



# Northbourne News

5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Welcome back to school! We all hope you managed to have a relaxing break over half term. We have got the second term of the year off to a great start with our discos yesterday; huge thanks to everyone who supported the first event organised by our newly formed PTA committee. What you won't know is that the DJ we had booked weeks ago tested positive for Covid yesterday morning – it is a testament to the commitment and hard work of the committee that a replacement was found at such short notice. It was great to have so many children come along – many for their first ever disco – and I know you will join me in passing on thanks to all of the PTA, the parents who volunteered and the staff who gave up an evening of their own time so freely to help everyone have a good time. Covid cases permitting, we will now start thinking about our Christmas disco – more details to follow as term progresses.

## Covid Update

Covid cases remain high in the local area, with many other local schools suffering significant disruption through staff and pupil illness. Please continue to help us limit the possible transmission of the virus by keeping your child at home and booking a PCR – NOT Lateral Flow Test - should they show any of the 3 Covid symptoms: new and continuous cough, high temperature, and loss of or change to sense of taste or smell. Pupils are welcome to continue to attend school if someone else in your household tests positive or shows any of the symptoms, as long as they remain asymptomatic themselves.

We know rules and regulations around Covid can be complicated, so please speak to me or a member of our office team if you have any questions, and many thanks for your ongoing help.

## Road Safety

Unfortunately, we will be without a crossing patrol for next week while Mr. Settle continues to get better. Please make sure to park and cross the road carefully during his absence, and, if your children make their own way to school, discuss again how to be safe on the road. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mr. Settle a speedy recovery.

## Poppy Appeal

From next week, we will start to sell our usual delivery of merchandise to support the annual Poppy Appeal. As well as poppies – available for a donation to this very deserving charity – we also have rulers (£1), wristbands (£1), reflectors (50p), rubbers (50p), sharpeners (50p) pencils (50p), zip pulls (50p) and snap bands (£1.50). In the past, we have always managed to raise a fantastic amount; it would be great to give a generous donation to the British Legion again this year. Thanks in advance for your support.

## Maths Week

Next week is Maths Week! Across the school, children will be enjoying Maths through the use of stories, exploration of the environment, by competing in TTRS battles and learning about how Maths is used by inspirational celebrities in everyday life. As part of this, Miss Rawcliffe would like children to create their own maths problem. This could be a word problem, a shape problem, a brain teaser, or anything with Maths at the heart of it! It can be aimed at any year group in school but must ensure it stretches and challenges our brains. The challenges will be put up on our Maths display in school for the children to work on throughout the year, so please think carefully about how you will present it. An EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 winning entry will be chosen. Entries can be brought in from Monday 8th November until Friday 12th November. Please give these to your class teacher or Miss Rawcliffe, post them in the basket by the office, or email them to [office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) with the subject 'MATHS PROBLEM'. Good luck!

To ensure we use Maths Week to continue to make maths exciting and high profile in our school, we will also be taking part in a friendly competition involving schools from across the country between Monday and Thursday next week (8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November). This is all done online via [play.ttrockstars.com](https://play.ttrockstars.com).

For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, your child will earn their class a point. The Times Tables Rock Stars platform will calculate the class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours, subject to a daily 60-minute limit see below)). Winning classes in the school and in the competition as a whole will be the ones with the highest average.

All game modes (Gig, Garage, Studio, etc.) will count but only from games played between 7:30AM GMT and 7:30PM GMT on Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th. To support player wellbeing, there is a daily time limit of 60 minutes per player. In other words, each player can earn competition points for up to 60 minutes between 7.30am and 7.30pm. Once the player goes beyond 60 minutes of play on a given day, they will still earn coins but will no longer earn points towards the competition.

In the spirit of the competition, please don't play on their behalf but by all means encourage and support them to the extent that it doesn't cause high stress levels or impact on family plans. We suggest a limit of half an hour a day outside school hours – some will play more, some will play less.

Thanks for your support...we will keep you posted about our Maths Week activities in next week's newsletter.

### **Anti-bullying Week**

During Term 2 in PSHE our Jigsaw lessons will centre around Celebrating Difference. This work includes understanding anti-bullying (including cyber-bullying) and continue our ongoing work to teach children about diversity and acceptance. To support this work, we are very lucky to have the author Sarah Siggs coming into school on Thursday 18th November 2021 (the week of anti-bullying week) to share her story Mud Boy with the whole school. As well as sharing her book with all children from Foundation onwards, she will be leading workshops with all pupils.

We hope that her visit will support the children's understanding of what bullying is, and how to deal with it should it happen to you or someone you know. Throughout the term we will be exploring how bullying is addressed at Northbourne.

Sarah will be signing books for our classes on the day, and she is very happy to sign copies sent in from home on the day. The book is available from Amazon <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Mud-Boy-Story-about-Bullying> and other bookshops. If you would like to purchase a copy and name it for your child to bring into school on Thursday 18th November they can attend the library signing at 2.30 in the library.

### ***Synopsis of Mud Boy***

The sound of Sam's life was like the best piece of music you have ever heard. Everyone liked Sam, and Sam liked himself. But then one day the mud words begin and they get inside his head - and Sam can't hear the music anymore.

Mud Boy is an illustrated book for ages 5-11, showing how children can go from being joyfully buoyant to totally deflated when being bullied and teased, and offering advice to get them back to their best. Mud, music and a family cat are used to conjure up the story to children in a very new and real way, showing that recovery happens through talking to others about our problems. The book also includes a guide for further talking points by Dr Pooky Knightsmith on how to discuss the topic, and the emotions that come up on reading the book, with children.

