



Northbourne News

4th September 2020

On behalf of all of us at Northbourne, I would like to welcome you all back to school at the start of a brand new year – one which I am sure we all desperately hope is more like the school years we are used to. We hope you managed to have something of a break over the summer, even if this was very different to normal, and that children are refreshed and raring to go for the new school year. It has been lovely to see so many of you after such a long amount of time – thank you all for your support and understanding around the changes we have had to make for this to be safe.

I would like to welcome the families who have joined us, both as parents of new Foundation Stage pupils and those who have moved to Northbourne and have started in classes across the school. We hope the children joining us in Puffins, Swans and Nightingales have had a great day today and are looking forward to an exciting longer week from Tuesday.

Remember to look out for this weekly newsletter. It usually contains important dates, as well as passing on important information about all of the things going on in school. This is posted on our website and sent electronically via ParentMail. If an additional parent or grandparent needs to be added to ParentMail, please send an email to the office stating your child's name, class, and name and email of the person to be added.

Covid Safety

Many thanks to all of you for starting to adapt to the new processes and systems which we have had to implement in light of our detailed re-opening risk assessment. I know the information that I have sent home about these changes has been lengthy and there will be inevitable teething problems, but, to ensure the safety of children, parents and staff, it is important our new procedures are followed. I will continue to provide updates and reminders in the newsletter as the term progresses as I am sure things will change and evolve as time goes on. Please always read these carefully and play your part in helping ensure school remains safe.

During next week, as we welcome our Nursery children, all children will be back in school. **It is incredibly important that you only arrive on the school site at the start of your dropping off slot and your child is in their classroom by the end of this time;** this morning, the site became congested at points while teachers tried to welcome children into their classrooms, and our staggered start is aimed at avoiding this. From Monday, please only send your child into the classroom at the following times:

- Key Stage Two (Owls, Falcons, Hawks, Kites, Eagles, Kestrels): 8:40 – 8:45am
- Y2 (Robins and Nightingales): 8:45 – 8:55am
- Puffins, Swans and Nightingales: 8:55 – 9:05am

If we cannot manage this better, teachers will have no choice but to start asking parents to leave the site and return at the start of their allocated time. I am hopeful that we are only experiencing teething problems – I know how hard it is to time the journey to school exactly! – but it is a key part of our being able to re-open that we implement staggered drop-offs and pick-ups.

A reminder that children and parents should not come to the school site if they display any of these symptoms:

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste.

It is vitally important that you arrange a Covid test (self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk or by contacting 119) if displaying any of these symptoms. Similarly, please follow any Track and Trace guidance you receive. Please keep us informed of test results or Track and Trace guidance through a phone call to the office: 01235 817744.

The See, Hear, Respond Support Hub from Barnados is an interactive central space for parents and children to access a range of materials and resources to help address some of the challenges the pandemic has presented. It has a range of useful resources covering emotional wellbeing, supporting families, online life, and returning to school and is well worth a look if you have any issues or would like any advice and guidance.

Diary dates

At this point of term, we would usually be sending home our annual calendar of assemblies, trips, PTA events and all of the other extra-curricular activities on offer each year. At the moment, given we are unable to host gatherings of large numbers of adults and children, we aren't able to schedule our usual events. I very much hope this will change as the school year goes on, but it does mean we are not able to arrange dates for these at this point which I know is always very useful for planning busy household diaries. We will continue to do our best to give you as much notice as possible about in-school events as and when these are booked, and hope you understand why we are not able to send you a yearly calendar at this point.

Individual photos: One advance date at the moment – children will have their individual school photos taken during the school day on 28th September. Children will have their photographs taken individually and with their siblings but, unfortunately, due to restrictions on who can enter the building it will not be possible for us to offer photographs with children younger than school age as we usually do. Please note, children in Penguins will be able to have photos with their siblings as we can organise this within the school day.

Wraparound Care

Morning Fun Club and After-School Club resume on Monday. Many thanks to all of you who have already booked places.

Morning Fun Club starts at 7:30am every day, offering high quality childcare at the start of the school day. Sessions are £4.50 per child (£4 for each additional sibling) **payable in advance of the session**, and include a choice of different breakfast foods and a range of activities to help get the day off to a great start. Please send children into Morning Fun Club through the doors at the back of the hall, where they will be greeted by a member of staff, registered and shown to the room their 'bubble' will be meeting. As with the rest of the school, we ask that parents do not come into the hall when dropping off.



