Kirtlington
C.E. School

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School Christian Value: Hope

26th April 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the summer term! It has been lovely hearing all the excited hubbub in classes over the last two weeks as everyone settled back in and began learning about their new topics. We have been particularly busy this week with Earth Day, Beep Beep day and a bake sale all in the same week!

On Monday we celebrated Earth Day, joining in the global movement to celebrate our remarkable planet and highlight the importance of protecting it. I was so impressed by the children's enthusiasm for the activities that they participated in, and their understanding of why looking after the environment is so important. It was great to see so many books finding new, welcoming homes in our book swap event, and second-hand uniform finding its way to happy new owners – thank you to the KSF for supporting the sale after school on Monday. Thank you also to all our parents; your role in helping your children engage with these days - by wearing hand-me-downs, bringing plastic-free packed lunches, swapping books – really makes a difference to the success and impact of the event.

Mental health is always a priority in our schools. Many researchers in the field of mental health agree that 'hope' – our school value this term – is essential for maintaining positive mental health. We often focus on the personal element of hope, and many of the children have been so thoughtful and kind in their descriptions of their hopes for themselves and those close to them, during assemblies and PSHE or RE lessons. However, it is also important to look at broader, societal and global hopes. It is vital that our children feel a sense of agency, recognising that their actions can make a difference. Participating in events such as 'Earth Day' develops this sense of hope for the future, driven by personal and communal action.

While exploring resources for our 'Hope' values display, I came across the following quote from Albert Einstein:

'Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is never to stop questioning.'

I feel this encapsulates what we want for our pupils and is something I have seen in action in our classrooms over the last two weeks. I have seen and heard some wonderful learning, joined in with the joy of living in the moment, and discussed our hopes. Most of all I have heard some amazing and insightful questions. What a great start to the term!

Kyla Bates
Headteacher

Attendance update
Our target is for at least 96% attendance. Our attendance since the last newsletter has been 95.43%.

Rowan Class	94.37%
Lime Class	93.77%
Willow Class	96.85%
Oak Class	98.38%

Earth Day
On Monday 22nd we celebrated Earth Day. We enjoyed a live assembly where we learnt about ways to protect our wildlife and watched some clips from Planet Earth 3. Each class created something to remember the day, Willow Class made sun catchers, Rowan Class made a giant planet Earth, Oak Class made hand prints with a pledge to look after the planet and Lime Class created a poster with top tips on how to look after the planet and it's wildlife. We all came to school in hand me down or charity shop clothes and had eco friendly packed lunches.

Beep Beep! Day
We took part in the National ‘Beep Beep’ day campaign by the children’s road safety charity ‘Brake’, aiming to teach young children the basics of road safety and helping parents, carers and the community understand how to keep children safe near roads. This is a cause very important to us at Kirtlington, with the busy road running past our gates. All the classes engaged in activities during the day, with Oak class helping Rowan class learn road safety rules on their ‘playground road’, Willow class learned all about road safety ‘superheroes’ and Lime class made a fantastic poster to remind us to hold hands with an adult when walking near a road.

Eco Tip
As we found out during Earth Day this week, you can easily extend the life of your clothes or give new life to unwanted items. There are lots of great second-hand clothes available in charity shops or online. You can also make some amazing new pieces by using your sewing skills to upcycle items. We often forget how many clothes we own – just spending some time reorganising and rediscovering our own wardrobe can give us new inspiration without buying more.

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.

As we enter the Summer Term we thought the children might enjoy some ideas for taking their reading outside. See the attached Reading Map to use with your children.

