



Northbourne News

11th March 2022

It was a privilege to spend the whole of last week with Y6 pupils on our annual residential visit to Plas Pencelli in Brecon, Wales. As always with school trips, the whole group behaved brilliantly for the whole week and impressed all of us with their energy and enthusiasm for even the most challenging activities. Although the weather was milder than it could have been, the drizzly conditions made every activity – caving, canoeing, climbing, abseiling and gorge walking – even more challenging than they would have been anyway. Every pupil in the group rose to the challenges they faced whilst away from home for such a long period of time, and it was a pleasure to spend time with such resilient, able children. They are a real credit to all of you.

Such trips would not be possible without the whole-hearted commitment of a number of staff who give up a whole week of their own time to ensure residential visits can take place, and I would like to pass on my great thanks to Mr. Guy, Miss Rawcliffe and Mrs Hart for giving their own time so freely to ensure the trip could take place. Thanks, too, to all of you at home for supporting such an important trip. I know that this week is a costly one and the way you value the memories and experiences it provides is appreciated by us and your children.

We will share the stories and photos of our adventures during a special assembly on **Thursday 7th April at 9:15am**. At the moment, we will aim for this to be an in-person assembly but will keep this under review in light of any increases in Covid cases. Please save the date though; we really hope you will be able to join us to celebrate all that we learned and experienced.

Oxfordshire Schools Dance Festival

It is so great to feel life starting to return to normal as Covid restrictions continue to lift, with some of the exciting extra-curricular events that we usually love taking part now re-starting. Yesterday, our Dance Club took part in the Oxfordshire Schools Dance Festival, travelling to the New Theatre to perform on stage to a huge audience of parents from primary and secondary schools across the county. The group performed brilliantly and, as always, behaved immaculately – especially loving the time they got to spend backstage in their dressing room. Huge thanks to Mrs. Alleway, Mrs. Jones and Mr. Field for leading our involvement in this, choreographing the routine during Dance Club and then accompanying the group yesterday. We hope you were as impressed as we all were for the final performance! If you weren't able to make it along to watch, we will aim to upload a video of a dress rehearsal onto your child's Google Classroom, so please look out for this. Well done to everyone who took part – you should be really proud of yourselves.

Please note, Dance Club on Tuesday has now ended – look out for this re-starting around the time of the next Dance Festival.

Covid Updates

As mentioned above, the further easing of Covid restrictions means that school continues to feel more like pre-pandemic times. From next week, in-person assemblies will resume, and it was great to see Choir re-start this week.

From Monday, the school day for children in Upper Key Stage Two (Kites, Eagles and Kestrels) will revert back to 3pm as it was previously. Class teachers will continue to walk children out of school through the car park, so collection arrangements can remain unchanged – just please note that this will be 5 minutes earlier. To avoid any congestion this has the potential to cause, please make sure to leave the school site as soon as you have collected children and avoid congregating anywhere, as this will cause issues as everyone starts to leave school at the same time.

International Day

Another much-loved school event which hasn't been possible for a couple of years is International Day. Run by Didcot Girls' School for pupils in Y4, this event gives local schools a chance to come together and share their learning about a particular country, with children visiting different stands to take part in activities. Huge thanks to the Y3/4 team for organising our involvement in this; Devran and Finn write:

We went to Didcot Girls' School to visit different countries: Spain, China, USA, Portugal. We made some great stuff – we drew and coloured in a tiger; learnt how to make churros with flour, egg and sugar, then put sugar on them and drunk hot chocolate. At Portugal we made umbrellas and in USA we made a fortune teller. We learnt how to say hello in different languages and learnt that in Spain they have five meals a day. We also saw some people from the girls' school.



Eat Them To Defeat Them

Tracy, our Catering Manager, is leading our involvement in the national Eat Them to Defeat Them campaign which you may have seen advertised on TV over the last couple of weeks. Due to research which shows 80% of children are not eating enough vegetables, this campaign aims to encourage children to try new foods with a view to including more of these in their diet. Each Thursday, Tracy will prepare a vegetable in different ways to encourage children to try it – this will then be included in the lunch menu for the following week. Yesterday, children tried carrot sticks, carrot and coriander soup and carrot cake – with resounding success and hugely positive feedback from everyone who tried these. If the carrot option went down well with your child, there are a range of recipes on the Eat Them to Defeat Them website, including this one for a Smashed Carrot Dip: <https://ifour-vegpower-uploads.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/02105513/Smashed-Carrots.pdf> Peppers is the next vegetable which children will try with Tracy on Thursday....I'm looking forward to seeing what she turns them into.



Your child should have a pack of more information in their book bags or rucksack today, so please dig these out and make sure to have a look.

Reminders

- Please continue to tie-back shoulder length hair; this avoids hair falling into eyes and limits the spread of headlice;
- Please ensure that pre-school aged children walk their bikes or scooters around the outside of school to collect older siblings to avoid any collisions – thanks in advance.