



Northbourne News

8th April 2022

A reminder that school closes for the Easter break today. We hope you all have a good break and look forward to seeing you for the start of the Summer Term on Monday 25th April.

Northbourne Excellence awards

You will know that our school mission is to nurture excellence in all of our pupils. We encourage all our pupils to continually strive to get better and better in all curriculum areas, developing their unique talents and interests and learning more about themselves, others and the world around them. Three times a year, class teachers choose 2 pupils who have stood out during the term through their outstanding effort, motivation or achievement (and often all three!) in an area of the curriculum. These really special awards, which teachers give a lot of thought to, recognise the excellence of the pupils chosen in a range of areas. This term, effort and achievement awards have been given to...

Puffins	Oliver for working so hard on his reading and writing this term. Oliver reads every single day at home and loves reading in school too, trying his best and persevering.	Poppy for working so hard and trying her best in all areas of learning – she has grown so much in confidence this term, always persevering to try trickier things.
Swans	Billy for working so hard learning to read, showing fantastic perseverance and focus. You are becoming increasingly confident and practise regularly at home.	Bella for being endlessly optimistic and enthusiastic, bringing these qualities to your learning all of the time. You use mistakes to help you learn and are always willing to have a try.
Nightingales	Bryce for being a kind and caring member of Nightingales, always looking out for her friends. Bryce is dedicated to her learning and always challenges herself with high expectations.	Robyn for always giving 100% in every area of the curriculum. Robyn takes an active role in all discussions and can be relied upon to work hard individually.
Robins	Celia for growing so much in confidence since the start of the year. Celia wows her class with her resilience in Maths and her enthusiasm and imagination in English.	Iga for working so hard over the last two terms to become a focused and hard-working learner, always challenging herself to do better. She is an excellent reader and her writing is a joy to behold.
Wrens	Joseph for phenomenal academic progress since September. Joseph has worked hard, listened well, focused and produced some outstanding work.	Holly for always trying her best and persevering with whatever task she has been given, and making steady progress as a result.
Owls	Emma for always being her best and demonstrating that, when given a challenge, she will rise to great heights to meet it. Emma is adventurous and ambitious in everything she does.	Jay for developing and growing in confidence so much from the start of Y3. He has been open to new experiences, trying everything available to him.
Hawks	Rosie for showing enthusiasm in every lesson, always trying her best and always showing hard work and perseverance.	Raya for putting so much effort into her school work, and showing great pride when you complete work to the best of your ability.
Falcons	Devran for always being his best. Devran always strives for the very best standards of work to achieve excellence and to challenge himself further.	Freya for pushing herself consistently to share her ideas with confidence this term. Freya has worked hard to support others and shown enthusiasm for learning across the curriculum.
Kites	Darcy for always striving to be her very best, and by doing so setting a great example for others to follow. You consistently demonstrate all of our school values.	Amelia-Rose for growing so much as a learner, being open to challenging yourself, making mistakes and simply having a go with a fantastic growth mindset attitude.
Kestrels	Amber for her consistent effort in class, for always tackling any activity with an excellent attitude, and remaining focused to complete work to the highest standard.	Matilda for your incredible knowledge and vast array of skills that have led to your many successes in class. You can always be relied on to share valuable insights during class discussions.
Eagles	Megan for always being an outstanding member of the Eagles Y6 team...in all that Megan does, she strives to be her best.	Lucas for being a shining example of how hard work and perseverance really do pay off, through the amazing progress he has made since September.

PTA News

Huge thanks to everyone who enjoyed the **Easter disco** last night...it was great to see so many pupils come along and have such a good time. I am really grateful to our hard-working and dedicated PTA for organising this – if you can spare some time to lend some ideas, help out or play a role in planning and running other events, please do contact the committee at pta.northbourne@gmail.com or by searching Northbourne School PTA on Facebook. Any offer of help, however little time you can commit, would be greatly appreciated. As always, thanks too to our dedicated staff team for lending a hand on the evening.

You will find information about our **Platinum Jubilee Fundraiser** in your child's bookbag or rucksack today. Any orders you place will generate commission for the school, so please encourage your child to come up with their Jubilee design. Thanks in advance for your help. The last day for bringing your order to school is Tuesday 26th April.

Good luck Mrs. Bowtell!

Please join me in passing on thanks and good wishes to Mrs. Bowtell, one of our Key Stage Two Teaching Assistants, who leaves us today to spend more time enjoying her passions for travelling and gardening. Mrs. Bowtell has been a valued part of our team since 2013 and is irreplaceable in terms of what she brings to us – calmness, patience, good humour and great knowledge. Good luck Mrs. Bowtell and please keep in touch.

Class Photos

Thank you for sending such smart children into school for their class photos this week...Y6 will have a Leaver's Photo later in the school year when the weather allows for this to be taken outside. We will let you know the date nearer the time.

Curriculum Swimming: Falcons

Falcons start their PE swimming lessons on our return to school, starting on Thursday 28th April and lasting for five weeks. For these lessons, boys will need swimming trunks (not shorts please) and girls will need a swimming costume (one-piece only; bikinis should not be worn). Pupils will also need a towel and a swimming hat – these are available to buy from the school office.

