



# Northbourne News

9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**This term's value: Integrity**

**'Someone more powerful is going to come' (Mark 1:7)**

I hope you have all had a good week and managed to stay warm as the temperature has dropped. Christmas preparations are in full swing in school, and we hope to see lots of you at our various events next week...more details are below.

I am sure many of you may be anxious following media reports about the increased number of Strep A infections amongst children. We stay in regular contact with the South East NHS England team, our local Public Health team, and our School Health Nurse to ensure we have up-to-date information about the local picture. Please keep in mind that all of the information that has been shared stresses that Group A Streptococcus (seen as scarlet fever, strep throat, impetigo etc) is a normal childhood illness that tends to peak amongst the population every 4 years – with the last peak in 2017-18.

In school, we will continue to implement standard hygiene and infection control methods, including ensuring children wash their hands regularly and thoroughly, using liquid soap and water; reminding children of cough etiquette (Catch It, Bin It, Kill It); and ensuring touch-points are cleaned thoroughly. At home, you can help by:

- Ensuring children with a strep throat infection or scarlet fever **confirmed by a clinician** do not return to school until at least 24 hours after starting treatment with an appropriate antibiotic (48 hours for impetigo);
- Ensuring all scrapes, wounds or bites are cleaned thoroughly and covered;
- For sore throats, following the NHS advice (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/sore-throat>) about when to contact your GP or NHS111 (keeping in mind that children with Strep throat will not want to eat and this is to be expected and not concerning in and of itself);
- Managing any more minor symptoms, such as temperatures, through usual self-care practices, such as taking paracetamol and maintaining good fluid intake.

Children who have a sore throat **and** a fever should stay at home until they are well.

Following this guidance should be enough to manage any symptoms and ensure children get better quickly. However, please be vigilant about any deterioration or lack of improvement in symptoms shown by children when they are unwell, and seek medical advice should this be required.

Attached with this newsletter is a fact sheet which is worth reading through if you have any particular questions; as always, please let me know if you have any concerns.

## Disco

We are looking forward to our Christmas discos next Thursday (15<sup>th</sup> December): 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 are now on sale through the Shop on ParentMail; physical tickets will not be given out, and instead we will keep a list of those children due to attend. A reminder that we ask parents not to stay with children for our discos.

**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](mailto: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, 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.

## **Our Christmas events**

A reminder of our Christmas celebrations next week...

- Parents and family members of children in Y1 upwards are welcome to join us for our Christmas Service at St. Peters next Wednesday at 10am;
- Puffins and Swans are looking forward to singing for their families on Tuesday at 9:15am; please come into school through the main entrance after you have dropped your children off. You are very welcome to join children in their classrooms for a festive-themed Stay and Play session after the performance.
- Please make sure you have expressed your preference for either morning or afternoon tickets for Robins, Wrens and Nightingales' performance next Thursday using the online form that has been sent home previously. Due to fire regulations we have strict limits on the number of adults we are able to host in the hall for events, so please only attend the event you have registered for.

The PTA will be providing refreshments at our performances, so please make sure to come along with some change for a mince pie and a hot drink. We are really looking forward to being able to host you in school for Christmas events for the first year since the pandemic, and hope you enjoy celebrating with us.

## **Christmas deliveries**

Our Christmas post box is now open. Please make sure that cards are labelled with first names and surnames and, wherever possible, the child's class...our elves will do the rest. Thanks to Archie, Kevinia, Lola, Ben and Amelia for their work getting our post to the right children.

## **Cake sale thanks**

On behalf of Kites, Eagles and Kestrels, huge thanks to everyone who so kindly donated or bought cakes on Tuesday. The Y5 and 6 team were overwhelmed by your support – with enough donations to stock not one but two cake sales. The final total is being counted up, but it looks very likely that your donations will be enough for each class to sponsor their own endangered animal – a great achievement. Thanks again for your usual generosity in supporting our school events.

## **Choir**

Choir finished for the term this week – many thanks to all of the pupils who have joined in so enthusiastically, and thanks to Miss Rawcliffe, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Green for their hard work in leading choir. We will resume on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January – no need to register again for a place if your child already attends. If your child would like to join choir (Y1 upwards, Thurs 3 – 3:45pm) please email [office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) letting us know who will collect your child at the end of each session and we will add them to our list. I am really looking forward to hearing the result of choir's hard work in church on Wednesday.

## **Join our team**

Sadly, Mrs. Rachael Stewart, our School Business Manager, will be leaving us at the end of this term after almost a decade at Northbourne. I am sure you will all know Mrs. Stewart, mainly because she helps open and close the gates and greet you at school several times a week. I know you will appreciate, though, that aside from this her main role is to provide strategic leadership around the operation of the school. As we wish Mrs. Stewart well as she takes up an exciting new opportunity at the University of Oxford, we are looking for a new School Business Manager. Information is available on our website (<https://northbourne.oxon.sch.uk/our-school/vacancies/>); please share this with any friends or family members who may be interested, and join me in passing on thanks and best wishes to Mrs. Stewart.