



Northbourne News

16th June 2023

This term's value: Love

'I run towards the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to heaven' (Philippians 3:14)

PTA Updates

A reminder that the PTA are busy planning this year's 60th Birthday Barbecue and Summer Fete the best one yet. We would be so grateful for offers of help from anyone who can spare some time either before, during or after the fete. If you can give us some time – however short – please visit volunteersignup.org/3WDPH and add your name and email to whichever job(s) you would like to help with; the committee will then be in touch with more details. Thank you in advance for any help you can give – we are all very grateful.

Some advance notice...the day of the barbecue (Friday 30th June) will be a non-uniform day; in exchange, we would be really grateful if children in Reception and Key Stage One bring along some chocolate and Key Stage Two a bottle for our tombolas. All donations gratefully received! A reminder, too, that Wednesday 5th July is our dress through the decades non-uniform day – any fashions from the last 6 decades (or beyond!) are strongly encouraged, so please start hunting for any previously discarded flares, tank tops and shell suits to introduce your children to.

Skins and Strings Club

Spaces are still available for children to join our djembe and ukelele club which takes place on Tuesdays after school; a flyer, which includes sign-up information is attached with this newsletter, so if your child is really enjoying their music lessons and would like to continue with these, please take a moment to have a look.

Upper Key Stage Two news

Eagles: Just a reminder, that as part of this term's Nourish and Flourish topic, Eagles will take part in a cooking session at St Birinus on either Monday 19th June and will need to bring a sealable food container with their name on. PE days for Eagles will also revert back to Wednesdays and Thursdays next week.

Site Safety

With the warmer weather, an increasing number of parents are staying on-site to chat with friends and let children use the play equipment, particularly in the Early Years area, at the end of school. To help ease congestion while classes are leaving the school site, and to ensure the gate can be locked as soon as possible given that children are still using the building after 3pm, can I please politely ask that you leave as soon as you have collected your children at the end of the day. Thanks in advance for your help with this.

Keeping in touch

At Northbourne, we pride ourselves on the time and care we take to develop strong and positive working relationships with parents and family members of the pupils we teach. We hope our phase email addresses help make it as easy as possible for you keep in touch with teaching staff. These shared email accounts are checked during the working day, and teachers will reply as soon as possible, but please keep in mind that they will be teaching for much of the time. If you have a more urgent question, please feel free to continue to call the school office and our admin team will be very happy to help.

Please remember that the shared phase email addresses should not be used to report absence. Please continue to call school on 01235 817744 and use option 1 to let us know when your child is not well enough to attend. Thanks in advance for you help.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Parents of children currently in Y2 may be aware that your child's entitlement to a free school lunch ends when they move into Y3. From this point, entitlement to a funded school meal is means-tested. We can easily and quickly check your entitlement to this – all we need is your date of birth and National Insurance number. If you think your child may be eligible – not only as they move into Y3, but if they are in another year group and your circumstances have recently changed – please call into the office and we will carry out the checks for you.

Some advance notice...from September 2023, the price of school meals will increase to £2.40 per day for children in Y3 – 6. Tracy, our Catering Manager, has worked extremely hard to limit the costs passed on to parents but, in light of ongoing increases in food prices, we will need to pass on a 10p increase to avoid any impact on the quality of school lunches. Even after this increase, governors and I are confident that our meals are still at the lower end of prices charged across the schools in and around Didcot – we are looking forward to welcoming parents of children in Key Stage One to our lunchtimes over the next few weeks to try Tracy's cooking for yourselves. As always, please let me know if you have any questions, and thanks for your ongoing support.