



# Northbourne News

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**This term's value: Community**

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

## **Harvest Service**

We are really looking forward to our first Harvest Service in church for a number of years, which will take place for children in Years 1 – 6 at 10am on Tuesday next week. Parents and carers, please feel free to join us for what is always an enjoyable service.

**There will be no Swimming for Kite class next week to enable them to attend this service. Swimming sessions for Kites will resume after half term.**

We would love to be able to make a donation to Didcot Food Bank to coincide with our harvest celebrations. While many of us will use the church service to reflect and be thankful for the food we have, we remain very aware there are many members of our community currently struggling more than ever. Over the years, we have been able to make significant donations of food to the Food Bank at this time of year; these are always very much valued, especially as the volunteers who run this start to prepare for the really busy Christmas period. The Food Bank welcome all donations of tinned or packet food (not fresh) and, at the moment, would particularly value contributions of pasta sauce, tinned meat, tinned potatoes, baked beans, tinned fruit, jams, coffee, tea, sugar, biscuits and treats, whole milk, shampoo, shower gel and toothpaste. Please send anything you can spare into school with your children, and we will collect these ready for donation at the end of next week.

If you are struggling yourself, please keep in mind that we can provide referrals to the Food Bank. If this would help, please email or speak to me in confidence.

## **Learning Review Meetings**

Many thanks to everyone who has logged into ParentMail to make your appointment with your child's class teacher for next week's Learning Review meetings. We hope these give you chance to discuss how your child has settled since September, and hear about their attainment and progress over the term. Early next week, you will be ParentMailed the link you need to access your child's meeting, so please look out for this and let a member of our office team if you do not receive it. *Please note that this round of meetings will be held on Microsoft Teams and not Zoom.*

Some pointers to help get ready for your meetings:

- If you are accessing Teams from a tablet or phone, you may be asked to download the Teams app – this is free and straightforward to do.
- Please test out Teams ahead of time to ensure you can log in.
- Please click into your meeting using the link which will be sent next week a little while ahead of your scheduled time to help teachers try their best to stick to timings. If you have meetings for several children, you will need to click each different link ahead of each appointment.
- To ensure teachers let the right adults into each meeting, please make sure your Teams username matches either your name as held on our records or the name of your child.
- Please make sure your camera is turned on.
- Please ensure you have adequate internet connectivity to try to minimise any technical issues.
- Any paperwork discussed during the meeting – like your child's Effort Report for most year groups – will be sent home with your child on the last day of term.

Meeting remotely ran smoothly (for the most part!) last year so we hope this will be the case again. As always, any feedback about the meetings and the information shared is always welcome so please get in touch after your review to pass on any comments.

### Phonics updates

Many thanks to all of you at home for continuing to support your children to practise their reading. As with any skill, regular practise of decoding is vitally important to ensure this skill becomes automatic; this automaticity and ease then builds confidence for children in their own reading success, making them enthusiastic readers and building a love of reading for pleasure. Our Phonics scheme, Read Write Inc, aims to build this fluency by encouraging children to repeatedly practise texts until children can read them with expression and understanding. Mrs. Alleway, our Phonics Lead, has produced a number of videos which explain this approach to parents; please take a few moments to have a look at these and find out more, especially if your children are in Reception and Y1:

<https://youtu.be/NRa74Pu4nuk>

<https://youtu.be/wf4R40pHXCo>

### Year Group news

**Year 5 and 6:** To aid with our textiles DT unit in term 2, we ask that the children bring in a plain pillowcase which will be cut into and sewn. Please can these be brought into school during the first week back after half term (by 04/11/2022). A pack of two pillowcases can be purchased from Sainsbury's or Argos for £3, should you not have one available at home. Do let your child's class teacher know if you have any questions or if this causes any problems. Many thanks, the UKS2 team.

**Kestrels:** We bid a very temporary farewell to Mr. Guy this week as he starts his paternity leave; we will share news of the Guys' new arrival as soon as we get it. I know Kestrels and their parents will join me in welcoming Miss Skinner, who will be teaching next week and for most of the first week after the half term break, and in sending their best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Guy.

**Key Stage One (Robins, Wrens and Nightingales):** Children in our classes have been very busy writing letters to Mr. Shaughnessy asking if we can have a pirate day. Fortunately, he has said 'yes'. We will hold our pirate day on Wednesday 2nd November. Pupils are welcome to come to school dressed as a pirate if they would like; this can be as simple as jeans/shorts/leggings and a plain t-shirt. During the day we will be carrying out a range of fun pirate activities, including making and tasting some pirate-themed food. We would be really grateful for a gold coin donation (pound coin) to cover costs for this. As always, if you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

### School Prayer Group

A number of families regularly meet to pray (on Zoom) for our school. If you're new to the school community and would like to join them in praying, you'd be really welcome. Kate (Mum of Sophie in Kestrels and Lottie in Falcons) and Michelle (Mum of George in Wrens and Samuel in Puffins) would be happy to chat and tell you more or please email [kate.woods@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:kate.woods@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) for details.

### Times Table Rock Stars

Times Tables Rock Stars is regularly updated to ensure it provides the most secure, feature-rich and enjoyable experience. It's important that children use the latest versions of the app and website. If using the website at home, please visit [play.ttrockstars.com/reset](http://play.ttrockstars.com/reset) to load the latest version in your device's browser. Otherwise, update the Times Tables Rock Stars app from the app store.

### Well done and thanks...

Thank you to all those who purchased the fantastic crafts and cakes made by Bella, Isabella, Elsie, Jessica, Lottie and Sophia from Falcons. They raised a very impressive £232 which will be donated to the Red Cross who will distribute it to those who have been affected by the floods in Pakistan. Thank you for your generosity and a big well done to these Year 4s who have worked so hard on making their products and organising the event.