



Northbourne News

30th September 2022

This term's value: Community

'God looked at what he had done, and it was good' (Genesis 1:12)

This week, we have continued to think about how much stronger we are as a community than individually. Using Aesop's Fable of the Bundle of Sticks, we thought about how we can make tasks easier by working with others. Pupils have been living this out in their classroom, collaborating and co-operating on learning activities to support and challenge each other.

As always, it is a pleasure to work in a school where children value and appreciate each other's different strengths and qualities, knowing that difference should be valued and celebrated.

Sadly, we said goodbye to a longstanding member of our school community this week. Mrs. Paula Lofthouse has been with us as a teaching assistant for 8 years, and has moved on to new challenges supporting learning of older children at UTC Oxfordshire. Many cohorts of children have benefitted from Mrs. Lofthouse's calm and patient approach; I know you will join me in wishing her lots of luck as she leaves us.

A further reminder that we ask parents and visitors to continue to leave the school site through the gate into the car park from the Early Years garden, not through the main security gate; this is to avoid the congestion that used to happen when we used the security gate for both entering and leaving the site. Thanks for your help with this.

Learning Review Meetings

As previously communicated, Learning Review meetings will take place on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th October. As with other recent Learning Reviews, these meetings will take place remotely; information about how to book appointments will follow.

As it is likely Mr. Guy will be away from school on his paternity leave during these dates, parents of Kestrels are invited to an earlier Learning Review – these will take place on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th October. Booking details have been sent home, so please look out for information through ParentMail.

School census: Thursday 6th October

Next Thursday is the day of the national school census, information from which is used to determine levels of funding received by schools for the following school year. One element of our funding is calculated based on the number of children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 who have a school meal from our kitchen on the day of the census; for each child in these year groups who has a school meal next Thursday, we will receive almost £500 in our main school budget. With finances and resources stretched, this will make a huge difference to the overall level of funding we receive, with which we support your child's education.

Please help by seriously considering your child taking a school meal next Thursday, even if they have not had a school meal up to this point.

The menu for next week was sent out last week. As always, if your child does not like the main meal option (spaghetti bolognese), Tracy is happy to provide a school packed lunch or a filled jacket potato, which can be requested in the usual way.

Secondary transition

A reminder to parents of children in Y6 that secondary school applications need to be made by the deadline of 31st October, using the Oxfordshire portal: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/year-7-applications>. We will continue to include dates of secondary open mornings and transition events in our newsletter, so please look out for these if you are still making your choice of school; please speak to your child's class teacher or I if we can be of any help.

Curriculum Swimming: Kites

We are pleased to be able to continue with curriculum swimming at The Wave this term; apologies for the delay in this term's lessons starting. Kites will swim on **Tuesday** for the next five weeks, starting next **Tuesday (4th October)**; for these lessons, boys will need swimming trunks (not short 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 Tuesday 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 Miss Rawcliffe.

Individual and sibling photographs

Individual and family photos will be taken on **Monday next week** (3rd October). If you would like a photograph which includes a sibling *younger than school age*, please bring all of your children to the photographer in the hall through the main entrance at 8:30am to allow these to be taken before the start of school. This does not apply to siblings who are all currently at Northbourne (including in both nursery sessions), who will be collected for a joint photograph during the day.

Please could children in Wrens, Owls, Eagles wear usual school uniform on this day rather than their PE clothes.

PTA AGM

A reminder that we are holding our PTA AGM next Monday (3rd October) after the end of school (3:10pm start). We would love to see anyone who might be able to make a little bit of time to help plan, run, or tidy up after events – without enough volunteers and helpers, we won't be able to run the discos and other events that we know children enjoy so much. Given the meeting is outside school time, children are very welcome – we will make sure to have toys and games available. Please sign into school at the main office where you will be shown to the library. I hope you can make it along, and thanks in advance for your ongoing support.

Year Group news

Penguins: Parents of children in Penguins should now have your **Google Classroom** log-in. Please take a moment to visit classroom.google.com to sign into your account, where you will find information about what your child has been learning in school.

The Penguin team are very keen to continue to build on the foundations laid by all of you at home and build a life-long love of **reading** for all children.

Talking, storytelling, singing nursery rhymes and reading a variety of books to your child will develop listening, communication, and comprehension skills. They will build up a wealth of new vocabulary. We want to spark your child's imagination and show them that reading is fun!

With that in mind we would love your children to borrow our books from Penguin class. When you have shared them with your child, please return them on a Wednesday for others to enjoy and we will help your child choose another one. We sell Northbourne Primary School book bags from the office, through ParentMail. They cost £5.50 each and can be used throughout your child's school journey at Northbourne. If you have a book bag at home you would prefer to use, that is fine but otherwise we will give your child a plastic zipped wallet to put the books in.

At the end of the week, we will also be sending home our 'reading buddy' toy. He is called Ollie Owl. If your child is given the reading buddy to take home, please share books with your child and the buddy. Please return on Monday with one of your child's favourite books that we can share with the whole class; this will then be returned to you at home after we have shared it.

Y6: A reminder that the deadline to sign up for the Y6 visit to Plas Pencelli in Wales is next Friday (7th October). We have space for all of Y6 and would love all pupils to come along with us. If you have any questions, or payment of the deposit causes difficulties, please speak to me or your child's class teacher; we will be very happy to help.