



# Northbourne News

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

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 know we all hope will be another step back towards something more normal than we have experienced over the last two school years. We hope you managed to have something of a break over the summer, and that children are refreshed and raring to go. It was lovely to see so many enthusiastic, smiling, exceptionally smart pupils at the gate this morning...we hope the first day back is a happy one, and look forward to our first full week of school next week.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming new staff to our school: Mrs. Sharon Stanley who will be teaching Swan class, and Mrs. Alice Dorsett, an Associate Teacher beginning her teacher training, who will be working with Mrs. Alleway in Nightingale class.

I would also 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 and Swans have a great day today and are looking forward to an exciting longer week next week.

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.

## Our school day

I hope the information about changes to our Covid protocols sent home at the start of this week was useful; thanks again for taking this into account when dropping children off this morning. A reminder that children should arrive into their classrooms between **8:45 and 8:55am** – our school day starts at 8:55am, so arrival after this sees children marked in our registers as late. The end of the day is:

- 3pm for children in Reception and years 1 – 4;
- Between 3 and 3:15pm for children in Nursery;
- 3:05pm for children in Y5 and 6, who will be walked out of school by a member of staff. If your child is in Y3/4 and you would like them to be brought to Cockcroft Road by an adult, please email [lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) and ensure children know who will be meeting them; otherwise, we will assume you will collect them from the playground.

To ensure the safety of adults and children, gates are locked promptly at 8:55am and when the last class leave at 3:05pm; please do not congregate on the playground after pick-up to help us with this.

## Covid protocols

Government advisors are predicting a “bumpy” start to the school term in relation to the unpredictability around possible increases in Covid cases. With this in mind, please remember that children and parents should book a PCR test and not come to the school site if suffering with any of these symptoms:

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

A reminder that children (and double vaccinated adults) no longer need to isolate if they are close contacts with someone who is Covid positive. This means that children can now continue to attend school where other members of their household may have Covid. In these circumstances, Test and Trace may be in touch to advise a PCR test is taken, and it would seem to be a sensible precaution for adults to take daily Lateral Flow Tests to pick up any illness as soon as possible. *A reminder, however, that Lateral Flow Tests should not be used with children.* I am sure the government advice will evolve as term progresses so, as always, thanks in advance for your patience should our protocols have to also change.

**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. Due to Covid, we no longer keep a collection of lost property, making it even more important that we can find out who owns different items of clothing quickly.

**PE Uniform**

Children should come to school in their PE uniform on the days this is taught. These days are:

| Class   | Days      | Class        | Days                 | Class   | Days                 | Class    | Days                |
|---------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Puffins | Thursday* | Robins       | Wednesday and Friday | Owls    | Monday and Tuesday   | Kites    | Tuesday             |
| Swans   | Thursday* | Wrens        | Wednesday and Friday | Falcons | Monday and Wednesday | Eagles   | Monday and Thursday |
|         |           | Nightingales | Monday and Tuesday   | Hawks   | Tuesday and Friday   | Kestrels | Monday and Thursday |

- 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.

*\*Children in Puffins and Swans will not start formal taught PE from the start of the year, and so will not need to come to school in PE uniforms at the moment. We will be in touch when this changes.*

We are pleased to be able to resume curriculum swimming at The Wave this term – we know many children missed this last year. Kites will swim on Thursdays for the first five weeks of term, starting next Thursday (9<sup>th</sup> September); for these lessons, boys will need swimming trunks (not short please) and girls will need a swimming costume (one-piece only; bikinis should not be worn). Pupils will also need a towel and a swimming hat – these are available to buy from the school office.

You are welcome to include goggles in swimming kits for Thursday lessons; however, before doing so, please make sure that you:

- Choose a pair with BSI instructions on the packaging for the correct way to put on and take off goggles;
- Choose a pair that fit properly. Leaking goggles are annoying for children and waste lesson time;
- Ensure your child knows how to fit and adjust goggles properly as teachers aren't able to take responsibility for this.

If you have any questions about this, or any other aspects of swimming lessons, please speak to myself, Mrs. Stewart or Miss Rawcliffe.

### School Food

- Please ensure children have a named water bottle with them in school every day. These should contain water and not squash or juice.
- Children in Reception and Key Stage One (Robins, Wrens and Nightingales) are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable each day for their morning snack; if you would like to send your own snack in for a child in these year groups, please make sure it is only fruit or veg – no Fruit Winder / chewy bar type snacks please.
- Tracy, our Catering Manager, runs a Fruit and Veg bar for children in Key Stage Two (years 3 – 6); each snack costs 20p and can be bought with a snack card – these cost £3 each and so cover payment for 15 snacks, and can be bought through Parentmail. Alternatively, children can bring a snack from home – as for Key Stage One, only fruit and veg please.
- We currently have children in Reception, Y1 /2 and Y5 /6 with serious nut allergies. Please make sure that, if your child is in any of these year groups, any food brought in from home does not contain nuts; thanks in advance for your help with this.

### Secondary School transition

Members of staff from Didcot Girls' School and St. Birinus will be visiting Northbourne next Thursday (**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September**) at 6pm to meet prospective parents of pupils in Y5 and 6 who would like to find out more about both of the schools. There will be short presentations from staff at each school, followed by an informal opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Please come along to hear more as you make your decisions about the secondary schools your children will attend....the deadline for applications will come round very quickly this term!

### 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 and registered. 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 6pm every day and is run by Get Active Sports. Places should be booked with Get Active directly through their website: <https://www.getactivesports.com/>

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.

**Keeping in touch**

We appreciate that Covid restrictions can sometimes make it difficult to have informal discussions with class teachers in the same way that these would have been possible previously. Please continue to use these email addresses to get in touch with your child's teacher should you have any questions.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Mr. Shaughnessy                | <a href="mailto:Head.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">Head.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>               |
| Office                         | <a href="mailto:office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>           |
| Nursery                        | <a href="mailto:penguins@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">penguins@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>                 |
| Puffins and Swans              | <a href="mailto:reception@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">reception@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>               |
| Robins, Wrens and Nightingales | <a href="mailto:keystageone@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">keystageone@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>           |
| Owls, Falcons and Hawks        | <a href="mailto:lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a> |
| Kites, Eagles and Kestrels     | <a href="mailto:upperkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">upperkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a> |

**Safeguarding**

Northbourne is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We undertake rigorous checks on all staff and volunteers who work in our school and maintain a central record documenting these. Staff involved in recruitment and selection of employees are trained in safer recruitment and all of our staff and volunteers undertake Child Protection training.

If you have concerns about the safety of a child, please speak to Mr. Shaughnessy, who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school. In my absence, please speak to a trained Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Johnston, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Alleway, Mr. Woods, Miss Hill or Miss Rawcliffe. Kate Woods is our named governor with responsibility for Child Protection.

Any concerns about the conduct of a member of staff in relation to safeguarding and child protection should be raised in the same way.

All school policies relating to the safeguarding of pupils are available for further reference on the school website, with paper copies available from the school office on request.

You can also contact the Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to report any concerns about children on 0333 0143325.