



# Northbourne News

11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

This term's value: Love

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

School has continued to feel more like normal this week as the high rates of Covid from the start of the term continue to reduce. Children and teachers have been really pleased to see pupils back in school with some classes recording 100% attendance for the first time since December, and hopefully infections will remain low between now and the half term break.

I know it goes without saying now, but please do continue to remain vigilant for any symptoms so we can to limit any further peaks; a reminder that these are 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.

## Learning Review Meetings

A reminder that this term's Learning Review meetings take place on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> (4 – 7pm)** and **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> (3:10 – 5pm) February**; I hope you have been able to log into Parentmail and book your slot. These appointments are an incredibly valuable opportunity for teachers to let you know how your child is attaining in school, and we hope you will be able to book an appointment.

The focus for this term's meetings will be on the progress your child has made during the school year so far and their targets to continue to improve for the rest of the year. We will also be reporting on your child's attitude and effort towards their work and their school attendance. These meetings are very much valued by school staff as they enable them to work closely with family at home to ensure pupils attain as well as possible, and we hope you will be able to join us to hear more about how your children are attaining.

A reminder that the system only allows **one appointment per child**. We ask separated parents to attend together where possible and hope that meeting virtually will make this easier; however, please speak to the school office if you find that an appointment has been made that you cannot attend. If you have termly SEN meetings with your child's teacher, please do not book an appointment for your child as the same information will be shared with you at your next meeting, which should already be scheduled for the end of term (week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> March).

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or we can help with anything, or call the office if we can help you with booking your appointment. We hope the meeting is useful; as usual, any feedback about the kinds of information we share is always welcome.

## Bikeability

We are thrilled that we are once again able to work with the team at Avanti Cycling to provide cycle training for Y5 pupils through the Bikeability scheme. These lessons, where children develop the skills, experience and confidence to cycle on the roads around Didcot, have proved to be a highlight of Upper Key Stage Two over the last few years, and I know parents of children who have taken part previously would whole-heartedly recommend these. If you have a child in Y5 you should have received a Parentmail with sign-up details, so please have a look and encourage your child to take part to develop such a valuable skill.

## PTA

Our PTA committee are on the look-out for clean yogurt pots and donations of seeds – any you can spare would be very gratefully received. We will put a collection box in the entrance to school for any you are able to let us have – thanks in advance for your help.

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week, focused on the theme Growing Together – growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. As adults, we know maintaining a positive attitude towards setbacks is crucially important – challenge is a part of daily life, and a healthy attitude towards this helps us manage our stress and maintain positive mental health. Perseverance is one of our four core values, recognising the importance we place on developing strong mental attitudes towards trying...and sometimes failing. Emotional growth is a gradual process that happens over time and it is normal to feel a bit stuck.

More information for parents and carers is available at <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>; do have a look, especially if your child finds dealing with setbacks and obstacles difficult.

### **Debating Club**

Huge well done to Alice, Emily, Jessica and Megan in Y6 for setting up and running a lunchtime Debating Club this week. The girls approached me to ask if it would be possible to arrange an opportunity for pupils in Y5 and 6 who are interested in discussing issues to join together for a more structured opportunity to do this. Following some planning, they hosted their first meeting of 20 passionate, well-informed young people at lunchtime yesterday, discussing the issue *we believe cars should be banned from Didcot*. All 20 participants listened actively, supporting and challenging each other, before reaching the conclusion that car use in town should be restricted rather than banned.

Without doubt, all those who took part set a phenomenal example to our elected representatives in Parliament through their exemplary conduct, thoughtful contributions and respectful manner. I'm already looking forward to next week's topic.

### **St. Birinus Schools: Job Vacancies**

St Birinus School is currently recruiting **Examination Invigilators**. If you would like further information about the role, please visit <https://www.st-birinus-school.org.uk/4347/exam-invigilator-casual-claim>