



# Northbourne News

**16<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

A reminder that, in line with Oxfordshire County Council term dates, school finishes for the Christmas break at **1:30pm next Tuesday (20<sup>th</sup> December)**.

It has been wonderful to see so many of you in school to enjoy our Christmas events this week.

- These kicked off with a wonderfully performed set of songs re-telling the nativity story by Puffins and Swans – pupils in Reception were impeccably behaved and performed wonderfully, singing so many different songs clearly and tunefully.
- On Wednesday, we enjoyed our first Christmas Service at St. Peters since 2019 – again, it was a joy to hear the whole school sing in church again, and to hear the result of the hard work of our choir who sang beautifully. Particular thanks to our readers – so many people have commented on how clearly and confidently you all read – and to our Key Stage One pupils who made up the nativity tableaux.
- This was followed by our Christmas lunch – Tracy and her team cooked and served over 270 meals on Wednesday, all up to her usual high standard.
- Finally, pupils in Robins, Wrens and Nightingales shared their own version of the nativity story in two performances yesterday, narrating clearly and singing enthusiastically.

I am sure you will join me in passing on thanks to all of the staff who work so hard planning and organising these events – the performances you see are the result of weeks of planning and preparing, and I am so grateful to our staff for working so hard on these at the same time as continuing to teach the usual full curriculum.

There will be a final, brief newsletter on the final day of term next Tuesday, so please look out for this. A reminder that school continues at the start of next week, and, unless children are unwell, we look forward to seeing them in school as usual.

## **PTA Thanks**

I am sure you will join me in passing on thanks to our PTA committee for their hard work over the Christmas period. Between them they have sold lucky squares in the freezing cold, organised window trails, sold refreshments at this week's performances and hosted 250 children for our discos last night. On behalf of all of us at Northbourne, huge thanks to all of you for giving so generously of your time – it is very much appreciated.

## **iRock**

It was a joy to watch our iRock bands on Wednesday afternoon. The 30 pupils who currently have rock and pop band lessons with iRock showed off their skills on drums, keyboards, electric guitar and vocals brilliantly and enthusiastically in their performances, which were a joy to watch. More information about iRock should be brought home by your children today so please look out for this and consider signing up if your child would like to be part of one of the age group related iRock bands. More information is available at [irockschool.com](http://irockschool.com).

## **Help with Phonics**

A reminder to continue to log in to your child's Google Classroom to find out some of the things that are going on in their class. Parents of children in Robins, Wrens and Nightingales – Mrs. Alleway, our Phonics Lead, has uploaded videos and resources to the Key Stage One classrooms to provide guidance about how phonics is taught and some of the things you can do at home to help, so please make sure to have a look.

Log ins for Google Classrooms should be in your child's reading diary; please speak to your child's class teacher if this has been misplaced.

**Animal Adoption**

An update from Y5 and 6 after their cake sales last week...thanks to your generous support, Upper Key Stage Two have been able to use the £362 raised to sponsor a polar bear, tiger, orangutan and snow leopard. They were overwhelmed by your donations and have far surpassed their goal of sponsoring one animal for all 3 classes, so thanks again for everyone who helped with this.

A plea from **Robins, Wrens and Nightingales** to please send a carrier bag into school with your child next Monday or Tuesday – thanks in advance for your help.