



# Northbourne News

10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

At the end of this unusual term for us as Northbourne School community, and in the continued absence of Mr Shaughnessy as he continues his recovery at home, as school governors we want to say a special thank you to Mrs Johnston for the way she has so excellently and capably led our school during this term. Mrs Johnston, supported by Mrs Alleway and the School Leadership Team, along with all school staff have helped Northbourne remain the vibrant and nurturing school we all know it to be. Each member of staff has stepped into a different role during this term, and we are so grateful to each and every one of them for their hard work and dedication. We know that the children miss Mr Shaughnessy, as he misses the children and being in school; he really appreciated the cards and gifts which were sent to him from the different classes. He sends his thanks for all of the cards, kind words and good wishes.

Mr Shaughnessy will continue to be away from school next term as he continues his recovery at home, and we will keep you updated in this newsletter as the next term progresses. He looks forward to being back at school soon. Meanwhile, we remain very grateful to Mrs Johnston and Mrs Alleway for stepping into the roles of Acting Headteacher and Acting Deputy Headteacher during this time. Thank you for your ongoing support for our wonderful school team!

Kate Woods – Chair of Governors

I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents, carers and children who have sent their best wishes to Mr Shaughnessy this term; he is so grateful for all your kind words. To be part of such a supportive and caring community has been extremely important during his absence.

I hope you all have a happy and healthy half term.

Mrs Johnston – Acting Headteacher

## Swimming

It will be Eagles' final swimming session the week after half term. Please could all children bring with them pyjamas and a swimming costume for their water safety session.

## Didcot Library

On Wednesday in half term, Didcot Library have a Harry Potter coding event, and on the Friday, they have a Yoga Story time. Please see the leaflets attached. More information can also be found on their Facebook page.

## School Dinners

Tracy would like to remind parents and carers that the school dinner menus change every fortnight. If you could please find the time to discuss the food choices with your child, and order alternatives when necessary, to make sure we avoid any upset on the day. Many thanks.

## Dress Up for Digits

The total raised for last Friday's Dress up for Digits Day was £256.00. We would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Murray and all of the School Council who helped organise this event and to all of you who donated so generously.

**PTA**

A huge thank you to everyone that entered the Name the Bear competition including staff for being good sports and getting involved! Our winner of the competition is Alice in Falcons so huge congratulations to her for winning the prize.

PTA

I would also like to say a HUGE thank you to all of the PTA as well as other volunteers who helped to 'tidy' up The Circle garden on Monday. I do believe that 'tidy' is an understatement as they have given it a complete make over. The creativity with which they have made improvements is wonderful. I know all staff and children appreciate the time they took to make it such an inviting and calming space in our school.

**Swimming Lessons Discount Code**

We currently have a discount code for Swimming Lessons specifically for schools to share. We understand a lot of children are currently needing more support than ever before learning to swim.

For anyone wanting to sign a child up to Swimming Lessons visit <https://www.better.org.uk/what-we-offer/lessons-and-courses> The discount code: TREAT50 will give 50% off signing up for swimming lessons at any of these centres:

Faringdon  
Wantage  
White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre Abingdon  
Henley Leisure Centre  
Thame Leisure Centre  
Didcot Wave  
Abbey Sports Centre Berinsfield

Alternatively, anyone wanting to sign a child up for Swimming Lessons can go into centre and quote discount code TREAT50 for 50% off.

**New School Business Manager**

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed a new School Business Manager, Ms Lara Cook, who will be joining us at Northbourne after half term. Hopefully, you will get to meet her on the school gate at some point that week.