



# Northbourne News

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

On behalf of all of us at Northbourne, I would like to welcome you all back to school at the start of a brand new year. We hope you all had a much-deserved relaxing, peaceful summer and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. It has been lovely to see so many enthusiastic, smiling, exceptionally smart pupils streaming through the gate during this week...we hope the first few days back have been happy ones, and that your children are enthused and excited about the opportunities that the school year holds.

I would particularly like to welcome the families who have joined us, both as parents of new Foundation Stage pupils and those who have moved to Northbourne and have started in classes across the school. We hope the children joining us in Penguins, Puffins and Swans have had a great few days. Having visited Puffins and Swans in the dinner hall a couple of times already, I am happy to be able to say they have quickly found their feet – it is like they have always been here!

I am sure you will join me in welcoming new staff to our school: Mrs. Hayley Smith who will be teaching Falcon class on Thursdays and Fridays; Mrs. Katie Richardson, an Associate Teacher beginning her teacher training, who will be working with Mrs. Alleway in Nightingale class; Mrs. Melanie Oakes, who will be working as a Teaching Assistant in Eagles; and Mrs. Marketa Kemp, who adds working as a full-time Teaching Assistant to her existing role in school as a Lunchtime Supervisor.

Remember to look out for this weekly newsletter. It usually contains important dates, as well as passing on important information about all of the things going on in school. This is posted on our website and sent electronically via ParentMail. If an additional parent or grandparent needs to be added to ParentMail, please send an email to the office stating your child's name, class, and name and email of the person to be added.

Myself, Mrs. Johnston (Deputy Head) and Mrs. Stewart (Business Manager) make sure we are available to chat on the gate at the start and end of the day whenever we are in school. If you ever have any questions or would like to discuss anything, please do pop along to say hello – and, if you need to speak to your child's class teacher, the email addresses you can use to get in touch are below.

*I am sure you will have been saddened by yesterday's news of the death of the Queen. Teachers have spoken to children today, at an age-appropriate level, to allow them to discuss any thoughts and ask any questions they may have. We understand that news may be particularly upsetting for children and families who have recently experienced their own bereavements, and have explained to children the importance of speaking to others if they are sad or anxious. We will plan further events to mark such a significant, poignant national event in time, and in line with advice from our academy trust and the Department for Education.*

<b>Mr. Shaughnessy</b>	<a href="mailto:Head.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">Head.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>
<b>Office</b>	<a href="mailto:office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>
<b>Nursery</b>	<a href="mailto:penguins@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">penguins@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>
<b>Puffins and Swans</b>	<a href="mailto:reception@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">reception@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>
<b>Robins, Wrens and Nightingales</b>	<a href="mailto:keystageone@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">keystageone@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>
<b>Owls, Falcons and Hawks</b>	<a href="mailto:lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>
<b>Kites, Eagles and Kestrels</b>	<a href="mailto:upperkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk">upperkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk</a>

**PE Uniform**

Children should come to school in their PE uniform on the days this is taught. These days are:

Class	Days	Class	Days	Class	Days
Robins	Tuesday and Wednesday	Owls	Monday and Thursday	Kites	Tues and Swimming Thursday *
Wrens	Monday and Wednesday	Falcons	Wednesday and Thursday	Eagles	Monday and Thursday
Nightingales	Tuesday and Friday	Hawks	Thursday and Friday	Kestrels	Thursday and Friday

- Green Northbourne PE T-shirts, available to buy through Parentmail priced £5 or £5.50 depending on size;
- Black or dark shorts (during warmer weather) or dark jogging bottoms (when outside during the winter);
- Hoodie, tracksuit top or other warm jumpers (as pupils will not be getting changed for PE, a school jumper is fine with this) for pupils during PE as the weather starts to turn colder.

Children in Puffins and Swans will not start formal taught PE from the start of the year, and so will not need to come to school in PE uniforms at the moment. We will be in touch when this changes.

