, and we thank you for the effort many of you made to participate in these. We hope that you found them useful and informative; verbal feedback received already was very positive. The second, practical, session is to follow on Tuesday 26th, and you do not have to have attended the first sessions to come along.

You will see attached to this newsletter a request for volunteers for various projects. We have great ambitions for the school and know that developing and maintaining our school environment makes a huge difference to our pupil's daily experience. We really do rely on the support of our wonderful parent body in order to continue to develop the school, and your assistance is greatly valued. Please do step up, even if it is just for a small role. Thank you.

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Kyla Bates
Headteacher

Attendance update
Our target is for at least 96% attendance. Our attendance since the last newsletter has been 93.55%.

Rowan Class	94.13
Lime Class	95.06
Willow Class	93.78
Oak Class	88.89

World Book Day
We had the most wonderful day celebrating books last Thursday.

There were amazing costumes…

We dropped everything and read (even the staff!)…

We read with our friends in different classes…

The whole school enjoyed story time in the hall with Mrs Bates…

Super toilet roll characters…

And a lovely reading café after school…

Comic Relief

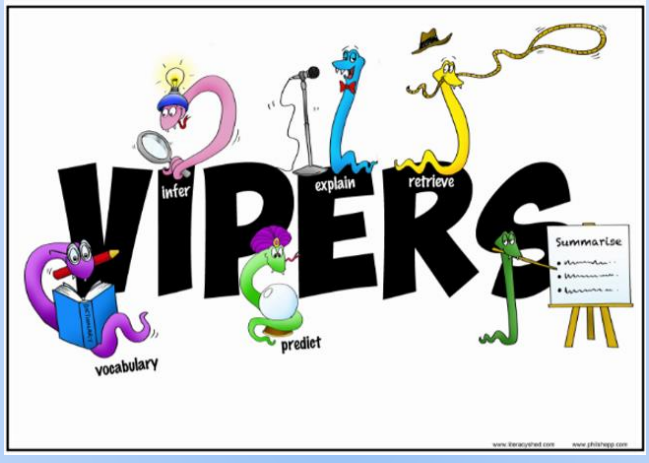
What a brilliant day we've had raising important funds for all the fantastic work Comic Relief does. The children made us laugh out loud in the Comedy Show and showed amazing knowledge in the quiz. I think they'd also give the winners of Junior Bake Off a run for their money with some fabulous Red Nose Day cupcakes. Well done everyone – we've raised a brilliant £177 so far. There's still time to make a donation at https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=14285.

Eco Tip

Don't forget you can recycle lots of tricky single use plastics, such as bread bags, carrier bags and food packaging that aren't collected by your local council, in the dedicated bins at your local supermarket.

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.



In Key Stage 2, we use reading 'VIPERS' to help with our reading skills. Here are some questions you could ask when your child is reading at home:

V - Vocabulary – Which word best describes the atmosphere in your book?

I -Infer – Can you explain why the character behaved in that way?

P - Predict – What do you think will happen next?

E - Explain – How does the author engage the reader?

R - Retrieve– How did…?

S – Summarise – Can you summarise the story in 20 words or less?

News from Rowan Class

Rowan Class have been busy creating cave paintings after reading the story 'Cave Baby', we talked about what cavemen and women used to create their paintings and what they chose to paint. We have been recording the weather over the last two weeks and talking about what the most common and least common weather was - we were not surprised to find that rain featured heavily! In maths we have been exploring length and height and numbers 9 and 10.

News from Lime Class

In Lime Class we have been coming to the end of our art topic 'Rain and Sunrays' and have created our own weather collagraphs. The children created a weather symbol out of textured materials to use as a printing block, thinking about the use of line, shape, and texture. They then used paint to print their weather symbols on to paper and here are some of the printing blocks and our final prints. Can you guess what type of weather they represent?

In RE we have been looking into the big question 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?' and we have consequently been making crosses to remind us of the real meaning of Easter. Here are some of them displayed in our classroom.

In English we have been looking at the story of Stick Man by Julia Donaldson and following his adventures through the book. We are now writing our own adventure stories about 'Super Shell'. We hope to finish our stories soon and share them with each other in class.

News from Willow Class

It has been a week of two halves in Willow class – assessment week in the mornings and DT week in the afternoons. Firstly, a massive well done to everyone in Willow Class for your amazing efforts this week during the mornings. I am very proud of you all for your perseverance, resilience and focus – you have all earned lots of Dojo points for your houses.

After lunch we have been exploring 'Functional and Fancy Fabrics.' We began on Monday by investigating different types of fabric and considering elements of product design – why does a child's teddy need to be made from something soft and washable? What design features do Mrs Langrish's oven gloves have? We then learnt about William Morris and had a go at drawing some of his most well-known motifs. On Wednesday, we moved on to block printing our own wallpaper and trying some sewing (a big thank you to Mrs Hodges, Mrs Buckle and Mrs Allison for endless needle threading.) I think we may have some budding interior designers in Willow class!

News from Oak

As always, Oak Class have been working hard and doing lots of fantastic learning. They have written amazing non-chronological reports on wolves and used so many different grammatical skills to produce the best work they could. There has also been lots of fantastic learning about electricity, including investigating voltage and measuring the voltage of a variety of different cells using a voltmeter.

Oak Class always enjoy their art lessons and this week has been no exception: creating our own digital board of different examples of Inuit art and creating out own Inuit carvings using bars of soap.

High Flyers Breakfast and Afterschool Club

We're thrilled that Millie B is our 'High Flyer' of the week, for her wonderful imagination. Millie has been a star in our recent activities, particularly in building dens that not only showcased her creativity but also brought together children of all ages.

A special mention goes to the generous donation from Sandy, who has provided us with a new kitchen set that has become a focal point of our playtime. It's been a joy watching the children cook up a storm and engage in spirited play, all thanks to the wonderful additions to our resources. We do have amazing staff.

Easter Holiday club is now opening for bookings, held at Chrsitopher Rawlins School, on the 8th and 9th April. We welcome children from **Reception to Year 6.**

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)

Weds 20th Mar	Parents Evening (at school) – 3:30-6pm
Thurs 21st Mar	Parents Evening (at school) – 3:30-6pm
Sat 23rd Mar	KSF Easter Bazaar – 2-4pm, Kirtlington Village Hall
Mon 25th Mar	Easter Service, St Mary's Church
Tues 26th March	Practical Maths Workshop for Parents – 3:15-4:15pm
Thurs 28th Mar	**Term Ends – 1:30pm**
Mon 15th Apr	Term Starts – 8:40am

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