You are welcome to include goggles in swimming kits for Thursday lessons; however, before doing so, please make sure that you:

- Choose a pair with BSI instructions on the packaging for the correct way to put on and take off goggles;
- Choose a pair that fit properly. Leaking goggles are annoying for children and waste lesson time;
- Ensure your child knows how to fit and adjust goggles properly as teachers aren't able to take responsibility for this.

If you have any questions about this, or any other aspects of swimming lessons, please speak to myself, Mrs. Stewart or Mrs. Conway.

Early Years news

If you haven't yet seen the 50 Things to Do Before You Are 5 app, this is well worth a glance. It is totally free and gathers together no- or low-cost activities to do with children under 5. The app also highlights key dates, such as when to submit school applications and when to register with a dentist. There are also family-friendly events listed (running across the county, and throughout the year). More information is available at <https://oxfordshire.50thingstodo.org/> and you can download the app through the Apple Store (<https://apple.co/2BLNwJh>) or Google play store (<https://bit.ly/3gCVsLw>).

Reminder

A polite reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school site at any time, including when dropping children off for Breakfast Club or tuition groups before school. Thanks for your help with this.

News from St. Peters

Little Fishes meets Monday 4th April for the last time this term at 9am in St Peter's, Newlands Avenue. Come and enjoy a cuppa while the babies and toddlers get to play. Little Fishes will return on 25th April and then again from May 9th.

All are welcome to our two special Easter services:

Children's Easter service: Good Friday 15th April at 10:30am

Easter Sunday service: 17th April at 10:00am

Our Plant Sale and Mini Spring Fair takes place on Saturday 7th May between 10.30-1pm. There will be a variety of stalls and games, so why not call in on your way to or back from town, or pop along for an hour to enjoy some home-made cake and tea and get yourself stocked up with seedlings for the garden.

At the end of another busy term, on behalf of all of us here, I would like to say thank you to all of you at home for your ongoing support and kind words. January and February saw more children and staff from Northbourne unwell with Covid than at any other point of the pandemic. As they always do, teachers worked tirelessly to provide as much remote learning as they could while children were isolating at home, as well as continuing to deliver the highest quality provision in school. I am thankful to all of our staff that we were able to continue 'business as usual' for the most part, with Teaching Assistants stepping up to cover absence and teachers planning for other classes in their phase. This great team spirit and commitment to doing the best for the children and families in our school community is what makes our school such a special place to work and learn. We all hope you have a relaxing, Covid-free Easter and look forward to school seeming even more like normal on our return.

Wild Didcot

Wild Didcot Cafe (by Sustainable Didcot) - 14 May 2022, Didcot Civic Hall, 10:00 - 14:30

AN INSPIRING AND FUN DAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Art and crafts, quizzes, games, a treasure hunt and advice, all in one place!

Find out how to bring more wildlife back to your gardens and local spaces. Lots of free activities and expert advice (you'll be able to ask the experts - with advice from wildlife organisations such as Butterfly Conservation, BBOWT and the RSPB).

Admission is free, but please book your tickets in advance to let us know you are coming.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../wild-didcot-cafe-tickets...>

We will also hold workshops so you can build your own BUG HOTEL or HEDGEHOG HOUSE - please book with your general admission ticket. Workshops are not free but you will be taking your hedgehog house or bug hotel home!

We hope you can join us!

The Oxfordshire Museum

All of these activities are free but booking is advised as indicated.

Tuesday 12 April TOM TOTS 10.30am – 12noon <i>Paper Flowers</i>	Lots of fun with easy craft activities for little ones to get stuck into! No need to book just drop in.
TOM ART 2pm - 4pm <i>Spring Wreaths</i>	With Easter fast approaching, join us to create a wreath for your door using watercolours, eggs and paper flowers. Book ticket at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/310356042277
Wednesday 13 April WICKED WEDNESDAY 11am - 3pm <i>Animate that Art!</i>	Our slightly more advanced young museum goers are invited to join us to create some amazing Stop Animations based on our new contemporary art exhibition. This activity must be booked in advance Book a family ticket (3 children) at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/310359984067
Thursday 14 April TOM ART 2pm - 4pm <i>Is that a Dinosaur Nest?</i>	An Oxfordshire Museum twist on the classic Easter egg nest. Come and see what our dinosaur has laid! Book ticket at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/310553141807
Tuesday 19 April TOM TOTS 10.30am - 12noon <i>Bumble Bees</i>	Lots of fun with easy craft activities for little ones to get stuck into! No need to book just drop in.
Tuesday 19 April TOM ART 2pm - 4pm <i>Vegetable Flower Prints</i>	Come and join us as we use spring vegetables to print spring flowers! Book ticket at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/310554586127
Wednesday 20 April WICKED WEDNESDAY 11am - 3pm <i>Planting Spring</i>	Join us as we take up gardening, decorate a pot, plant some seeds, and create a plant label. Book ticket at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/310558026417
Thursday 21 April TOM ART 2pm - 4pm <i>Sketching Spring</i>	Create your own sketch pad, then follow the trail to explore the garden and temporary exhibition, recording your discoveries as you go. Book ticket at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/310559360407 Follow one of our new Challenge Trails for all ages