After School Club runs between 3 and 5pm every day and costs £8 per session. Children will be provided with fruit and a snack (not a full meal), so please feel free to send an additional food item to school with your child if they are used to having something more substantial before 5pm. Children will leave After-School Club through the doors at the back of the hall; staff will send children out to meet you when you are sighted. Please respect social distancing expectations while waiting to collect children at the end of a session.

We are able to accept Childcare vouchers and the Government Tax-Free Childcare Scheme as payment towards both Morning Fun Club and After-School Club.

We are always happy to answer any questions about our wraparound care. Please speak to Mrs. Gennery in the office if we can help with anything.

Uniform

It is always lovely to see so many smartly dressed children arrive at school each morning, wearing proper uniform. I would just like to make a couple of reminders as to the clothes that all children should wear each day:

- **Shoes** should be of a dark colour, not white, and be smart and appropriate for school. Shoes should not be coloured, and should have no coloured logos, laces or other additions.
- **Trousers and skirts** should be dark grey or black.
- **Jewellery** should not be worn, except for a watch and a single pair of stud earrings. This is for health and safety reasons. Nail polish or make-up should not be worn.

A reminder that we politely request parents of children with shoulder-length or longer hair tie this back; this is to try to limit the spread of head-lice between pupils, as well as ensuring hair is kept out of faces as children work. Head bands should be a simple band, without any large decorative additions.

To avoid the problems which lost uniform bring, please remember to clearly label all clothing – and especially green jumpers – with your child's name. Things inevitably go missing during the course of a normal week, and named items of clothing are very easy to reunite with their owner.

PE Uniform

You may remember that we will ask children to arrive at school in their PE uniform on the days their class have PE lessons. This information will be sent home to you at the start of next week so please look out for this. **Falcon class have PE on Monday; please can Falcons come to school wearing their PE Uniform which consists of:**

- Green Northbourne PE T-shirts, available to buy through Parentmail priced £5 or £5.50 depending on size;
- Black or dark shorts (during warmer weather) or dark jogging bottoms (when outside during the winter);
- Hoodie, tracksuit top or other warm jumpers (as pupils will not be getting changed for PE, a school jumper is fine with this) for pupils during PE as the weather starts to turn colder.

Requests...

- We sent a lot of school reading books home with children at the start of lockdown. We would be grateful if you could now arrange for these to be brought back into school so we can get them back into our class libraries; many thanks for your help.
- It would be helpful if children could bring a carrier bag into school with them next week so we can send home some of their work from last year. Thank you!
- You will have seen that we are now increasingly using forms within Parentmail, and acknowledge that some may not always be relevant to you or your child. This includes the lunch order form **which only needs to be used for sandwiches/jacket potatoes and not the daily main meal** and the booking forms for Morning Fun Club or After-School Club. If any forms are not relevant to you and your child, please ignore or delete these.

Term dates for this year

Please see below for a reminder of this year's term dates; I hope this will help planning family holidays for the school year. Please do keep in mind that I remain unable to authorise any leave for holiday during school term time and help your child to achieve their full potential by making sure that they are in school, every day, ready to learn.

TERM DATES 2020-21

Term	Main School	Nursery
Autumn Term	3 September(*) – 23 October <i>INSET DAYS: 2nd & 3rd September</i>	7 September (*) – 23 October <i>Please see individual letter regarding your child's first day in Nursery</i>
<i>October half term</i>	<i>26 October – 30 October</i>	
Autumn Term	2 November – 18 December <i>School finishes at 1:30pm on 18 December</i>	2 November – 17 December
<i>Christmas holiday</i>	<i>21 December – 1 January</i>	
Spring Term	4 January – 12 February	4 January – 12 February
<i>Spring half term</i>	<i>15 February – 19 February</i>	
Spring Term	22 February – 31 March <i>School finishes at 1:30pm on 31 March</i>	22 February – 30 March
<i>Easter Holiday</i>	<i>1 April – 16 April</i>	
Summer Term	19 April – 28 May May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May	19 April – 28 May
<i>Late Spring half term</i>	<i>31 May – 4 June</i>	
Summer Term	8 June – 20 July <i>School finishes at 1:30pm on 20 July</i> <i>INSET DAYS: 7 June</i> <i>21 & 22 July</i>	8 June – 19 July