*\*More information about Swimming sessions for Kites will follow shortly.*

**Uniform**

It is always lovely to see so many smartly dressed children arrive at school each morning, wearing proper uniform. I would just like to make a couple of reminders as to the clothes that all children should wear each day:

- **Shoes** should be of a dark colour, not white, and be smart and appropriate for school. Shoes should not be coloured, and should have no coloured logos, laces or other additions.
- **Trousers and skirts** should be dark grey or black.
- **Jewellery** should not be worn, except for a watch and a single pair of stud earrings. This is for health and safety reasons. Nail polish or make-up should not be worn.

A reminder that we politely request parents of children with shoulder-length or longer hair tie this back; this is to try to limit the spread of head-lice between pupils, as well as ensuring hair is kept out of faces as children work. Head bands should be a simple band, without any large decorative additions.

To avoid the problems which lost uniform bring, please remember to **clearly label** all clothing – and especially green jumpers – with your child’s name. Things inevitably go missing during the course of a normal week, and named items of clothing are very easy to reunite with their owner. Due to Covid, we no longer keep a collection of lost property, making it even more important that we can find out who owns different items of clothing quickly.

**School Food**

- Please ensure children have a named water bottle with them in school every day. These should contain water and not squash or juice.
- Children in Reception and Key Stage One (Robins, Wrens and Nightingales) are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable each day for their morning snack; if you would like to send your own snack in for a child in these year groups, please make sure it is only fruit or veg – no Fruit Winder / chewy bar type snacks for morning break please.
- Tracy, our Catering Manager, runs a Fruit and Veg bar for children in Key Stage Two (years 3 – 6); each snack costs 25p and can be bought with a snack card – these cost £3 each and so cover payment for 12 snacks, and can be bought through Parentmail. Alternatively, children can bring a snack from home – as for Key Stage One, only fruit and veg please.
- We ask that lunchboxes from home don’t contain chocolate bars or sweets; wafers / biscuits / cereal bars / chewy bars with some chocolate content is fine.

## Attendance

As a school, we are committed to *nurturing excellence* – providing the best possible education for all of our pupils. We strive to provide an inclusive environment where all pupils feel valued, can learn about themselves and the world, and can learn and grow together.

For a child to reach their full potential, a **high level of school attendance** is essential. We consistently work towards a goal of 100% attendance for all pupils, as we know this gives children the best possible chance of doing as well as they possibly can socially, emotionally and academically.

Attendance has an obvious impact on attainment at school. Research shows that almost half of children who miss 15 days of school a year do not reach the expected levels at the end of primary school. Attendance also impacts on children's friendships and social skills, as they miss out on spending time with their friends.

### **Did you realise...**

Whilst 90% attendance may sound good, this actually means that over a year a child will have missed half a day a week...or 4 weeks of the school year...or a more than a year of their school career if this level of attendance is the same across the whole of their time at school. Attendance at this level is classed as 'persistent absence' by the government, due to the proven impact this has on how well a child does in school.

Of course, odd illnesses are to be expected. At school, we do what we can to prevent the spread of these by teaching even the youngest children about the importance of hygiene and keeping their hands clean with regular use of hand sanitizer. We do not expect that children are dragged into school when they are ill! To ensure our pupils are safe, we follow up any absence with a phone call home so, if your child is too unwell to be in school, please call the main office on (01235) 817744 to let us know and avoid us disturbing you during the day.

There are ways you can help maintain excellent levels of attendance, however. We appreciate it is not always possible, but, by trying to arrange any routine, non-emergency medical or dental appointments after school or in the holidays, your child's attendance will improve. You can also help by keeping myself or your child's class teacher informed about any issues, to help us tackle these as soon as they arise.

At Northbourne, absence for holidays during term-time is not authorised. Each year, there are around 13 weeks of planned school holidays, and we ask that you take family holidays during these, and not when children should be at school. Attached with this newsletter you will find more information about penalty notices, which may be issued following holiday absence during term-time.

