



# Northbourne News

17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Have a wonderful Christmas...we look forward to seeing you at the start of term at our usual time on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

## Northbourne Excellence awards

You will know that our school mission is to nurture excellence in all of our pupils. We encourage all our pupils to continually strive to get better and better in all curriculum areas, developing their unique talents and interests and learning more about themselves, others and the world around them. Three times a year, class teachers choose 2 pupils who have stood out during the term through their outstanding effort, motivation or achievement (and often all three!) in an area of the curriculum. These really special awards, which teachers give a lot of thought to, recognise the excellence of the pupils chosen in a range of areas. This term, effort and achievement awards have been given to...

<b>Puffins</b>	Hayley for being such a kind and considerate Puffin. Hayley goes out of her way to help others and to be kind and helpful, trying her best in all learning.	Eddie for trying so hard with all of his learning this term; Eddie perseveres if something is tricky, has a great sense of humour and makes the classroom a happy place to be.
<b>Swans</b>	Tommy for being his best by working so hard and bringing energy and enthusiasm to all aspects of his learning; Tommy is positive, excited to learn and hard-working.	Isla for showing kindness in her actions and words to everyone in Swans...Isla's thoughtfulness spreads happiness! She is also very creative and deeply engaged.
<b>Nightingales</b>	Annabelle for making great progress, for being focused with her learning and always asking for help when she is unsure.	Levi for encouraging and supporting the other Nightingales and having a great attitude to his learning; Levi is always keen to improve his work even further.
<b>Robins</b>	Georgina for being helpful, polite, hard-working and for blossoming in confidence since September...you set yourself such high expectations. Well done!	Oscar for working so hard since September, putting so much effort into all his learning and always coming into the classroom with a big beaming smile.
<b>Wrens</b>	Alice for greeting Wrens with the hugest smile and remaining positive all day; she is kind, sensitive, follows the school rules and brings fun and enthusiasm to Wrens.	George for impressing everyone with his high standards of work and attitudes to learning. He has a go at everything he is given and has made a fantastic transition to Y1.
<b>Owls</b>	Samuel for being such a positive role model. Samuel shows our school values brilliantly, approaching all challenges with determination and a positive attitude.	Harry for being unphased by even the greatest challenges and putting his mind to every task he is given. Harry is consistently kind and respectful to everyone.
<b>Hawks</b>	Ella for making such a god start to Y3...her work is to a very high quality and Ella consistently tries her best, persevering and refusing to give in.	Primrose for being kind and friendly, and showing a keen understanding of people's emotions. Primrose has made great strides in her Maths understanding too.
<b>Falcons</b>	Jessica for making exceptional progress with her reading – reading more fluently, with more expression and pausing for punctuation. You are a pleasure to listen to!	Cody for putting phenomenal effort into all subjects this term...Cody's written work and handwriting is improving all the time due to his reflective attitude.
<b>Kites</b>	Corey for growing as a learner, challenging himself and always having a go, with a wonderful growth mindset attitude.	Daisy for being such an active learner – Daisy asks deep, thoughtful questions, strives to be her best and sets a great example for others.
<b>Kestrels</b>	Hannah for consistently excellent effort, tackling every activity with a resilient attitude and remaining focused on what you are learning.	Ned for his excellent attitude towards all aspects of the curriculum; for listening carefully, contributing ideas and questions and producing outstanding work.
<b>Eagles</b>	Jessica for working so hard and with such enthusiasm in all subjects; Jess takes on board challenges and demonstrates determination and resilience.	Ollie for being a fabulous Y6 role model. Ollie's behaviour is excellent, and he takes part in all lessons and discussions actively.

Well done all of you on your fantastic achievements. I look forward to seeing more excellence through next term!

## Christmas messages

Our virtual Christmas events should now be available for you to enjoy on your child's Google Classroom; please email if you don't have log-ins for this, although they should be in reading diaries and Puffins and Swans have had these sent home again as a reminder this week too. We really hope you enjoy the singing; apologies again that it wasn't possible to host you in person, but I appreciate your understanding around this.

Massive thanks, as always, to class teachers and TAs for sorting out songs and teaching words; to Sara Green, our Chair of Governors, who accompanies us so brilliantly on the piano; and to Ashley Taylor for his time filming the performances for us. We are very grateful.

## Winter Reading Challenge

The Reading Agency's Winter mini challenge, a follow-up to the annual summer version, started on 1<sup>st</sup> December. To take part, children need to set themselves a reading goal of a specific number of books, eBooks and audiobooks, then rate and review these online. Each review unlocks rewards, including virtual badges and certificates. The website also includes games, reading activities and book reviews – have a look at [www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk). Information about a short story writing competition organised by Oxfordshire libraries is also attached.

## iRock

I had the pleasure of listening to performances from our iRock groups this week – their keyboard, guitar, drum and singing skills were fantastic to see. iRock will be working with pupils again next year – more information is attached to this newsletter. Please have a read through and register if your child is interested. If you are entitled to Pupil Premium funding and your child would like to take part, we may be able to fund some lessons – please speak to Mrs. Johnston or I to find out more.

## Covid

We end another term with great uncertainty around what January will look like as Covid cases continue to rise. All schools have a contingency plan that can be put in place should local public health teams identify any outbreaks or concerning rises in cases; in the first instance, we would revert to some of the measures which were in place until the end of last school year, specifically returning to smaller bubbles of children, staggered end times and asking for facemasks to be worn when on the school site. However, as things stand, we have seen very, very small numbers of cases this term and, unless advised otherwise, do not need to make further changes to our procedures.

We are, of course, not complacent; I am sure the huge increase in cases seen nationally this week will affect our school community in the next terms. With this in mind, our usual reminders...

- Please do not come onto school site if you have any **one** of the three Covid symptoms – new and continuous cough, temperature, loss of or change to sense of taste and smell
- Please make sure children with any of these symptoms stay at home pending a negative PCR test result
- The government are asking adults to continue to carry out Lateral Flow Tests over Christmas – these should be taken daily for 7 days following close contact with someone who tests positive for Covid. Government advice is still that children should not use LFTs – I know this is contradictory to what is written in the instructions with the new-style tests, but this remains the advice given to me by the DfE. As such, any child (under 11) showing Covid symptoms should be taken for a PCR test.

Many thanks for your ongoing understanding as we all continue to manage living with Covid – we know how disruptive ongoing isolation and testing is, and the impact this has on life at home.

## Merry Christmas!

On behalf of all of us at Northbourne, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a relaxing, peaceful holiday. Many thanks to all of you who have sent thoughtful gifts to be shared amongst staff over the last couple of weeks; your generosity is always appreciated, and the treats which you have sent in have not lasted long in the staff room!

Now more than ever, I am so proud to work with such a talented, committed, supportive and compassionate school community. This year, we have adapted to so many new ways of working, learning and living – although the days of the January school closures seem like ages ago, I know none of us will have forgotten the stresses, frustrations and sheer hard work which this involved. Since then, we have worked tirelessly to provide your children with the experience of school they need and deserve. Things still aren't entirely normal – not being able to host parents in school is as frustrating for us as for you – but your children are learning, thriving and being their best every day, due to the exciting, challenging and vibrant curriculum planned for them by our team.

My job is only possible thanks to our committed, talented and hard-working staff; the support of all of you at home; our fantastic and committed governors; and, of, course, your wonderful children who make our school the happy, fun, loving community it is. I hope you have a wonderful holiday, and that 2022 is a great year for all of us.