



Northbourne News

21st October 2022

School closes today for the half-term break. We look forward to seeing you when school re-opens at 8:45am on **Monday 31st October.**

As always, we have been overwhelmed by your hugely generous donations to the Didcot Food Bank. It speaks volumes to see so many families bringing in carrier bags of food for those in our town who are struggling at a time when the cost of living is rising for all of us. I know the volunteers at the Food Bank will be thrilled with how much you have donated, especially as they prepare for a busy winter. Thanks again for demonstrating so clearly our values of love and community.

At the end of a busy term, it is a good chance to say thank you on behalf of all of us here for your ongoing support. The first term of the school year is always a busy one, while children find their feet in their new classes and form relationships with new adults and friends. It has been wonderful to see the great start everyone has made to the year, and I look forward to another busy, successful term filled with exciting learning as we start to head towards Christmas. We hope you all have a relaxing holiday and look forward to seeing you after the half-term break.



Learning Review meetings

Many thanks to everyone who attended Learning Review meetings with your child's class teacher this week. These meetings are so important in keeping you informed about the progress your child is making and how they are in school more generally. We hope the information we shared was useful but, as always, please let me or your child's teacher know if you have any suggestions or requests. Teachers will send home the Effort Report which was referred to during your discussions today, so please look out for this so you can look again at the information it includes.

Covid Vaccinations: A Message from the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB)

You can get your child aged five to 11 vaccinated against COVID-19 during the half term school holiday. This includes children aged five and over (who turned five on or before 31 August 2022) who will be offered first and second paediatric (child) doses of the vaccine, with at least 12 weeks between doses. Children who turned five on or after 1 September 2022 can only get a first and second dose of the vaccine if they are either:

- At high risk due to a health condition or because of a weakened immune system
- Living with someone who has a weakened immune system
- The NHS wants to support you to make an informed choice with more information available here [COVID-19: A guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11](https://www.nhs.uk/COVID-19) (publishing.service.gov.uk)

You can book an appointment via the National Booking Service or by calling 119 for dedicated children's clinics, including at the Kassam Stadium, Oxford; Broad Street Mall, Reading; or The Guttman Centre, Stoke Mandeville.

Congratulations... Mr. and Mrs. Guy on the arrival of baby Evelyn Isla, last Friday. I know you will all join me in passing on your best wishes. We are looking forward to welcoming Mr. Guy back to school on Thursday of the first week after half-term.

Autumn Discos

As mentioned previously, the PTA are busy planning our Autumn Discos which will be held on Thursday 3rd November: 5 – 6pm for Reception and Key Stage One (Puffins, Swans, Robins, Wrens and Nightingales) and 6:15 – 7:15pm for Key Stage Two. Tickets will cost £1.50 and will be on sale through the Shop on ParentMail from Monday; physical tickets will not be given out, and instead we will keep a list of those children due to attend. The PTA will also be selling pizza slices, also at the cost of £1.50 each; these need to be pre-ordered at the same time that tickets are bought and final orders for food must be made by 12pm on Wed 2nd November to ensure we can cater accordingly.

Due to safeguarding protocols, we ask parents not to stay with children for either of these discos. Please take this into account when deciding if your child would like to attend as we know that discos can sometimes be overwhelming when children were attending for the first time. We will do our best to avoid this by, for example, making sure the hall is well-lit and the music is not too loud for the younger disco.

After-school club: If your child attends after school club, but still wants to attend the Key Stage One disco, please email the school office (office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) and staff will ensure they are taken from after school club to the disco. Get Active have said children will only need to be booked in for the shorter session (until 4.30pm) on this day. On Thursday 3rd November, after school club will meet in the library; please phone them when you get to the main office door to collect your child and they will be brought to meet you.

We hope your child will be able to come along and join in the fun, and thank you in advance for supporting our fund-raising efforts.

Uniform sales

Many thanks to our PTA for running last week's second-hand uniform sale – I hope you managed to pick up some bargains. Didcot Community Larder have been in touch to say they also have a few items of school uniform which have been donated to them, including non logo-ed items which we don't include in our own sales. If you have any uniform needs, please contact them on didcotlarder@sofea.uk.com.

Clubs

We are pleased to let you know that Miss Rawcliffe and Mrs. Lewis are re-starting Choir after half-term. A booking form will soon be live through Parentmail, so please watch out for this, along with some other clubs that we are able to offer.

Teaching Assistant Vacancy

We are currently advertising a vacancy for a full-time (25hrs a week over 5 days) Teaching Assistant. If you or anyone you know may be interested, more information is available on our website: <https://northbourne.oxon.sch.uk/our-school/vacancies/>. Applications for part-time working over fewer days may be considered.

Easyfundraising

You have already helped us raise £540 through easyfundraising – the scheme that pays school each time you shop online from a range of different sites. If you haven't already registered, please consider doing so to support our ongoing fundraising; more information is available at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/northbourne-school-pta/>