



# Northbourne News

4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

This term's value: Love

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

As we reach the end of another challenging week, it is a relief to all of us to see that the number of children currently isolating following a positive Covid test – while still high - has stabilised. While I know this is too soon to imagine a sudden return to full normality, hopefully this means that we can have a more settled end to the term. Cases amongst staff have remained relatively low compared to some other local schools, but teachers and support staff have still been incredibly flexible and adaptable in working in different classes to usual; hopefully this has limited the potential for any disruption to your child's learning. Once again, I know you will join me in thanking them for their ongoing dedication and hard work while the impact of the pandemic continues to be felt.

Please do 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 also continue to test 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.

## Good luck...

...to Mrs. Dorsett who leaves us at the end of her first training placement as Associate Teacher today. Mrs. Dorsett has worked with Mrs. Alleway and Nightingales since September, and has got her training off to a flying start. Unfortunately, Nightingales won't be able to say thanks and goodbye in person today as Mrs. Dorsett is isolating with Covid, but hopefully she will be able to call in to see us in person soon.

We will soon be welcoming Miss Ciara McSharry as an Associate Teacher, again working in Nightingales, to Northbourne; I know you will make her feel very welcome as she continues her training with us for her second placement.

## Reminders...

**Cars idling:** It has been mentioned to me that some car engines are being left switched on while parents wait to collect children at the end of school. Aside from idling being illegal, I am sure you understand the impact this has on the environment and how unpleasant it is for parents who have walked to school to collect children. Please park considerately and make sure to turn engines off while waiting at the end of the day – many thanks in advance.

**Water bottles:** Please ensure children only bring water to school in their water bottles. We encourage children to sip from these throughout the day – constantly drinking sugared or chemically flavoured drinks is not good for either teeth or concentration spans! We understand children will always prefer to bring something sweet to drink...but it is surprising how many children who "won't drink water" at home will do so when this is sent with them to school.

## Maths at Northbourne

Some updates on Maths from our Subject Lead, Miss Charlotte Rawcliffe:

**White Rose 1 minute maths:** White Rose, the Scheme of Learning we follow at Northbourne, have recently introduced a new 1-Minute Maths app which helps children to build greater number confidence and fluency. The focus is on targeted practice in engaging, one-minute chunks! The 1-minute Maths app is available to download free through your usual app store for use at home.

**NumBots:** We are pleased to share that we have recently extended our subscription to TTRS to include their sister platform, NumBots. NumBots is about every child achieving the “triple win” of understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction, so that they move from counting to calculating. So that children can solve more complex problems, NumBots’ intelligent practice methodology focuses on automatic recall of number facts as well as developing conceptual understanding. For most effective practice, we suggest playing for at least 3 minutes a day, 4 or 5 times a week. Your child can use



the same login they have for TTRS but need to access NumBots through a separate website: <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> The NumBots app is also available to download free through your usual app store for use at home.

**Sumdog:** You may have seen your child recently bring home a personal login to Sumdog. Sumdog is an interactive online learning resource used by pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. It develops fluency and proficiency in Maths through game-based learning activities, which are linked to the National Curriculum. A recent study found that using Sumdog for 30 minutes a week almost doubled children’s fluency progress. Pupil’s progress is carefully tracked, and teachers are able to set challenges that develop understanding of concepts being taught and provide practise activities that enable pupils to achieve targets. It is also an excellent assessment tool for pupils and parents, as they can see the progress being made and the skills that are being achieved.

We have taken the decision to use Sumdog in replacement of Mathletics for Maths homework, from after February half term. Until then, your child will still receive homework through Mathletics. Sumdog can be accessed from home in the meantime to allow children to explore the practise activities and games, before teacher-directed activities will be set next term. Access through <https://www.sumdog.com/en/> or via the app, which is the suggested way to access the site, which is available to download free through your usual app store for use at home.



## Children’s Mental Health Week

**Oxfordshire Youth** are running free mental health awareness training for parents and carers. More information available: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-awareness-for-oxfordshire-parents-and-carers-tickets-147802211393>

Some great resources are also available in this Mental Health Toolkit, through the City Mental Health Alliance: <https://citymha.org.uk/Resources/Parents-Toolkit>

## Owls Swimming

Owls’ swimming lesson on Thursday next week (10<sup>th</sup>) will be their water safety session; for this, children will need their usual swimming kits AND a pair of pyjamas or similar please. As usual, please let Miss Kellock, Mrs. Lewis or I know if this causes any problems.

## Didcot Girls’ School: Job Vacancies

Didcot Girls' School currently have several vacancies for teachers and support staff. Some, such as for a Deputy Safeguarding Lead are full time whilst others such as Exam Invigilators and Cleaners are part-time and can fit around other commitments. Please do have a look at our website for more details: [DGS staff vacancies](#)