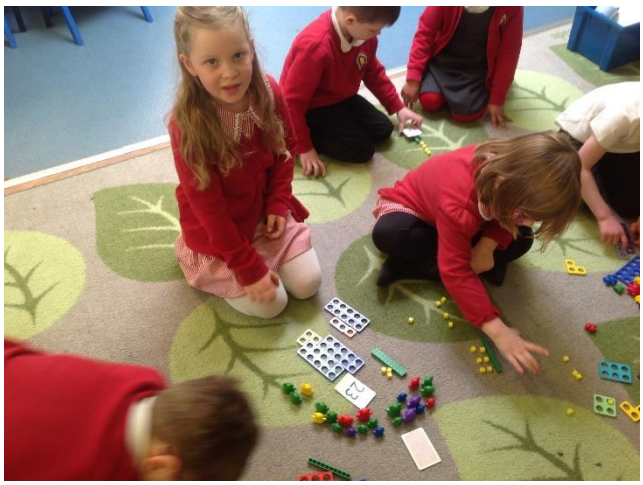
News from Rowan Class
Rowan Class have been busy completing a nature walk where we spotted lots of different flowers and trees. We did some bark rubbings and completed an identification sheet. We have been busy practising how to stay safe near the road for Beep Beep Day. Children from Oak Class kindly set up a road on the playground and showed the child how and how not to cross safely. Children in Reception have been learning about 3D shapes and using them to print 2D shapes and make repeating patterns. We have enjoyed writing about and listening to stories about growing and are preparing to grow sunflowers, sweet peas and other plants. Thank you for your gardening donations so far, we are very excited to get started!

News from Lime Class
Lime Class have had a lovely week and a great start to their new topic, 'Magnificent Monarchs'. First, they learnt about historical terminology such as; empire, monarch or century and they matched words with their definition. Then, they worked on a timeline of English monarchs – it was a long timeline stretching the whole of the school hall!

In RE they are learning about Islam and the Qur'an and they looked at verses from the Qur'an written in English and Arabic which we have used for our RE class display board. It looks lovely.

As a class, we produced a poster of top tips to save the planet. A very important job.

The children have also been learning about fractions and multiplication and division and have enjoyed lots of practical maths.