## Our school day

**Start of the day:** A reminder that our registers close at 8:55am. At this time the main gate is locked and children should be in their classroom, learning with their friends. Late arrival is disruptive for our office staff, teaching staff and, more importantly, for your child. Please make sure you arrive at school during our dropping-off window of 8:45 – 8:55am so your child can be in school, ready to learn.

**End of the day:** At the end of the day, children in Reception and Key Stage One will be ready to be collected from their classroom at 3pm. Children in Y5 and 6 will be walked out of school by a member of staff. If your child is in Y3/4 and you would like them to be brought to Cockcroft Road by an adult, please email [lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) and ensure children know who will be meeting them; otherwise, we will assume you will collect them from the playground and will ensure they wait outside their classroom to meet you.

To ensure the safety of adults and children, gates are locked promptly at 8:55am and when the last class leave by around 3:10pm; please do not congregate on the playground after pick-up to help us with this.

For safeguarding reasons, we continue to ask that parents and carers don't come into the school building at the start or end of the day. Please use the email addresses above if you need to contact a teacher, or call into the school office to speak to a member of an admin team if you need to have a discussion with someone more urgently.

A polite reminder that we ask parents to ensure that children – including pre-school aged siblings – don't ride bikes and scooters on the school grounds i.e after entering school through the Cockcroft Road pedestrian gate, to avoid any bumps or accidents.

## Reading Update

As existing families will know, our work to ensure children learn to read confidently and with enjoyment, right from the time they start with us, is always one of our ongoing priorities. In Robins, Wrens and Nightingales, the reading books sent home are based on the Phonics group your child learns in. Teachers are currently working hard to assess the Phonic knowledge of all children; as soon as this is completed, children will be grouped and will start bringing their reading books home.

Your child still has access to the e-books on the Oxford Owl website; these are decodable, and chosen to be at the level your child is currently reading or easier to help them gain confidence and practise their fluency. You can also read and share any books you have at home, or have borrowed from the library. If you would like some different story books to share at home, or need a reminder of an Oxford Owl log-in, please speak to your child's teacher. Thank you for your patience and continued support and please continue to check the newsletter for more information about our reading curriculum and how you can help.

## Wraparound Care

Many thanks to those of you who have already booked Breakfast Club and after-school club places. As a reminder...

**Morning Fun Club** starts at 7:30am every day, offering high quality childcare at the start of the school day. Sessions are £4.50 per child (£4 for each additional sibling) **payable in advance of the session**, and include a choice of different breakfast foods and a range of activities to help get the day off to a great start. Please send children into Morning Fun Club through the doors at the back of the hall, where they will be greeted by a member of staff and registered. As with the rest of the school, we ask that parents do not come into the hall when dropping off, and we ask that the staff car park isn't used to drop children for Morning Fun Club as this causes congestion at the time staff arrive to work.



**After School Club** runs between 3 and 6pm every day and is run by Get Active Sports. Places should be booked with Get Active directly through their website: <https://www.getactivesports.com/>

We are always happy to answer any questions about our wraparound care. Please speak to Mrs. Gennery in the office if we can help with anything.

## Safeguarding

Northbourne is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We undertake rigorous checks on all staff and volunteers who work in our school and maintain a central record documenting these. Staff involved in recruitment and selection of employees are trained in safer recruitment and all of our staff and volunteers undertake Child Protection training.

If you have concerns about the safety of a child, please speak to Mr. Shaughnessy, who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school. In my absence, please speak to a trained Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Johnston, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Alleway, Mr. Woods, Miss Hill or Miss Rawcliffe.

Any concerns about the conduct of a member of staff in relation to safeguarding and child protection should be raised in the same way.

All school policies relating to the safeguarding of pupils are available for further reference on the school website, with paper copies available from the school office on request.

You can also contact the Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to report any concerns about children on 0333 0143325.