Kirtlington
C.E. School

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School Christian Value: Truthfulness 1st March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Spring has sprung and the bulbs are blooming; I think we are all looking forward to a bit more sunshine and warmth in the air.

We have had a busy couple of weeks back at school since half term. One of my favourite events of my time at Kirtlington so far was the Partnership Athletics event that I had the pleasure of attending with Oak Class. It was a fantastic event, well run by the Sports Leaders at Marlborough. The children performed amazingly, demonstrating determination, perseverance, sportsmanship and an incredible team spirit throughout the whole event. The attitudes displayed throughout do credit to each and every individual, yourselves, and their time at the school. A huge well done to the whole team.

The Marlborough Young Leaders also came to visit us at Kirtlington, leading a multi-skills session for Lime Class in our hall. The children participated in a variety of running, racing, rolling balls and aiming activities and declared it the 'most fun'!

We have had a wide variety of visitors to the school over the last few weeks, both meeting me and also to come and see the children. Each class has been welcoming to any visitors and have been a credit to the school. Two of these events were the Reception vision check and Year 1 dental check, both of which can be a little nerve-wracking but which every child engaged with admirably. I would like to remind all parents that regular dental and vision checks are free for children and essential for maintaining good health as children develop.

I wish everybody a lovely weekend.

Kyla Bates
Headteacher

Attendance update
Our target is for at least 96% attendance. Our attendance since the last newsletter has been 96.91%.

Rowan Class	97.03%
Lime Class	95.32%
Willow Class	97.26%
Oak Class	99.19%

World Book Day

World Book Day is coming up on 7th 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.

Comic Relief

It is Red Nose Day on Friday 15 March and School Council felt it would be nice to do some fundraising. If they would like to take part in some or all of the activities, children are invited to:

- Dress in red (either from head to toe or just a red item)
- Take part in our 'Great British Red Nose Bake Off' by decorating a cupcake or two in a Red Nose Day theme. There will be a small prize for the winning cake/s and then the cakes will be 'sold' at the end of the day in a Red Nose Day Bake Sale
- Take part in our comedy show on Friday in school with a small prize for the best comedy act
- Take part in our Red Nose Day Quiz

If you are able to make a donation to Comic Relief, please use our for all the above activities can be made via ParentPay using the special Comic Relief donations page on ParentPay.

KSF Mad Hatter's Easter Tea Party

We invite you all to support KSF and come along to The Mad Hatter's Easter Tea Party in the Village Hall on Saturday 23rd March from 2-4pm.

There will be a scavenger hunt around the fields, children's games and chocolate tombola, make your own hat and hat parade, second-hand uniform and, of course, a splendid afternoon tea!

If you are able to bake a cake or help on the day, do look out for sign up sheets at pick up or drop off or join the WhatsApp group that has been circulated via the class WhatsApps.

Prayer Space
We are hoping to organise a prayer space in school in April with the kind help and support of Joanna and Paul Clifford ideally on 29 April but the final date is still to be confirmed.

These have been held in the past and have been hugely successful and beneficial for the children. However, although Joanna and Paul are happy to run the event, it is not possible for them to do this without extra support. If anyone thinks they would be available around that time, to come into school for the day and help run activities with different classes, please let the office know.

We would be very grateful and hopefully, if we have enough interest, would be able to arrange and run the prayer space in school for a day or so.

Eco Tip
Make sure you turn lights off when you leave a room and double check that you have LED bulbs installed wherever you can.

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

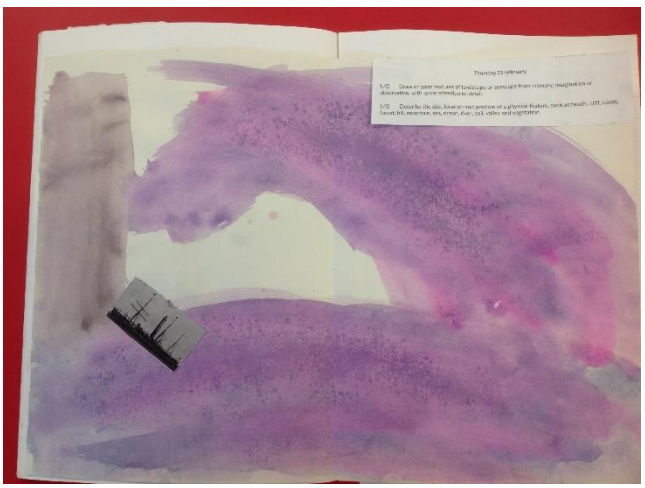
Rowan class have had a wonderful two weeks learning about Dinosaurs. To introduce our new topic, we had a dinosaur day. We found mysterious footprints outside and discovered fossils in the sand pit. We took inspiration from Mary Anning and dusted the fossils off and used a hammer and chisel to open up some rocks. In English, we have been reading the story 'Dear Dinosaur' and in maths, we have been learning about odd and even, doubles, and combining two groups. We have also been busy creating dinosaur pictures, labelling dinosaurs and working on our number formation.

