



Northbourne News

28th April 2023

This term's value: Community

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

Many thanks for your patience and understanding around the ongoing strike action being taken by teachers who are members of the NEU. I fully understand the difficulties caused by class closures, and appreciate the further challenges caused where one child is in school but siblings are at home. Although some teachers are members of unions other than the NEU and are therefore not currently striking, it is not possible to compel teachers to cover for colleagues who are taking industrial action. This is what leads to some classes continuing as usual, and some children not being able to be in school. Please be assured this is not a case of prioritising the education of some year groups over others.

Teachers do not make the decision to strike lightly. They have very real concerns around funding in education and the difficulties schools are facing – and, understanding the impact on children and their families, only take strike action as a last resort.

The final strike date of those currently announced is next Tuesday (2nd May). At the moment, if this strike goes ahead:

- Owls, Kites, Eagles and Kestrels will be in school as normal;
- Penguins, Puffins, Swans, Robins, Wrens, Nightingales, Falcons and Hawks will **not** be in school.

Thank you for your understanding and kind words of support, despite the impact on family life. I will keep you updated should further strike dates be announced.

A reminder that school is closed for the May Bank Holiday on Monday (1st May). I hope the weather improves and you can enjoy time with family and friends.

PTA Updates

The PTA are busy organising a range of events to support their fundraising efforts for the rest of this term, including a plant sale after school next **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. Please have a look and pick up a bargain if you can.

Please save the date for our Summer Barbecue – **Friday 30th June**. This year, this will be an extra special one to mark the 60th birthday of Northbourne opening in our current building. We would love as many former pupils and families to come along as possible, so please spread the word. Further details will follow.

Dates for second-hand uniform sales will be pencilled in very soon. We are particularly low on smaller sizes of jumpers and cardigans – if you have any good quality, unwanted uniform your child has outgrown during the year, please drop this into the office as I know other families would be able to put this to very good use.

Good luck Mrs. Gennery!

Sadly, Mrs. Gennery, one of our School Administrators, left us for new adventures this week. Mrs. Gennery has worked at Northbourne for 18 years – initially as a Teaching Assistant, mainly with Reception children, and more recently in the office, playing a key role in so many aspects of the running of the school. She will be very much missed by all of us – but I know you will join us in passing on thanks and good luck wishes, as she starts to spend more time with her young grandchildren.



Year 6 Transition Information

A reminder that 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. 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.