



# Northbourne News

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## PTA Update

I am pleased to be able to introduce you to our newly formed PTA committee, elected at our AGM on Monday. Anita Smith, mum of Hannah in Kestrels, will be Chair with Becci Cox, mum of Darcy in Kites as Vice Chair. Karen Hynds, mum of Lucas in Owls, will be Treasurer, and Tracey Haxton, mum of Sophie in Kites, will be Secretary. Donna North, mum of Frankie and Freddie in Kestrels and Bella in Falcons, and Lisa Howlett, mum of Alfie in Nightingales and Ellis in Penguins, are co-opted committee members. I am sure you will join me in thanking our new committee members for their time and commitment.

Although the committee we have in place will take a lead in organising events, we cannot run these without extra pairs of hands. We know how busy home life is, but would be really grateful to anyone who can come along to help set up, run, or tidy up after the events that we will aim to run during the year. Please speak to myself, one of the committee members, or keep an eye on the PTA Facebook page (search Northbourne School PTA) for updates if you can help at any point – we will be really grateful.

Some initial diary dates to note are:

- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October at the end of school: **second-hand uniform sale** (no more donations at the moment please – please hold onto these until after this sale before bringing them into school, as, due to your generosity, we are unable to store any more).
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November: **bonfire discos** (more information to follow).

## Governor Update

The governing body met last week for the first time this academic year. We welcomed two new governors: Paul Smith who has been appointed as our community governor, and Hannah Field who joins the governing body as one of our foundation governors. The governors also voted Sara Green as Chair, and Kate Woods as Vice-Chair again for this academic year. At the end of the summer term, the governors approved a new 5-year strategic plan, and the main focus for this year will be monitoring progress on our agreed strategic priorities. These include:

- Ensuring the curriculum for all subjects is challenging, well-planned and effectively builds progression in key skills and knowledge.
- Ensuring the needs of disadvantaged children and those with SEND are being met, supporting them to close any gaps caused by COVID lockdowns.
- Continuing to raise attainment and increase progress made by all groups of pupils in English and Maths.
- Supporting pupils' personal development by continuing to develop and embed the PSHE curriculum.
- Continuing to develop the Christian distinctiveness of Northbourne as the foundations for the ethos and work of the school.

Further information about the work of the governing body is on our website if you would like to find out more.

## Cake Sale

Alice, Emily and Jessica in Eagles and Isabella in Falcons are holding a cake sale at the end of school next Thursday to raise money for Style Acre and the Food Bank. Please pop along to support them by picking up some treats, and well done to the girls for planning and running this fundraiser.

## Kit out the nation

The Didcot Wave sports centre on Newlands Avenue are currently collecting donations of used sports equipment and sports kits for the **BBC** appeal **Kit out the Nation**. If your family, or a sports club that you are associated with, has any clean kit in good condition, or any surplus sports equipment that they could donate to children and young people in need then please drop off your items to The Wave. The last collection day is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Thank you.

### Learning Review Meetings

Next week you will be able to book a remote meeting with your child's class teacher for our first round of parent consultation meetings which will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> (4 – 7pm) and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October (3:10 – 5pm). *Due to our Key Worker approach in Nursery, parents of children in Penguins may be asked to book an appointment on a particular evening out of these two options; more information will follow next week.*

Given the ongoing restrictions we have on hosting visitors in school, these meetings will be held via Zoom as was the case last year; we hope to be able to host physical meetings once more for the appointments later this year.

The focus for this term's parent-teacher consultations will be on how your child has settled into their new class, their level of attainment since the start of September compared to where we would expect children to typically be working by this point of the year, and your child's targets for the rest of the term. We will also be reporting on your child's attitude and effort towards their work. You will also be able to discuss how best you can support your child to do as well as they can throughout the school year, as well as learning more about the targets they will be aiming for during the year.

As usual, we will use ParentMail's appointment booking system for these meetings. Booking slots will open on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 9am**; please make sure to log on and book an appointment as soon as possible after this time, especially if you are limited for the times you can make. If you have any problems with ParentMail, please give the school office a call and we will do our best to help. After bookings are made, and before your appointment, you will be sent log-in details for how to access your meeting with your child's teacher; as last year, we will ask you to wait in the Zoom waiting room until your child's class teacher admits you.

A reminder that the system only allows **one appointment per child**. We ask separated parents to attend together where possible and hope that meeting virtually will make this easier; however, please speak to the school office if you find that an appointment has been made that you cannot attend.

### We love reading

An updated issue of No Shelf Control, a great books newsletter, is attached to this ParentMail – please have a look through with your child if you need some inspiration with your book choices.

Myself, Mrs Johnston and Miss Hill, our English Lead, had the pleasure of listening to some children read over a couple of days this week. This is part of our ongoing work to quality assure our reading and phonics curriculum to make sure both are as effective as possible in helping ensure children read fluently and with understanding. We were all so pleased with the amount of comments that parents and family members are making at home – thank you to all of you for listening to your children read each evening and logging this in their reading diary. This really helps us keep track of how well children are doing, and has a significant impact on how quickly children are able to decode and understand words.

### Secondary transition events

A reminder that secondary school applications need to be made by 31<sup>st</sup> 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 12th, 13th and 14th Oct, starting at 9.15am.

**Aureus Secondary School:** Open Mornings are available, with details on the school website: <http://www.aureusschool.org/548/open-events>