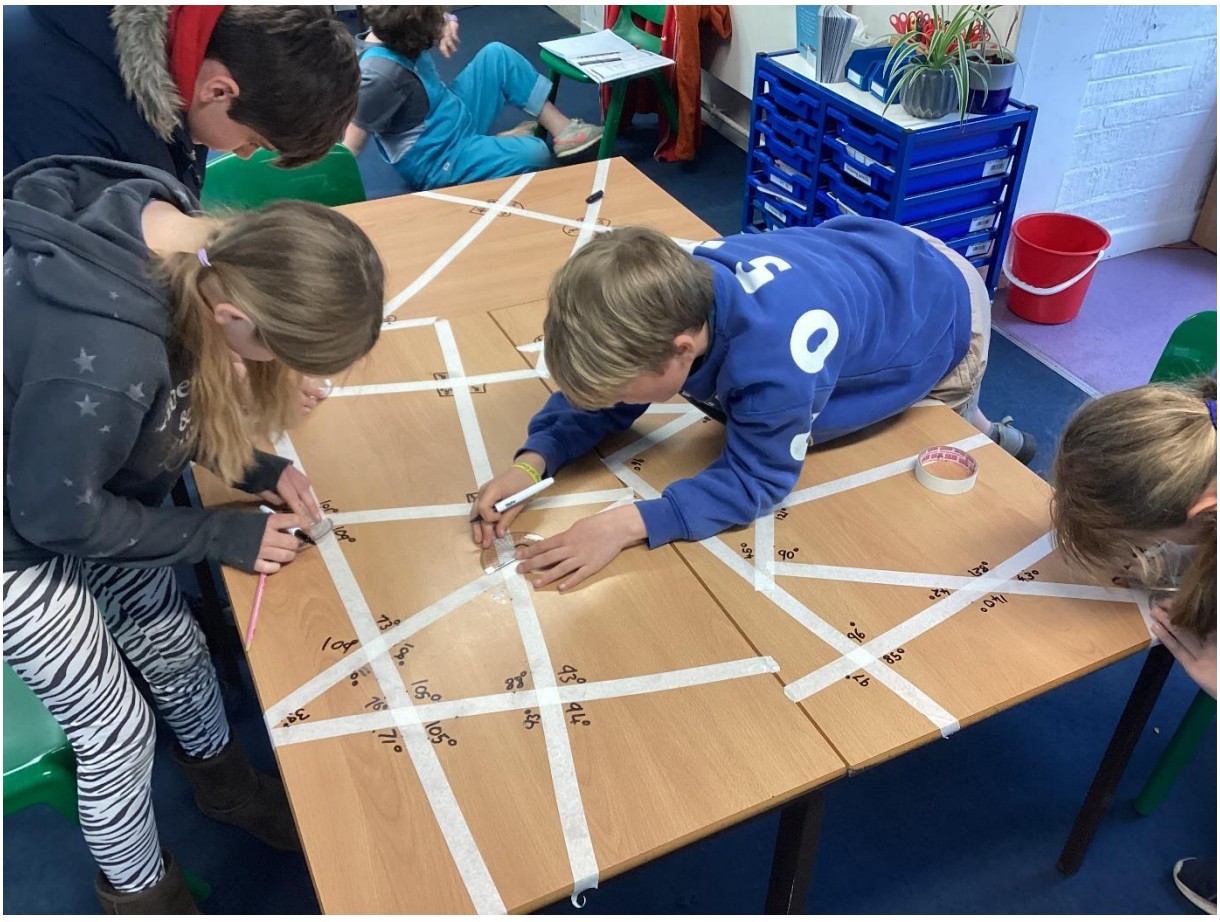
News from Willow Class

Willow class have had a fantastic start to the new term. We have earned a staggering 1362 dojo points (which convert to house points) from our home learning, the end of last term and the first two weeks after Easter. Well done everyone! Over the holidays, our book corner had a refresh. Each week, a small group of pupils are going to be responsible for the 'Shelf Take Over' where they suggest recommended reads to the rest of the class.

We have made some amazing sun catchers to celebrate Earth Day. Look out for them in the classroom window next week. We also thought about our road safety heroes for Beep Beep Day and talked about keeping safe on our bikes and scooters. In PE, we have created some super spy themed dances to the James Bond music! This week, we have all been practising the 8x table. We have looked for patterns, sung it, played bingo and played an online game, 'Hit the Button.' Next week, we will be looking at the 7x table.

News from Oak

Oak Class have returned for the Summer Term in high spirits and with lots of enthusiasm for our new units of learning. Our over-arching topic for the term is *Britain at War* and Oak Class held an incredibly interesting discussion about the causes of World War I. We have also started investigating *Light Theory* in Science and have enjoyed creating a real-life model of how we see things as well as making our own periscopes. In Maths, Year 6 have had a lot of fun measuring angles on their tables! We have started our new class novel, *When the Sky Falls* which has got us intrigued right from the start.



High Flyers Breakfast and Afterschool Club
Welcome back to all our children and families! We've had a fabulous start to the week, bustling with lots of activities. The children have been incredibly creative, making charming jellyfish and baskets from toilet rolls—truly showcasing their inner artists.

A special highlight of our week is Isabella, our **High-Flyer of the Week**! Isabella has been a beacon of kindness, always greeting everyone with her beautiful smile, which embodies our ethos of having fun and spreading joy.

Here's to many more exciting weeks filled with laughter, learning, and creativity!

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

Dates and reminders

Mon 6th May	Bank holiday – school closed
Tues 7th May	World Mile Challenge
Weds 8th May	Y4 Multi Skills event at The Marlborough School
w/c 13th May	Y6 SATs week
Fri 17th May	Y6 Bowling at The Heyford
Tues 21st May	Y6 Induction at The Marlborough School (9:30-12:30)
Thurs 23rd May	Prayer Space
Fri 24th May	May Day Celebrations – 2:30pm
Fri 24th May	**End of Term – 3:10pm**
Sun 2nd Jun	Lamb Ale
Mon 3rd Jun	INSET Day – school closed
Tues 4th Jun	**First day of term**
Wed 5th Jun	Drama4All Workshops (whole school)
Mon 10th Jun	Class photos
Weds 12th Jun	Oak Class trip (TBC)
Fri 14th Jun	Quidditch Event Day (whole school)
Mon 17th Jun	Willow Class Trip – Ashmolean
Tues 18th Jun	Oxfordshire Fire Service talk for Oak Class
Weds 19th Jun	Brake Traffic Awareness Kids Walk
Thurs 20th Jun	Y6 Induction at The Marlborough School (9:30-2:30)
Weds 26th Jun	P2000 Hockey Tournament – Oak Class
Tues 2nd Jul	Y6 Induction at The Marlborough (8:30-2:30)
Tues 2nd Jul	Y2 Mini Olympics at The Marlborough
Fri 5th Jul	Girl's Football Day at The Marlborough
Fri 12th Jul	Sport Day (9:30-11:30)
Fri 19th Jul	Y6 Leaver's Service – 1:30 (Y6 families only)
Fri 19th Jul	KSF Summer BBQ
Fri 23rd Jul	**Term Ends – 1:30pm**

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