



Northbourne News

13th January 2023

Thank you so much for your concern and good wishes for Mr Shaughnessy and the whole school team over the past week; we really value the support and adaptability of the Northbourne community during this unexpected start to the school term.

Mr Shaughnessy is still unwell with a serious chest infection and will remain away from school while he recovers. He is very grateful for the messages of support and good wishes we have passed onto him. Northbourne's wonderful team of teachers and support staff continue to work hard to ensure there is minimal disruption in his absence. We will keep you updated throughout the rest of this term.

Bikeability

As some of you may be aware, our school takes part in Bikeability. This provides Year 5 pupils the opportunity to learn how to ride their bikes safely on the road. This is scheduled to take place the week commencing 27th February 2023. The Bikeability cut-off date for parents to register their child is **Friday 20th January**. It is unlikely that pupils can be added on after this date. Parents and carers will receive a ParentMail with further information and registration details.

Swimming - Eagles

Eagles' swimming lessons will start on Tuesday 17th January for five weeks. For these lessons, boys will need swimming trunks (not short please) and girls will need a swimming costume (one-piece only; bikinis should not be worn). Pupils will also need a towel and a swimming hat – these are available to buy from the school office.

You are welcome to include goggles in swimming kits for Tuesday lessons; however, before doing so, please make sure that you:

- Choose a pair with BSI instructions on the packaging for the correct way to put on and take off goggles;
- Choose a pair that fit properly. Leaking goggles are annoying for children and waste lesson time;
- Ensure your child knows how to fit and adjust goggles properly as teachers aren't able to take responsibility for this.

Amazing Reading News

A big thank you for putting in so much effort to hear your children read. Entries in the children's reading records for Term 2 show that, as a school community, the children have read over 9000 times at home. This is over 2000 more reads than Term 1! Kite Class recorded the greatest number of reads for KS2, Nightingales for KS1 and Puffins for Reception. As a reward, the children will be able to choose some new books for their class and one for the school library.

Athletics (Sports report written by Archie Dixon, Kites)

On Wednesday, Northbourne were in a competition with seven other schools. We walked to Didcot Girls' School. When we got there, we went to the back of the school and into the sports hall. Other schools such as Hagbourne, Stephen Freeman, Didcot Primary, Willowcroft, Manor, All Saints and Chilton. First we did the girls' relay. Four girls from four different schools competed in that race. After this we did other activities such as standing long jump, chest pass, javelin and more. Sadly, we did not win but we placed 4th out of 8 schools. *By Archie Dixon*

A big well done to all those who attended and thank you to Mrs Alleway and Mr Froud for supporting them.

Headlice

Just a reminder to ask all children with long hair to ensure that it is tied back; this can prevent coming into contact with headlice.

Book Bank

Mrs Wyard is hoping to create a Book Bank for all the adults and children at Northbourne School. The idea being for families to keep the books they love and return the ones they do not want to keep. The Book Bank will be in the playground before and after school so it will be easily accessible to everyone. We can only create this resource if people are able to kindly donate books which they or their child no longer need. If you are having a clear out of books, please bring them to the office. Thank you.

School census: Thursday 19th January

Next Thursday is the day of the national school census, information from which is used to determine levels of funding received by schools for the following school year. One element of our funding is calculated based on the number of children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 who have a school meal from our kitchen on the day of the census; for each child in these year groups who has a school meal next Thursday, we will receive almost £500 in our main school budget. With finances and resources stretched, this will make a huge difference to the overall level of funding we receive, with which we support your child's education.

Please help by seriously considering your child taking a school meal next Thursday, even if they have not had a school meal up to this point.

The menu for next week was sent out last week. As always, if your child does not like the main meal option (pasta carbonara), Tracy is happy to provide a school packed lunch or a filled jacket potato, which can be requested in the usual way.