



Northbourne News

28th January 2022

This term's value: Love

"Jesus said 'You are set free from your sickness'" (Luke 13.12)

I hope you have all had a good week, despite the ongoing impact of Omicron. The number of children testing positive for Covid remains higher than at any other point in the pandemic, and continues to rise. At the moment, cases are now highest in Upper Key Stage Two, but all classes continue to have children testing positive. It seems like the vast majority of children with Covid fortunately have, at worst, relatively mild symptoms; this is also the case for most of our staff who are positive at the moment. However, I know you will join me in wishing them all a speedy recovery.

Thanks for your patience while staff have been re-deployed to different classes or year groups; I hope you and your children have noticed very little impact of this. This is due to the hard work and flexibility of all of our teachers and support staff, who remain determined to ensure children can learn both in school and when isolating at home. I am sure you understand the strain this causes and the additional workload that staff are managing at the moment, and know you will join me in passing on thanks to our terrific team.

Please continue to look out for your child displaying any of the three Covid symptoms: new and continuous cough **OR** temperature **OR** loss of or change to sense of taste or smell. If your child shows any of these, please ensure they isolate and arrange a PCR test. Children are also testing positive on Lateral Flow Tests when displaying atypical symptoms – notably headaches and sore throats. If you have LFTs, please continue to use these with children to help identify any cases amongst children who are otherwise well.

A reminder of the regulations in place at the moment:

- A positive Lateral Flow Test currently does **not** need to be confirmed with a PCR test. Please remember to log results with NHS Test and Trace.
- The day of the positive LFT or the first symptoms being shown is day 0.
- For anyone who tests positive, LFTs can be taken on day 5 and day 6. If both tests are negative, isolation can end and children return to school after the negative test **on day 6**.

A reminder to please notify the school office, and not myself, individual teachers or phase emails, of any absence: 01235 817744 (option 1) or office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk.

Home learning: Work continues to be set for children who are isolating due to positive Covid tests but who are well enough to learn. Please make sure your child logs onto their Google Classroom to complete this – staff will upload work as soon as they are able to, but, where absence is notified outside school hours ie. in the evening or early morning, this may not be ready on the same day as staff will already be teaching by the time they know of the absence. Teachers will always look at the work completed and turned in by children but, while children are learning in school and at home, it will not typically be possible to provide feedback on this. If you have any specific questions about pieces of work, we will do our best to respond, but we are grateful for your patience and support while teachers are, essentially, working the equivalent of two different jobs! As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

NSPCC Number Day 2022

The School Council would like their fund-raising this term to be in support of the NSPCC's Number Day. This is next Friday (4th February), and children are welcome to wear non-uniform in exchange for a donation via our JustGiving page...if the non-uniform can be numbers based (some inspiration is attached), even better!

The School Council chose the NSPCC as a charity they felt strongly about, partly because of their Speak Out, Stay Safe assemblies which helped children learn about keeping themselves safe earlier this term. This will be their main fundraising focus for this term – and so will be instead of any fundraising for Comic Relief in March. We hope you will be able to spare a pound or two...look out for the JustGiving link through ParentMail at the start of next week.

This term's value

Our core Christian value this term is love. We are thinking about this in our God's Storyteller assemblies through looking at some of the miracles that Christians believe Jesus performed – this week we thought particularly about the story of Jesus healing the blind man. We linked this to the importance of helping others, reflecting about how even very small things – like a smile – can be so helpful. Children gave lots of examples of how they help you at home – tidying rooms, helping with cooking and chores, looking after siblings; sounds like you are all very lucky with the help they give you! Pupils were challenged to make sure to do something especially helpful, in school or at home, during the week so hopefully some of you have been on the receiving end of this...

Didcot Library

Pupils love their visits to Didcot Library...Y3 and 4 have all been recently and loved the selection of books currently available. If your child isn't yet a member, registration is quick, easy and free...have a look at

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries> or call in to find out more and sign your child up.

