Kirtlington CE Primary School

Friday 30th January 2026

Message from the Headteacher

It has been wonderful to see the creativity flourishing across the school this week through our 'Art Week'. Although we have marvellous art all throughout the school year, to champion the arts and have a whole-school focus has been really enriching. Hearing comments from the children such as 'I love all the art!' and see their pride in their compositions has been heart-warming.

A huge thank you to artists Gill and Cally who worked with each class and engaged the children so wonderfuly in creating pebble art, and to Cotwold Arts Through Schools (CATS) who funded the workshops. Thank you also to KSF, as ever, for their support of our focus week and assistance in purchasing art supplies. We would like to thank our wonderful parents for stepping up and coming in to assist Willow class with their sewing – your help was greatly appreciated.

I hope that lots of you will be able to come and enjoy our Art Gallery next Friday (see below) – put it in your diary!

This Term's School Value = Perseverance

Notices

Read the latest School Health Newsletter from the Primary Health team

World Book Day is coming! We just wanted to give you an early notice that this year we'll be celebrating all things non-fiction! Children are invited to dress up as a person, place, animal or object from their favourite non-fiction book. More information will be shared soon.

Rowan Class are in need of spare plain joggers and spare socks, for ages 3, 4 and 5. If you have any you wish to donate, please bring them to school.

Could you spare a few occasional hours to join the Church Flower Rota? If so, please contact Liz Furner on 07748 772486 or email lizzie.furner@gmail.com

Attendance

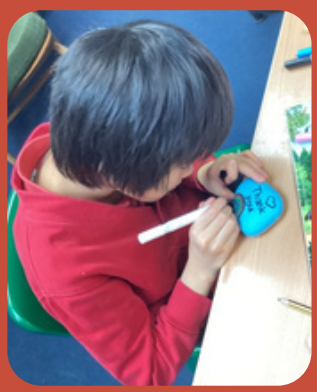
Whole School: 96.09%

Rowan: 95.3%
Willow: 96.3%
Lime: 94.82%
Oak: 98.41%

A reminder of NHS guidance for illness and absence

Art Week

What a wonderful week! Our pupils have studied the work of artists including Jackson Pollock, Wassily Kandinsky, William Morris and Pablo Picasso. They have sketched, painted, printed, collaged, sprayed and carved. They have looked at line, form, colour, texture, shape and space. They have explored, improvised, persevered, adapted, and reflected. They have collaborated, supported and praised each other. We have been so impressed!



At the Art Gallery, parents will have the opportunity to purchase a key artwork by their children. There will be a recommended contribution of £3, although any amount will be accepted, and purchases can be made by cash or card. All monies raised will go towards further developing the Art provision for all pupils. There will be opportunity for families that are unable to attend to do this after the event.

Tag Rugby at The Marlborough

Oak Class represented the school superbly at the partnership tag rugby tournament, where they finished as proud runners-up. The children showed an excellent understanding of tactics and learned that even without the ball in hand, they could make a huge impact on the game. Throughout the tournament they demonstrated resilience, determination and skill, alongside outstanding team spirit – supporting one another, working together on strategies, showing respect by shaking hands with the opposition and listening carefully to the referee's decisions. We are incredibly proud of them.

Class pages

Rowan

Rowan Class have really got stuck into their topic of 'Under the Sea'. We have learnt about different types of coral and how coral grows. We have enjoyed reading some brand new fiction and non-fiction books all about sea life. We have been busy making jellyfish and collaging sea creatures for our display, it's looking great so far! For Art Week, we have been exploring the work of Jackson Pollock. We used flicking and tapping motions on brushes, as well as using pipettes, syringes, spray bottles and sponges to create our own pieces, in the style of Jackson Pollock.

In Drawing Club, we have been looking at the book 'Tiddler'. We have been drawing and describing Tiddler and his underwater school, as well as inventing a way to rescuse Tiddler when he gets caught in a fishing net. In maths we have been identifying numerals and matching them to amounts. In music, we have started a unit called 'This is Me' and have learnt a song where we say 'hello' in different languages. We have enjoyed working on our scissor skills by cutting playdough and making a catapult with the balance boards. We have also been using fishing rods with a magnet on the end to determine which items in our classroom are magnetic and which are not.

