



Northbourne News

18th March 2022

Thank you all so much for your overwhelmingly generous support for our Day for Ukraine today...as I write, you at home, along with our staff team, have contributed over £1,600 (with an additional £350 in Gift Aid) for the DEC's appeal to help those who have been affected by the conflict. As always, your generosity is phenomenal – the compassion and concern for others that your children show, living out our school values of love and community, are always mirrored and reinforced so strongly by your overwhelming responses to any charity fundraising we take part in. As I explained in my Parentmail at the start of the week, we had made the decision not to mark Comic Relief today in favour of the NSPCC Numbers Day which we took part in last term; however, the concern that many of your children showed about Ukraine on our return to school after half term, and their ideas for their own fundraising efforts for those affected, spoke volumes about their willingness to help – and this has certainly been shown in the amazing total we have raised.

If you haven't yet had chance to contribute, please take a moment to visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/northbourne-primary-school2> and help increase our total further.



We are very conscious that younger children, especially, will not necessarily know what is happening in Ukraine. With this in mind, our discussions around this in assembly this week were very brief, mentioning only that people in the country were affected by war. Discussion instead focused on the story of the Good Samaritan, and the importance of helping our neighbours – in line with our value of community, a 'neighbour' being anyone in our local, national or global community. Where older children have had more detailed questions or concerns, these have been explored sensitively by class teachers, again acknowledging that each child will have a different level of understanding. If your child is concerned about what they see on the news, or you are looking for how to speak to them about what is happening in Ukraine, First News have produced a helpful guide with suggestions about how you can go about these discussions; please take a look at <https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/explaining-scary-news/> for tips and pointers.

Reading totals

At the end of last term, class teachers counted up the number of reads recorded in reading diaries for T3...9, 472 were recorded across the school, an average of 30 per child, and a total which moves us further to our whole-school end of year target of 40,000 reads during the year. Special mentions to Puffins, Nightingales, Owls and Eagles for reading the most in each of their age phases – just think of all of the new words you will have learnt and the ideas you will have discovered. Keep it up...

Covid Updates

Once again, cases of Covid are increasing locally – several of the schools in Didcot are being particularly badly affected by another wave of pupil and staff absence. While our cases remain low at the moment, this serves as a reminder of the need to remain alert for the typical Covid symptoms: new and continuous cough **OR** high temperature **OR** loss of or change to sense of taste or smell. If your child or anyone in your household shows any of these symptoms, the advice remains to book a PCR test. Please also be aware that a sore throat seems to be associated with Covid in its latest form – as this is not a formally acknowledge symptom, please use any remaining LFTs you may have to double-check whether any sore throats in your household are actual Covid cases.

Lateral Flow Tests can still be taken on days 5 and 6 of any Covid absence; as long as these tests, at least 24 hours apart, are both negative, children can return to school **on** day 6. If you have any questions about any Covid procedures, as always, please contact a member of our office team.

PTA Update

You will know from their recent newsletter that the PTA have remained busy over the last few months, despite it not being possible to host in-school, in-person events. We are hoping to be able to hold an Easter Disco on Thursday 7th April so please hold the date – a decision will be made as to whether this is possible closer to the time, based on ongoing assessment of the number of Covid cases in school.

Upper Key Stage Two news

On Monday 4th April 2022, Kites, Eagles and Kestrels are hosting an Ancient Greece day in school. We will spend the day creating Ancient Greek artefacts, tasting traditional foods and competing in our own Olympic games.

Children are welcome to dress up, though please don't let this cause any stress! A white outfit (or bed sheet/pillowcase!) with a coloured piece of material (scarf, top etc) tied with a belt will be great.... (your child may be able to recycle their previously used Roman outfit). Alternatively, your child may wish to dress as one of the Greek mythical creatures, using a mask or headwear to do this. We look forward to a fun-filled day! Please do get in touch with a member of the Y5/6 team should you have any questions.

National awareness events

Young Epilepsy: Next Friday, Seren from Owls along with a few friends will be running a fundraiser in aid of Young Epilepsy ahead of *Purple Day* on Saturday 26th March - the national day for raising awareness of Epilepsy and talking about the condition. Did you know there are 40 different types?

Seren has been busy planning a prize draw and has secured a number of great prizes from local businesses. She will be set up outside the hall before and after school. Please support her efforts if you can by donating a minimum of £1 and choosing a numbered square. The prize draws will take place during an assembly the following week.

World Down Syndrome Day: To mark World Down Syndrome Day on Monday next week (21st), children are welcome to wear bright or mis-matched socks to school. Please note **we are not asking for donations for this**, this is purely to raise awareness of the condition. Please do #rockyoursocks if you have some eye-catching ones to hand!