



Northbourne News

17th September 2021

We have taken a further step back to normality at school this week with the resumption of face-to-face assemblies. Pupils have met in their Key Stages for these so far, but years 1 to 6 will come together today for Celebration assembly. Being able to speak to children in person, rather than through Zoom on my monitor, was wonderful – little reminder was needed for pupils about how special these thoughtful, reflective, celebratory times are, and children participated enthusiastically. Hearing Key Stage Two sing together for the first time in a year-and-a-half was a truly moving moment – we can't wait to be able to share this with parents and carers as the year goes on.

Bryony Landsbert, the Educational Psychologist for the Didcot partnership of schools, was working with us on Wednesday this week. She emailed after her visit to say *"what an absolute pleasure it was to be in school this morning. It was a joy to see such a happy and purposeful atmosphere literally everywhere I went - and I have seldom experienced such a happy and content playtime as I did this morning on the field."* It was so affirming to hear such positive comments from someone who sees so many other schools every week – and I would whole-heartedly echo how happy and focused children both in their classes and around school.

A reminder that the main school gate now closes at **8:55am**. Please make sure to arrive in school in time for children to be in their classrooms, ready to start learning, at the start of school – children are embarrassed by arriving late, and this causes disruption to the rest of their class. From next week, I will once again start writing to parents where children arrive late twice during the week, so please help ensure that morning routines allow a punctual arrival to school.

Learning Review meetings

Some advance notice of dates for our Learning Review (formerly parent consultation) meetings this year, to help with diary planning and organisation:

Wednesday 20th (4 – 7pm) and Thursday 21st (3:15 – 5pm) October

Wednesday 16th (4 – 7pm) and Thursday 17th (3:15 – 5pm) February

Booking information will follow nearer the time, as will the decision about whether these can be face-to-face or remain remote for the time-being.

Parents of children receiving Special Educational Needs support will be invited to an initial target-setting meeting imminently, along with dates for reviews during the rest of the year. Please look out for this information through Parentmail, and let our SENCo, Mr. Woods, or your child's class teacher know if you have any questions.

Owls, Falcons and Hawks news

On the afternoon of Thursday 23rd September, pupils in Y3/4 will be going on a short visit to St. Peter's Church to learn more about the life of St. Peter. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat if it is forecast to be wet; as always, let myself or your child's class teacher know if you have any questions.

Secondary transition events

Didcot Girls' School: Open Evening Wednesday 29th September, 4:30 – 7:30pm – no booking necessary. Other information about tours available on DGS's website: <https://www.didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk/327/open-events-and-information-for-prospective-families>

St Birinus School: Open Evening Wednesday 22nd September, 5:30 – 8pm – no booking necessary. Other Open Mornings are available 28th, 29th, 30th Sept and 5th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th and 14th Oct, starting at 9.15am.

Aureus Secondary School: Year 5 and 6 Open Evening Thursday 7th October, 5 – 7pm. Other Open Mornings are also available, with details on the school website: <http://www.aureusschool.org/548/open-events>

School meals

A reminder to parents of our new Puffins and Swans that children in Reception are all entitled to a free, government-funded school lunch each day. You will receive our menu through Parentmail every fortnight, and each day Tracy and her team prepare a hot main, vegetarian main, jacket potato option or school packed lunch, along with a dessert. If you would like your child to have the main meal, you do not need to reply to us using the form; we only need to know if your child would prefer the jacket potato or school packed lunch option so we can cater accordingly.

We know that not knowing how much your child has eaten at lunchtime can cause anxiety – please be assured that lunchtime supervisors let class teachers know where there are concerns, so we can let you know.

If you have any questions about any of our catering arrangements, please get in touch with us at the office and we can put you in touch with Tracy.

Well done...

...to the Woods family. After learning of the situation in Afghanistan and realising that it was affecting children just like them, all three children decided to make jewellery and try and sell it to people passing by their home. A lot of man-hours and jewellery-making later, they had raised an amazing £600 for Tearfund's Afghanistan appeal. As charities are still being allowed into the country, the money that they have raised will be spent providing essentials, such as food and healthcare for families there. We are all so proud of this amazing effort, with the children living out all of our core values.