



Northbourne News

21st April 2023

This term's value: Community

'A seed must die before it can sprout from the ground' (1 Corinthians 15:36)

I hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Easter, and managed to enjoy time with family and friends. It has been so great to be back in school more fully this week; thank you so much to all of you for your kind words and best wishes, both during my absence and when I have seen you at the gate or around the school site this week. The care and love that I have been shown by our whole school community – children, families, staff and governors – has been so moving, and yet another reminder of what makes Northbourne such a wonderful and unique school. I am so grateful to the whole staff team, led so ably and confidently by Mrs. Johnston since Christmas, for their hard work in ensuring that my absence caused no disruption to your child's learning; I know you will join me in passing on thanks to them all.

More than ever, I am looking forward to a successful, lively term, and to watching your children continue to thrive in all they do.

NEU industrial action

You will be aware from the media that the NEU industrial action will continue this term, with strikes currently called for next Thursday (27th April) and the following Tuesday (2nd May). It is very likely that some classes will be affected by this; as soon as I am in a position to confirm this, I will be in touch.

Year 6 Transition Information

Members of staff from St. Birinus School and Didcot Girls' School will be visiting us on **Thursday 25th May** to meet parents and carers of children transferring to these schools in September. These talks, which pupils will also be part of, start at 9am and should last no longer than one hour.

Staff at St. Birinus School and Didcot Girls' School find conversations with parents and students are vital, so we would really appreciate your time and attendance at this meeting. They will also be talking to our Year 6 teachers to ensure that the transition to secondary school is as smooth as possible. If you are unable to attend this meeting, but would like to discuss your son's / daughter's school transfer in any way, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Wood at St Birinus School on 01235 814444, email mwood@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk or Melanie Good at Didcot Girls' School on 01235 812092, email mgood@didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk.

PTA News

Huge thanks to the PTA for their ongoing fundraising efforts, and to all of you at home who got involved with the Easter Eggstravaganza. Your creations were all wonderful! Hopefully these have all been returned to you so you can continue to admire them at home – there are a small number still in our reception area, so please feel free to call into the office if you have one missing.

***** Deadline extension!***** MyChildsArt sheets can now be given in until next Monday (24th April). Hopefully you will have time over the weekend to continue to work on your masterpieces!

Date reminders

- Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th : Y6 SATs tests
- Wednesday 24th May, 10am: Pentecost Service at St. Peters
- Wednesday 24th May (weather permitting), afternoon: Sports Day for pupils in Y1 – 6

Staffing Update

Unfortunately, Mr. Woods will be away from school for some time. In his absence, Mrs Parsons will be Acting SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator); if your child is on our SEN register, or you have any concerns about your child's social, emotional or academic progress, their class teacher should continue to be your first point of contact, and they will involve Mrs. Parsons as needed. Should you need to get in touch with Mrs. Parsons with any questions directly, her email is rpar7693@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk.

In Mr. Woods' absence, Miss Hill will teach Eagle class on Fridays. As a result, Eagles PE days will change slightly –pupils should now please wear their PE kits to school on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Start of term reminders

- Many thanks for continuing to leave the school site promptly when you have collected children at the end of the day. Please ensure children are supervised as you leave, and that they do not use the play equipment in the foundation stage area– to ensure the site is secure, and the children who are still in school are therefore safe, it is important that the gate is locked as soon as possible after 3pm. Many thanks for your ongoing help with this.
- A reminder that children should be in their classrooms, ready to learn by 8:55am. Late arrival – that is, anything after this time – is disruptive to teachers and other pupils in a class, and is embarrassing for the child arriving after their friends.

Street Tag Champions

Thanks to all of your activity, we have won the latest South Oxfordshire Schools Street Tag competition, with just under double the number of points of the second placed school! We will use the prize money for playground equipment to help breaktimes be as active as possible.

Street Tag is an app-based competition (<https://streettag.co.uk/>) which keeps track of your daily steps. Downloading the app is quick and easy – navigate to the South Oxfordshire Schools competition, find Team Northbourne in the drop-down list, and help out in boosting our joint total steps. The latest competition is now active, and runs until 7th June.

Thanks for your help with this...I will keep you updated about our progress.