Kirtlington CE Primary School

Friday 22nd May 2026

Message from the Headteacher

What a wonderful way to end the half term – with dancing, singing and sunshine! As ever, it was a lovely May Day celebration and fantastic to have so many family and friends come to watch and join in the celebrations.

Last week, the Year 6 students completed their SATs assessments, and Mrs Clark and I were SO proud of the way they approached the week. They displayed excellent attitudes, gave the tests their absolute best, and supported each other throughout the whole week. What a marvellous bunch of students! Their reward last Friday was a fun day of activities and a great time was had by all.

In addition, Oak class enjoyed a fascinating trip to Didcot Railway Museum this week to enrich their World War topic – see below for more about their day out.

A huge well done to all of our classes for their hard work over the last few weeks, we wish everyone a well-deserved and fun half term.

This Term's School Value = Service

Notices

Please come and support us at Lamb Ale on Sunday 31st May – this is a wonderful tradition for the village and a fantastic fundraising opportunity. Come along and enjoy the dancing and if you can spare an hour to help that would be wonderful – just let KSF know via your class WhatsApp group.

There's still time to support the fundraising for the new cricket pitch at the Village Hall – you can donate via GoFundMe.

A huge thank you to KSF for funding our six new outdoor beanbags. They are a big hit with all of the children!

Attendance

Whole School: 96.6%

Rowan: 97.13%
Willow: 98%

Lime: 92.76%
Oak: 99.52%

A reminder of NHS guidance for illness and absence

May Day celebration

The playground rang to the sound of the accordian and dancing feet, as we celebrated the beginning of summer with the traditional May Day festivities. Parents and families enjoyed the maypole, country dancing and singing performances.

Get creative with your camera over half term and take part in the Village Fete photography competition. They would love to see more entries from primary aged children and there's a prize for the winner. This year the theme is 'Patterns in Kirtlington'. The closing date for submissions is Friday 12th June.

Oak Class Trip to Didcot Railway Centre

Oak Class enjoyed a fascinating and memorable trip to Didcot Railway Centre, where they took part in a WWII evacuee experience. The adventure began with an exciting train journey from Tackley, and we would like to extend a huge thank you to all the parents who helped transport children to and from the station. Throughout the day, the children worked brilliantly as a team: carefully packing an evacuee suitcase with only the essentials, experiencing a dramatic bombing raid in an air raid shelter, and even helping to put out a fire and deal with a bomb. They also enjoyed a steam train ride, where they learned what to do if there was a bomb on the line. The children completed jobs that evacuee children might have been expected to do during the war and took part in a traditional school lesson. It was a wonderful day filled with learning, teamwork and enthusiasm,

Class pages

Rowan

Rowan Class have had a lovely few weeks spending lots of time in the garden. We have been busy checking on the progress of our strawberries, sweet peas and broad beans. We have been working in the wildlife area, digging and building homes for frogs and toads. Some of us have been building tall steps to jump from and discussing how many crates we're going to need for the next step, and building obstacle courses too! We have enjoyed chasing games (Mrs Kisby has really gotten her steps in this week!) We are still loving our learning on animals around the world, recently learning about animals from India, China and Antarctica. We also loved watching the hail storms and catching hailstones in our hands, it was very loud under the canopy.

In our Drawing Club lessons, we have been drawing and writing about the story 'Not Now Bernard', drawing the monster and Bernard's house, then drawing and writing about where we think the monster might have come from. We also learnt some new vocabulary such as 'fiercesome' and 'astonished'. In our maths lessons, Reception children have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes, number bonds to five and recapping number six by making arrangements with counters. Nursery children have been subitising (seeing an amount without counting) two and three.

Lime

This week the children have been learning about fractions in Maths particularly unit and non-unit fractions and three quarters. They have worked really hard and are becoming experts particularly at colouring three quarters of shapes! We have discussed preferring to have one third of a chocolate bar than one quarter as it is bigger!

In English, the children have been building up to writing an information text. We have learnt about the features of information texts such as heading. introduction, sub headings, paragraphs, pictures and captions, third person and present tense, apostrophes for possession and the use of technical language and factual adjectives.

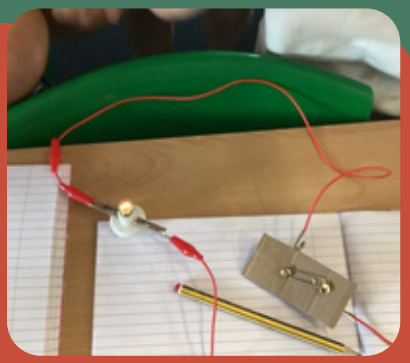
We have been doing lots of May Day dancing practice including skipping onto the 'stage' and skipping off.

