



# Northbourne News

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

This term's value: Perseverance

"He will be called Immanuel, which means 'God is with us'" (Matthew 1.23)

## Christmas Updates

I am sure you were as disappointed as I was to hear the government update about the Omicron variant of Covid last Sunday, given that I had only shared Christmas plans with you on Friday; thank you to those parents who have shared their thoughts about our Christmas events with me over the last week in light of this. Having given much thought to which of the events it is possible to go ahead with, I am sorry to let you know we will not be able to host parents and family members in school for the Key Stage One Carol Concert or the sing-a-longs for Nursery and Reception. I know this will be disappointing; please be assured we have considered a range of ways the risk of virus transmission could be reduced to allow these events to go ahead. However, there is insufficient ventilation in the hall and classrooms for us to mitigate the risk of large groups of parents or carers gathering together. I am also mindful that, last year, children, families and staff in some classes had to isolate over the Christmas period – including on Christmas Day - following cases of Covid in school. I am sure you share in my determination that all of us can have a more normal Christmas this year, and this is one way we can try to make this happen.

At the moment, staff are working on plans to be able to share these performances with you virtually. We will provide more details about this as soon as we are able to.

In-school events, such as Christmas Jumper Day and the Christmas lunch are, at the moment, unaffected. The Christmas Disco will be postponed, and we will aim to run a disco around February half-term, depending on Covid cases.

Thanks again, as always, for your ongoing support while we continue to manage the ever-changing context of recovering from the pandemic.

**Covid:** In order for us to limit in-school Covid transmission as far as we can, it is incredibly important that we understand the reasons for any absence. An increasing number of messages left to report absence just say a child is 'ill' or 'poorly'. It is important we understand the nature of any absence from school to help us provide accurate advice on whether this needs to be followed up. Please help us avoid calling you back and disturbing you by including the nature of your child's illness – thanks for your help.

Please also remember that, if your child has a new and continuous cough **or** a temperature **or** a loss of or change to sense of taste or smell, they need to isolate pending a PCR test. If you are unsure whether this is necessary, please seek advice from 111.

## Christmas deliveries

Our Christmas postbox is now open and about to start delivering your Christmas cards. Please make sure that these are labelled with first names and surnames and, wherever possible, the child's class...our elves will do the rest.

## Thank you...

...for your generosity for the Poppy Appeal...you contributed a total of £352.56. The British Legion were incredibly grateful for such kindness.

We are waiting confirmation of how much we raised for Children in Need and will share this with you as soon as we can.

**Get Out of the Boat!**

At Northbourne, our values and vision are underpinned by our Christian ethos. We build our values of love, community, perseverance and integrity around the story of St. Peter – although Peter made many mistakes, his personal and spiritual journey meant that he became the rock on which Jesus built the church.

Each term, we explore a different aspect of the life of St. Peter, and we recently thought about Peter trying to walk on water – and failing. We reflected on the importance of having the faith – either in yourself or religious faith - to have a go at things that may at first seem overwhelming or not achievable, and we agreed we would challenge ourselves to do this by reminding ourselves to **get out of the boat!** whenever we need that extra bit of determination. We will continue to think about the importance of persevering and taking risks to help us be the best we can be, so please ask your children what has been tricky during their day, and how they went about tackling this.

**Job Vacancy**

We are looking for a Clerk for our Local Governing Body, paid £11.50-£12.20 per hour for 6 hours and up to 6 hours overtime for each of our 6 meetings a year (currently, meetings start at 5pm and are typically held on a Thursday). We are looking for someone with:

- Experience of taking minutes of meetings
- Excellent organisational skills
- Ability to work within tight deadlines
- Excellent communication skills

Key duties will include:

- Attending and minuting full governing body meetings
- Attending clerk briefing sessions organised by ODST and / or OCC
- Providing administrative support to the governing body including maintaining and advising on its schedule of business
- Liaising between governors, school and the academy trust
- Providing ongoing advice to governors on their legal and procedural duties

For more information, please speak to me or contact Sara Green, our Chair of Governors, at [sara.green@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:sara.green@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk).

**Caretaker Vacancy - Hagbourne CE Primary School**

Hagbourne School has an exciting vacancy for a part time Caretaker. If you're interested please visit <https://hampshire.education-jobs.org.uk/Vacancy/Details/90871> for more information or contact Katie Gilbert on 01235 813367, Option 3 or email, [finance.3249@hagbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:finance.3249@hagbourne.oxon.sch.uk)