



Northbourne News

8th July 2022

A reminder that school closes for the summer next Friday (15th July) at 1:30pm.

We hope your children enjoyed their visits to their new teachers this week – there was certainly a buzz of anxiety mixed with excitement at the start of the week as children arrived to school and headed off to their new classes. Despite the inevitable nerves, everyone was full of smiles and enthusiasm by the time we made it to assembly in the middle of the morning – and we used this time together to think again about how change can be tricky for all of us, however old we are. We once again considered the importance of talking to a trusted adult about any anxieties, and class teachers continued these discussions throughout the week.

It is difficult to find time for teachers to speak to individual parents at the start of these transition visits, so please remember that you can make contact with your child's new teacher using our class email addresses. These were included in the introductory information we sent home last Friday, and as a reminder are:

Robins, Wrens and Nightingales (Miss Murray, Mrs. Parsons and Mrs. Alleway): keystageone@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk

Owls, Falcons and Hawks (Miss Kellock, Mrs Conway & Mrs. Smith and Mr. Macfarlane):
lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk

Kites, Eagles and Kestrels (Miss Rawcliffe, Miss Hill and Mr. Guy): upperkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk

Please do use these to pass on any messages; teachers will reply to any queries as soon as they can.

End of year events: reminders

Once again, it has been great to be able to host parents for our Reception Sports Day and picnic and our Youlbury celebration assembly this week. Thanks to those of you who were able to join us – we have missed you sharing these memorable moments with us over the past few years.

We hope to see parents of children in Puffins and Swans again for our end of Reception Celebration assembly at 9:15am next Monday (11th July). We are also looking forward to seeing family and friends of our Y6 pupils on Monday (11th) from 6pm for their Leavers' Video Premiere and parent vs child rounders match; I know Y6 families will join me in saying a huge thanks to our PTA for organising our barbecue for this. We also hope to see some of you in Church for our Leavers' Service at 10am on Tuesday (12th).

Secondary School transition

Although it feels wrong to talk about transition to secondary school this time next year, but the October deadline for secondary applications rolls around very quickly after the start of September. With this in mind, members of staff from Didcot Girls' School and St. Birinus will be visiting Northbourne on Thursday 8th September at 6pm to meet prospective parents of pupils in next year's Y5 and 6 who would like to find out more about both of the schools. There will be short presentations from staff at each school, followed by an informal opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Please come along to hear more as you finalise your decisions about the secondary schools your children will attend.

Reports

Your child's end of year report will be emailed out to you through Parentmail later this evening. Please look out for these in your in-box; hopefully the covering letter will explain much of what the report means but, as always, please let me or your child's class teacher know if you have any questions about any of the information included. It has been a joy to read through these reports over the last few weeks – I hope you agree the reports you are sent really capture your child's achievements over this school year.

School Meals

I am sure you will have seen items in the media this week about the impact the rising cost of food is having on school meal provision across the country. Tracy, our Catering Manager, has worked hard to maintain the quality and amount of food she serves children at lunchtime; however, given the increases in prices of all ingredients combined with rising staffing costs, I am afraid that the cost of school meals will rise by 10p to £2.30 in September. I would like to stress that this is not a decision that we have taken lightly; we understand and are sympathetic to the strain that everyone is under as the cost of living continues to increase. We have benchmarked the new price against what other local schools charge for meals and are confident we are in line with this.

As explained in last week's newsletter, we are able to run a check on your child's eligibility for a free school meal very easily. If your circumstances have changed or you think you may be entitled to this benefit, please email the office or pop in and have a chat with Mrs. Gennery for more information.

Term Dates

You will find next year's term dates below to help with your planning for next year. A reminder that holiday leave cannot be authorised when taken in term-time, so please look carefully at the dates before making any plans.

TERM DATES 2022-23

Term	Main School	Nursery
Autumn Term	6 September – 21 October <i>INSET DAYS: 2nd and 5th September</i>	6 September – 21 October
<i>October half term</i>	<i>24 October – 28 October</i>	
Autumn Term	31 October – 20 December <i>School finishes at 1:30pm on 20th December</i>	31 October – 19 December
<i>Christmas holiday</i>	<i>21 December – 3 January</i>	
Spring Term	5 January – 10 February <i>INSET DAY: 4th January</i>	5 January – 10 February
<i>Spring half term</i>	<i>13 February – 17 February</i>	
Spring Term	20 February – 31 March <i>School finishes at 1:30pm on 31st March</i>	20 February – 30 March
<i>Easter Holiday</i>	<i>3 April – 14 April</i>	
Summer Term	17 April – 26 May May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May	17 April – 26 May
<i>Late Spring half term</i>	<i>29 May – 2 June</i>	
Summer Term	5 June – 19 July <i>School finishes at 1:30pm on 19th July</i> <i>INSET DAYS: 20th and 21st July</i>	5 June – 18 July