In RE, we are continuing to learn about Islam and we compared Islam with Christianity. We have learnt how reverently Muslims treat the qur'an such as storing it in a high place and never leaving it on the floor.

In Topic, the children were given the option of learning about Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror or Henry viii. They chose Henry viii and we looked at his life and sorted the main events into positive and negative categories. The other kings will be, hopefully, studied next term.

Class pages

Willow



Willow class has had a productive fortnight with lots of super learning to share. In English, we wrapped up our film unit by turning part of the film into a piece of narrative writing, focusing on how to edit and improve our work. The children have shown great enthusiasm for spotting punctuation errors and varying their sentence openers. In maths, I've been especially impressed with everyone's determination as we tackled the Year 4 topic of decimals — a big well done to the whole class for approaching this challenge with such confidence.

Science has been full of excitement as we explored electrical conductors and insulators, leading to the highlight of making our very own switches. The children were delighted when their switches allowed them to turn their bulbs on and off. We've also continued to enjoy our Ancient Egypt topic, writing job advertisements for a pharaoh and creating diary entries from the perspective of Howard Carter as he discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun. Theo and Isadora gave a super presentation explaining how climate change is affecting the glacier near where they live in Chamonix. It was fitting that we finished our RE unit this week by watching 'The Promise' which ends with the message 'We can change the world heart by heart, seed by seed, tree by tree, together.'

Oak

Enormous congratulations to our wonderful Year 6 children, who worked so hard throughout SATs week and showed such determination, patience and kindness every step of the way. You truly embodied our school values and made the whole school incredibly proud. Whatever happens when the results arrive, you should all know that your hard work, resilience and positive attitude have been outstanding — and that trying your very best is something to be immensely proud of. To celebrate the end of SATs week and all of their hard work, the children enjoyed an morning of laser tag, dodgeball and a bouncy castle together. We would also like to say a huge thank you to our Year 5 children, who were so flexible and patient throughout the week. As a reward for their support and understanding, they enjoyed a special afternoon of Golden Time, with children playing a variety of games both indoors and outside.

This week in Maths, Year 5 have been developing their understanding of decimals, building confidence with place value and problem-solving skills. Meanwhile, Year 6 have been using their investigative skills to carry out a perimeter investigation, applying their mathematical knowledge thoughtfully and systematically. In RE, the children continued their work on religions and the concept of Golden Rules, finishing the unit by creating their own Golden Rules to live by. Their ideas were incredibly thoughtful and showed great consideration and kindness towards others. In English, we have begun an exciting new writing unit focused on instructional writing, where the children will be writing instructions on how to survive an air raid during WWII.

Dates for your diary

31st May – Lamb Ale – from 12pm at school
1st Jun – Term begins at 8:40am
3rd Jun – Lime Class Trip to the Science Centre
5th Jun – Woodstock u11s cricket day at Charlbury
9th Jun – Y6 Transition to The Marlborough (9:30am–12:15pm)
10th Jun – u11 & u9 Quad Kids at The Marlborough
19th Jun – Willow Class Trip to the Science Centre
22nd Jun – Whole school workshops with Oxford Opera
25th Jun – Class Photos
28th Jun – Kirtlington Village Fete
30th Jun – Y6 Transition to The Marlborough (9:30am–2:30pm)
30th Jun – Kirtlington transition afternoon (all year groups)
3rd Jul – Sports Day – 9:30–11:30 at the Village Hall Playing Field
6th Jul – KS2 Play – 6pm in the school hall
7th Jul – Y6 Transition to The Marlborough (8:25am–2:30pm)
7th Jul – Kirtlington Transition morning (all year groups)
7th Jul – KS2 Play – 6pm in the school hall
8th Jul – Y2 Multi Skills Festival at The Marlborough
9th Jul – Girls' Football Day at The Marlborough
10th Jul – Y6 Leaver's Service at St Mary's Church – 2pm
10th Jul – KSF End of Year BBQ – 4:15pm
14th Jul – iRock Concert – 9:30am
16th Jul – Term ends – 1pm finish

Links to letters emailed out and
local events and information:

Middleton Stoney Open Gardens
Term dates 2026–2027