Lime

This week has been Art Week in school, and we have spent lots of time creating artwork which you can see in the school art exhibition next Friday. The children have been inspired by the famous Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky and have created individual masterpieces using line, shape and colour. We have also worked together to produce a whole-class piece of art using patterned printed circles. Please do come along and see our beautiful artwork! Alongside art, the Year 1 children have been retelling the story of The Three Little Pigs, while the Year 2 children have been busy writing their own alternative versions of the story. In maths, we have been practising addition and subtraction using one- and two-digit numbers.

In topic, we have been looking at coastal erosion, naming coastal features such as bay, beach, cliff, cave, arch, stack and stump and we have been looking at coastal erosion defences.
In RE, we have been looking at the ten commandments and their importance for both Christians and Jewish people. We will write our own commandments on our mini Torah scrolls.
We also enjoyed a special Art session painting large stones and had lots of fun.

Class pages

Willow

Another busy fortnight in Willow class! We finished off our fractions topic with everyone working hard to learn about mixed numbers and improper fractions - really great foundations for when we return to fractions later in the year. In English, the children have thoroughly enjoyed choosing one of the 'Tiny Ten-Word Tales' to extend. It has been fantastic to see them start to include correctly punctuated speech, explore using different sentence starters and become more confident to use paragraphs to add structure to their narratives.

We are looking forward to sharing our final pieces that we have produced during art week in the gallery next week. The children have shown great care and attention in all of their pieces, and much perseverance with sewing skills! Many thanks to the parents who were able to help us with these.

Finally, a big well done to the year 4s, who have experienced several wet and cold Thursdays in the forest so far this term. They have returned at the end of the sessions very, very muddy but with enormous smiles on their faces!

Oak

Over the past fortnight, Oak Class have been working incredibly hard across the curriculum. In Maths, the children tackled some very challenging learning on decimals, fractions and percentages. While this was demanding, they showed real perseverance and their growing arithmetic skills were evident throughout. In English, Oak Class produced excellent balanced arguments exploring whether polar expeditions should continue. This required them to remain impersonal, avoid sharing their own opinions and carefully select vocabulary for maximum impact – a challenge they rose to impressively.

This week, Oak Class have moved into Art Week and creativity has been flowing. The children began by developing an understanding of abstract art, using images to cut up and recreate in abstract ways. They then explored abstraction through line, shape and colour, producing some truly magnificent pieces of artwork. One of the highlights of the week was creating soap sculptures inspired by Inuit art, where the children carefully carved animal forms using templates and great concentration. We are very much looking forward to sharing some of their fantastic artwork with you at the art gallery next week.

High Flyers

🥞 February Half Term Holiday Club – Pancake Theme 🥞

Christopher Rawlins School - Adderbury 16th February

Gagle Brook School - Bicester 17th February

Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm

- Cost: £40 per day
- What to bring: Packed lunch (We provide everything else)
- Who for: Children who love being active, creative and having fun

Dates for your diary

3rd Feb – Childhood Measurement Programme for Reception and Year 6
3rd Feb – Vision screening for Reception
6th Feb – Art Gallery open to parents from 2–3pm
10th Feb – Safer Internet Day
11th Feb – Rowan and Lime Class Drama Workshops
13th Feb – Term ends at 3:10pm
23th Feb – Term begins at 8:40pm
26th Feb – Sports Hall Athletics for Oak Class at The Marlborough
27th Feb – Willow Class Bake for Brushes
4th Mar – Oak Class Football Referee Course
5th Mar – World Book Day
TBC – Scholastic Book Fair
16th & 18th Mar – Parents' Evening – 3:30–6pm
19th Mar – u11s Netball Tournament at The Marlborough
20th Mar – Oak Class Bake for Brushes
24th Mar – iRock Concert
25th Mar – Easter Service at St Mary's Church

Major dates for this year

Links to letters emailed out and
local events and information:

Term dates 2026–2027