



Northbourne News

18th February 2022

School closes today for the half term break. We hope you have a restful week and look forward to seeing you at 8:45am on Monday 28th February.

Thank you for your understanding around our decision to close school today, and apologies for any inconvenience this has caused you. While yesterday's amber warning suggested that schools would be able to open as normal, the upgrading of this to a red warning – with the associated advice to avoid any travel – meant this decision had to be reconsidered. Closing school is only ever a last resort, and this decision was taken today in the interests of ensuring children, parents and staff can limit their journeys during the time the storm is forecast to be at its most severe. Hopefully your children have been able to access their online learning during the day – class teachers remain on hand to answer any questions until the usual end of school.

The closure today comes at the end of a long and challenging term, where the impact of Covid has been more significant than at any point during the pandemic. At school we share your sense of weariness at the ongoing effects of this, and look forward to what will hopefully be a much more settled term. As always, staff very much appreciate your ongoing support.

Learning Review Meetings

Thank you for everyone who took the time to speak to class teachers during this week's Learning Reviews. We hope the information shared was helpful and gave you an idea of how your child is attaining at the moment. If you missed your appointment for any reason, please get in touch with your child's class teacher to arrange a new appointment – these opportunities to discuss your child's progress are hugely valuable, and very much appreciated by staff.

Upper Key Stage Two news

Revision Books: If your Y6 child's revision books are at school at the moment, you will be able to collect these from the school office between 9:30 and 10am on Monday next week. Please pop past at the start of the week so you have these at home over the half-term break.

Residential arrangements: Pupils in Y6 are highly excited about our week-long residential to Plas Pencelli in Brecon during the first week of next term. During the week we will be caving, canoeing, climbing and gorge walking, as well as learning vital life skills....like how to put a duvet cover on! A reminder to parents of children taking part in the visit to please make sure children arrive at school (using the double doors at the back of the hall) at 7:40am to allow a prompt departure at 8am.

Please note that, although Y6 pupils will depart from the hall, this does not affect usual drop-off arrangements for Morning Fun Club; children should arrive through the hall doors as usual.

Children in Y5 and those in Y6 not taking part in the residential should come to school in their PE kits, rather than school uniform, on Monday 28th Feb and Thursday 3rd March; the following week, PE days will return to normal.

Children in Y5 taking part in Bikeability should wear **warm** PE clothes on the days they are taking part in the course; warm gloves may also be a good idea, depending on the weather. If your child is doing Bikeability on Monday, you will have been notified of this already by Parentmail; we will confirm days for the other groups on our return to school.

As I will be accompanying the trip to Wales, our Designated Safeguarding Leads during my absence will be Mrs. Rachael Stewart for Monday and Tuesday (Rachael.stewart@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk, or the main school phone number) and Mrs. Caroline Johnston (cnew0314@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) Wed – Friday.