



Northbourne News

1st October 2021

PTA AGM

Many thanks to those parents who have spoken to me about getting involved with our PTA to help drive our ongoing fundraising. If you are able to lend us some time or would like to find out more about taking on a position on the PTA committee, please come along to our AGM on Monday (4th October) after the end of school. It has been hard to find a time of day that suits everyone who has expressed an interest, so if you can't make this meeting but would like to be involved please let me know and I can make sure to keep you informed. Given the meeting is outside school time, children are very welcome – we will make sure to have toys and games available. Please sign into school at the main office where you will be shown to the library. I hope you can make it along, and thanks in advance for your ongoing support.

Individual and sibling photographs

A reminder that individual and family photos will be taken on **Monday** (4th October). If you would like a photograph which includes a sibling *younger than school age*, please bring all of your children to the photographer in the hall at 8:30am to allow these to be taken before the start of school. This does not apply to siblings who are all currently at Northbourne (including in both nursery sessions), who will be collected for a joint photograph during the day.

A reminder to changes to PE days next week: please could children in Robins, Owls, Eagles and Kestrels wear usual school uniform on this day rather than their PE clothes. Owls will have PE on Thursday that week as an alternative to Monday, so will need their PE uniform that day instead.

Jubilee INSET Day

As schools are on the half term break at the time of the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in May 2022, regulations around the length of the school year have been changed meaning schools can identify a sixth INSET day in lieu of this Bank Holiday. We will take Monday 18th July as our additional INSET Day, meaning school will close to pupils for the summer at 1:30pm on Friday 15th July. We hope this will mean you can book an earlier summer holiday, when prices might be slightly cheaper.

Apologies for any inconvenience this change causes; this change was only approved by the government in mid September.

School census: Thursday 7th October

Next Thursday is the day of the national school census, information from which is used to determine levels of funding received by schools for the following school year. One element of our funding is calculated based on the number of children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 who have a school meal from our kitchen on the day of the census; for each child in these year groups who has a school meal next Thursday, we will receive almost £500 in our main school budget. With finances and resources stretched, this will make a huge difference to the overall level of funding we receive, with which we support your child's education.

Please help by seriously considering your child taking a school meal next Thursday, even if they have not had a school meal up to this point.

The menu for next week was sent out last week. As always, if your child does not like the main meal option (sausage roll, mash and beans), Tracy is happy to provide a school packed lunch or a filled jacket potato, which can be requested in the usual way.

Secondary transition events

A reminder that secondary school applications need to be made by 31st October. This is done through Oxfordshire County Council, using their website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/year-7-applications/make-application>. If you have any questions, or I can help with any part of this process, please make sure to get in touch.

Didcot Girls' School: School tour information available on DGS's website: <https://www.didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk/327/open-events-and-information-for-prospective-families>

St Birinus School: Open Mornings are available 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>