



Northbourne News

19th May 2023

It has been the turn of pupils in Year 2 to complete their SATs tests this week – as with Y6, children in Robins, Wrens and Nightingales have risen to the challenge brilliantly, showing focus, resilience and determination in showing off their reading and maths skills. As always, many thanks to our Key Stage One team for their organisation and planning around these tests.

Sports Day

We are really looking forward to our sports day next Wednesday...and have our fingers crossed that the forecast for dry weather is accurate. A reminder that, on Wednesday, pupils in Y1 – 6 will need to come to school wearing a T-shirt in their house colour and the rest of their PE kit (black / dark shorts or black / dark jogging trousers and trainers) and bring:

- a bottle of water, sun-cream and hat, especially if the weather is warm, and a waterproof coat to wear between races if it is showery;
- any inhalers needed.

We will always do our best to try to run sports day as we appreciate that many parents book time off work to watch this event. However, rain does make the field slippery and, as you know, the safety of our pupils is always at the forefront of our decisions. Therefore, any decision to cancel sports day due to the weather will be based on the forecast for the rest of the day and will be taken **at the start of the day** to enable us to inform you of this as effectively as possible. We will ParentMail before 8:45am should the weather forecast suggest the afternoon is likely to be wet. In this event, we will have a second attempt at this year's Sports Day on **Wednesday 21st June**.

It would be lovely to have lots of parents and family members come along to join us. If you are joining us, please arrive to watch from 1pm onwards, when the school gate will be open. Please make your way around the outside of the school to the field. Please note, we will need to start promptly at 1:10pm to get through the races we have planned and so, to keep the site secure, the gate will be locked from this time.

- A small number of chairs will be set up for you on the side of the running track nearest the school; please feel free to also bring rugs and your own fold-up chairs, as there won't be enough seating for everyone. We would be grateful if spectators could remain on this side of the field, behind the cones set out, at all times to enable teachers and teaching assistants to organise children on the other side of the track effectively.
- Our PTA will be running a café during the event, so please pop along to support our ongoing fundraising.
- As in previous years, children compete in one of four houses. Please feel free to cheer for your child's house and for the rest of the pupils involved in the day. We know that sports day can be overwhelming for some children and we know you will all cheer for everyone taking part to provide support and encouragement.
- After this, pupils will return, one class at a time, to their classrooms to collect their belongings. They will then be dismissed from their classrooms at the normal time of 3pm.
- We ask that children in Reception and Nursery are **not** collected to watch Sports Day; they will have their own planned learning to take part in. Details about the Early Years Sports Day will follow next term....at the moment, this is pencilled in for the Wednesday 28th June.

We hope these arrangements are clear. If you have any questions, please speak to myself or your child's class teacher. We look forward to an enjoyable afternoon!

Some requests....

- Year 5 and 6 would be very grateful for any donations of unwanted bubble wrap you may have – thank you.
- Mrs Wyard would love any unwanted books, Top Trumps card sets, comics, Brain Box-type games, revision guides etc to top up our Book Bank. We would love to be able to continue this, so please pop anything you no longer want into the office. Thanks in advance for your help.

Northbourne is 60!

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Northbourne Primary School moving to our current site in Cockcroft Road. Prior to 1963, Northbourne School - originally called St. Peters School, North Hagbourne, and opened in 1877 - was elsewhere, in what is now the Northbourne Centre on Church Street, just behind Broadway. The school log books show how excited everyone was to move to a newly built school building, fully equipped with state-of-the-art equipment – like a playing field and inside toilets.

We are really excited to mark this 60th birthday next term, and have a number of events lined up to mark this.

- Our Summer Barbecue (5 – 8pm on Friday 30th June) will take the form of a big birthday party – we really hope you can join us. Please pass on an open invitation to former pupils, family members and any staff you may be in touch with, as we would love to welcome all members of the Northbourne community, past and present, to celebrate with us.
- On 4th July, we will have a special curriculum focus day, looking in more detail at the history of Northbourne and the local area. This will be followed, on Wednesday 5th July, with a dress through the decades non-uniform day – any fashions from the last 6 decades (or beyond!) is strongly encouraged, so please start hunting for any previously discarded flares, tank tops and shell suits to introduce your children to...
- On Friday 7th July, Tracy will be serving a special picnic lunch, which we hope to be able to enjoy on the school field. This will be followed by a sponsored colour run, organised by the PTA, to finish our celebrations with some fun and fundraising. As things might get messy, please keep hold of any unwanted T-shirts, joggers or shorts that you might otherwise have thrown away between now and next term, as these will be much needed...

**Pentecost Service**

Our Pentecost Service at St. Peters is next Wednesday, starting at 10am. As always, parents and family members are warmly invited to join us for this – we hope to see some of you there.

Missing lanyard

A light blue prospect trade union lanyard with a key attached has been misplaced, possibly in the school grounds. Could you please let a member of staff in our office know if you have picked this up, so we can help get it back to the right person – thanks for your help.

Well done Jessica!

Jessica in Owls is living out our school value of community at the moment, by planning to have around 14 inches cut off her hair to support the Little Princess Trust. The charity make wigs for girls and boys who are undergoing cancer treatments or have lost their hair due to other conditions such as Alopecia, and are one of the largest funders of childhood cancer research in the UK. We are so proud of you Jessica – well done! More information can be found on Jessica's JustGiving page, <https://shorturl.at/cqEMQ>.

Didcot Library Sensory Garden Competition

Didcot Library is SO EXCITED to be partnering with Sustainable Didcot to bring you the 'Didcot Library Sensory Garden Design Competition'!

As from Monday 15 May 2023, we are inviting children aged between 6-16 years to get creative and green fingered and help us get the most out of the small green space behind Didcot Library for our local community and for our local wildlife.

We're not looking for professional designers or plant experts, just exciting and amazing ideas - The winner will see the inspiration of their design come to life and the garden will be open for use by all visitors to the building!

We hope the garden will become a welcoming space for everyone from humans to hedgehogs; a wonderful haven in the middle of our busy town.

The competition closes on Monday 10 July 2023 (this is attached with this newsletter).

For more information please contact us by phone 01235 813103, email didcot.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk or check out Sustainable Didcot's Website www.sustainabledidcot.org.uk