



Northbourne News

7th January 2022

Happy New Year – I hope you all had a restful Christmas with friends and family and were relatively unaffected by the ongoing increases in Covid cases. I am sure I speak for all of us when I say how relieved we are to not be returning to home learning; however, as you will know from the media, there is a chance that there will be some short-term disruption as the term goes on if large numbers of staff and pupils start to become unwell. We will continue to do everything we can to limit the transmission of Covid in school; a reminder that some of our key measures are:

Hygiene: Children frequently sanitise their hands and are taught the importance of catch it, bin it, kill it;

Ventilation: Classroom windows and doors are open throughout the day, and classrooms are well aired in between sessions. Please keep this in mind when dressing children; classrooms will be chillier than normal, so if your child complains of feeling cold during the day, please do send them to school with extra layers;

Social distancing: We will temporarily return to remote assemblies while in school to further limit the time larger numbers of pupils are together. We will review when it is sensible to return to larger gathering;

Face masks: Staff wear face masks in all shared areas when in school.

We will continue to risk assess whether any additional measures are needed – such as asking parents to wear face masks at pick-up and drop-off – as term goes on. The most helpful thing that you can continue to do at home is to make sure children do not attend school if they have any of the 3 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 symptoms, please contact us to report their absence and arrange for a PCR test to be taken. We understand that ongoing testing is a nuisance, but I am sure you understand the importance of children not attending school if there is a risk they have Covid, especially given the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant.

A reminder, too, to please state the nature of your child's illness when reporting them as absent; this is to ensure we can give you the best possible advice for how to deal with the illness.

As always, we will continue to prioritise your child accessing the highest possible standard of provision and to limit the impact of any disruption as much as we can. Thanks for your patience and please do speak to me if you have any questions.

Clubs

In light of our Covid Risk Assessment, I am afraid we will need to pause Choir for a few weeks. I know this will be disappointing to our talented and enthusiastic singers, but this decision is in light of singing being shown to be a key way of accelerating the spread of Covid. We will keep this under constant review and aim to re-start as soon as we can. As well as Mrs. Alleway's Dance group (which information was sent out about this week), this term we will also run or host:

Tuesday 3 – 4pm: Djembe (Drumming) club (Key Stage Two; £5 per session. More information attached)

Wednesday 3 – 4pm: Y3/4 multi-sports (Mr. Froud)

Wednesdays (various): iRock (some groups meet after school and some during the school day; more information attached)

Thursday 3 – 4pm: Y5/6 multi-sports (Mr. Froud)

Friday 3 – 4pm: Key Stage One (Robins, Wrens and Nightingales) multi-sports (Mr. Froud)

Multi-sports sessions will be limited to 16 pupils, with places offered on a first-come, first-served basis. The form to request a space for these will be sent home at the start of next week through ParentMail and will close at 9am on Tuesday, so please look out for this. If we have high levels of demand, we will offer places to 16 children this half term, and another 16 next half term. We will notify you on Tuesday if your child has a space.

Learning Review meetings

Some advance notice that our mid-year Learning Review meetings will take place on Wed 16th (4 – 7pm) and Thurs 17th (3:15 – 5pm) February; these are, once again, likely to be remote. More information will follow later in the term, but please make a note in your diaries in the meantime.

Admission to Reception

A reminder that the deadline for applications for children to start Reception in September – that is, children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 – is **January 15th**. Please remember that children in our Nursery **do not** automatically transfer into school at the start of Reception – an application for **all** children needs to be made to the Local Authority.

Applying on time is likely to maximise your chance of your child being offered a place at one of your preferred schools – this is far less likely if you apply after the deadline.

Applications are made online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions; please let us know if you need a paper form or if you have any questions we can help with.

Term Dates

Please find term dates for the 2022-23 school year below. We know that thoughts start to turn towards much-needed holidays at this time of year; please do continue to bear in mind that I am not able to authorise absence from school for family holidays and take this into account when booking any time away.

TERM DATES 2022-23

Term	Main School	Nursery
Autumn Term	6 September – 21 October <i>INSET DAYS: 2nd and 5th September</i>	6 September – 21 October
<i>October half term</i>	<i>24 October – 28 October</i>	
Autumn Term	31 October – 20 December <i>School finishes at 1:30pm on 20th December</i>	31 October – 19 December
<i>Christmas holiday</i>	<i>21 December – 3 January</i>	
Spring Term	5 January – 10 February <i>INSET DAY: 4th January</i>	5 January – 10 February
<i>Spring half term</i>	<i>13 February – 17 February</i>	
Spring Term	20 February – 31 March <i>School finishes at 1:30pm on 31st March</i>	20 February – 30 March
<i>Easter Holiday</i>	<i>3 April – 14 April</i>	
Summer Term	17 April – 26 May May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May	17 April – 26 May
<i>Late Spring half term</i>	<i>29 May – 2 June</i>	
Summer Term	5 June – 19 July <i>School finishes at 1:30pm on 19th July</i> <i>INSET DAYS: 20th and 21st July</i>	5 June – 18 July