News from Lime Class

In topic, the children were learning about Whitby in Yorkshire. They looked at the changes that had occurred over time. One change was that rowing lifeboats used to be used but following the sinking of the SS Rohilla in 1914, all lifeboats became motor boats. Using water paints and salt, the children did some artwork on the waves and stack, called Saltwick Nab, that caused the SS Rohilla to sink, They produced some atmospheric seascapes.

In Science, the children have been looking at whether solids can be changed by squeezing, bending, twisting and stretching. Following an investigation, they completed a results grid.

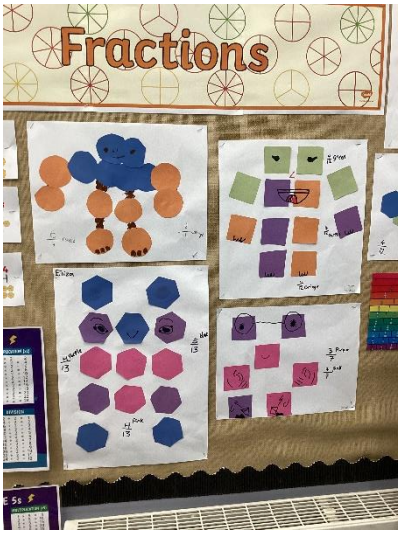
In English, they have been working on the book, ‘Stick Man’ and learning about description and writing in the first person. They wrote some amazing postcards.



News from Willow Class
We have started this term's fractions unit with lots of practical activities. Year 3s made fabulous monsters and worked out the fraction of each colour shape they used, whilst year 4 have used the Numicon to investigate mixed numbers and improper fractions. We have a daily challenge of working out how much pizza is left in the box too!

We are really enjoying the new whole class guided reading sessions. This week we have focused on poetry, sharing Michael Rosen's fabulous Chocolate Cake poem and "Mr. Mistoffelees" by T.S. Elliot.

Mrs Langrish is really proud of the improvement in everyone's computing skills since September. For topic, everyone created a Google Slides presentation to show how the climate, plants and animals vary at different altitudinal levels, adding text and pictures independently. We have also had a lot of fun learning some basic coding using Scratch.



News from Oak
Oak Class have been busy writing diary entries based on our class novel, *The Wolf Wilder*. They have worked so hard at using the setting and atmosphere to convey the mood of their piece of writing and at using a 'show not tell' approach to describe emotions:

Outside, the wind was gathering strength and white blankets of snow surrounded me and the wolves. I could feel in my bones that bad people were on the way hunting us down. My lungs filled with ice and veins twisted, fear wrapped its hand around my heart as I knew I was spending a night in danger. I tried to tell myself that it would be alright, but how wrong I was. There was a long night ahead. Teddy (Y6)

Last week, Oak Class showed the very best of themselves at the Sports Hall Athletics Competition held at Marlborough School. All the children tried their hardest and showed fantastic team spirit, supporting one another and cheering other schools on as well.

High Flyers Breakfast and Afterschool Club
Our crew have been engrossed in building dens, embracing the great outdoors and mindfulness colouring sessions. The highlight was our cosy movie afternoon, which brought us all together for some much-needed relaxation and entertainment.

This week's Highflyer, Millie B, deserves a special mention for her exceptional curiosity and enthusiasm. Millie captivated us with her knowledge about the lifecycle of a frog. This educational 'play' was kick-started by Sandy, who kindly brought in frogspawn, setting the stage for a fascinating exploration of nature. Have a great weekend.

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)

Thurs 7th Mar	World Book Day – dress as your favourite book character
Thurs 7th Mar	World Book Day Reading Café – in the hall from 3:10pm
Fri 15th Mar	Comic Relief
Weds 20th Mar	Parents Evening (at school) – 3:30-6pm
Thurs 21st Mar	Parents Evening (at school) – 3:30-6pm
Sat 23rd Mar	KSF Mad Hatter's Easter Tea Party – 2-4pm, Kirtlington Village Hall
Mon 25th Mar	Easter Service, St Mary's Church
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. Please could we also remind you not to use the Dashwood car park.

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