



Northbourne News

29th April 2022

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful Easter break and are recharged, ready for a busy summer term. We are hopeful that this will be the most 'normal' end to a school year we have had since 2020, and are busy planning many of the end of year events we have missed during the pandemic. Dates will follow as soon as they are finalised so please continue to check the newsletter carefully as term goes on. An early event to make a note of is our first Sports Day in three years, which, for pupils in Y1 – Y6, is planned for the afternoon of Tuesday 24th May. Please make a note of this for now – more information will follow shortly, but we are excited about the chance to host parents and family members once more for this event.

Teachers are also finishing their curriculum newsletters for the term to share what your children will be learning – please look out for these coming home through ParentMail over the next week.

Jubilee Celebrations

We have been busy thinking through our plans for marking the Platinum Jubilee here at school. On Wednesday 25th May we are planning a red, white and blue Jubilee picnic – children are welcome to come to school dressed in the colours of the Union Jack, and we will enjoy a special picnic lunch prepared by Tracy and her team all together on the field (weather permitting). We are also excited about our Great British Portrait Contest which all children will be taking part in, and hope to be able to host a gallery to share our images of the Queen with you towards the end of this term – watch this space for further details.

A reminder that our Jubilee day in lieu of the May Bank Holidays is on Monday 18th July; as a result, school closes for the summer at 1:30pm on Friday 15th July.

Phonics and Reading

You will know that, at Northbourne, we place great emphasis on ensuring children get off to a flying start at learning to read. With this in mind, one of our school development priorities this year has been to review our provision in phonics and ensure this is as effective as possible in securing the rapid progress in learning to read that we know makes such a difference to children's ability to access all of the school curriculum.

After careful consideration, we have made the decision to switch to a new Phonics programme. Read, Write Inc (RWI), the approach we have chosen, provides a comprehensive programme for the teaching of Phonics and will help us continue to refine and improve how well children master the alphabetic code and learn to read. Most staff have now been trained and are excited about starting to use this. The main difference you may hear about at home in the short term is that, as children are grouped across Reception, Y1 and Y2 for their daily phonics sessions, your child may talk about new adults or children they are working with. Groups are very fluid and change regularly, ensuring teaching very closely targets what children know already and need to learn next, allowing appropriate support and challenge to be built into all Phonics teaching.

After this, the reading books that your children bring home, and the expectation of when they will be swapped in school, will change. When we are ready to move to these new books we will send home further information so you know what to expect. We will also share videos to explain some of the approaches used in Read, Write Inc to help you know more about how Phonics is taught, so look out for these too. If you have any questions about anything to do with Phonics or reading, please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs. Alleway, our Phonics Lead, to find out more.

On a reading related note, Hawk class will be visiting Didcot Library next Tuesday – please make sure they have a coat suitable to wear for the walk.

Thank you...

...to everyone at Ziganas, especially Alex and Volkan Bas, Adam, Emrah, Can and the other staff who helped during Owls, Falcons and Hawks' visits last term. Volkan and his team were so hospitable and welcoming to Y3/4 pupils and staff when they visited to find out more about preparing and serving food as part of their Design-Technology project to design and make a healthy wrap. As I managed to sneak onto a visit myself, I know how generous everyone at the restaurant was, and we are really grateful for the time and effort they spent hosting us.

Hill End

A reminder that the deadline for Hill End payments and permission for pupils in Owls, Falcons and Hawks is today. Thanks for your help and, as always, please speak to one of us in the office if this causes any problems.

News from St. Peters

Plant Sale and Mini Spring Fair: Saturday 7th May 10.30-1pm. We are very happy to be able to hold an event for the first time in 3 years! If you want to grow some veg but did not get round to planting seeds then come and get some well-established seedlings at our Plant Sale next Saturday. There will also be teas and coffees, a bottle tombola, chocolate tombola and cakes and produce for sale. We have use of a card reader, but for smaller transactions we would appreciate cash, so bring along some change.

Little Fishes next meets Monday 9th May at 9am in St Peter's, Newlands Avenue. Come and enjoy a cuppa while the babies and toddlers get to play. It will continue every Monday in term time until the school's break in July.

Sunday School for all primary school aged children is on this Sunday in Church at 10am. The next dates for Sunday School are 15th May, 5th June, 19th June, 3rd July and 17th July.