



# Northbourne News

23<sup>rd</sup> 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)

We hope you have been able to enjoy the sun this week and haven't been caught out too badly by some of the downpours.

On that rainy note, apologies to parents of children who attend Penguins for the afternoon session for our closure on Tuesday afternoon, and thanks for your patience and understanding. One of the challenges a 60-year-old building brings is a 60-year-old roof, and we struggle to manage considerable leaks in many of the original classrooms during heavy rain. Our academy trust, ODST, have prioritised our roof for replacement and work will begin on this this summer, when the roof and ceilings over the kitchen, Penguins, Puffins and Swans will be replaced; after that, the rest of the original roof will be replaced in two further sections over the next two summer holidays. We are very grateful to ODST for their significant investment in our school, which will ensure we can continue to provide a vibrant, well-maintained learning environment.

## NEU Industrial action

You may have seen from the media that the NEU have announced two further strike days – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July. You will know from previous newsletters that teachers are not obliged to let school leaders know their intentions about whether to take part in strikes; however, if the strikes go ahead, it is likely that arrangements for these two days will be as below; if this changes, I will let you know as soon as possible.

	Penguins	Puffins	Swans	Robins	Wrens	Nightingales
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Open
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Open (30 and 15hrs)	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Open

	Owls	Hawks	Falcons	Kites	Eagles	Kestrels
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open

As a result of the strikes, some of the events planned for this term have been moved to days which are not affected by industrial action:

- Robins parent lunch will take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July;
- The iRock concert will stay on the same day as planned (Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July); if your child takes part in iRock but is out of school due to the strikes, they are welcome to arrive at school for the afternoon (12:55pm) for them to rehearse with the other bands, and parents are welcome to join us at school for the concert as planned. They will then finish school with other pupils at 3pm;
- Dress Through the Decades (non-uniform day linked to the last 6 decades) will move to Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July;
- Our Birthday Picnic and Colour Run will move to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

I appreciate the disruption that this further round of strikes will cause, and hope that these changes of dates will, at least, avoid any children missing out on some of the end-of-year events planned.

### **PTA Updates**

Plans are now taking shape for our Birthday Barbecue next Friday (30<sup>th</sup> June). We really hope you will be able to join us between 5 and 8pm to join in with the fun and games that have been planned, and to see a special performance from our fantastic choir. We are also looking forward to admiring all of your bakes for our Northbourne Bake Off – please drop off any entries for this before 9:30am on Friday morning, using the attached form. Please note that we are unable to accept entries that require refrigeration.

A reminder that next Friday is a non-uniform day; in exchange, we would be really grateful for donations of a bottle for our tombola's (*please note this is an amendment from our last newsletter when chocolate was requested – bottles only please*). All donations gratefully received! It is also not too late to sign up to help – please visit [volunteersignup.org/3WDPH](https://volunteersignup.org/3WDPH) and add your name and email to whichever job(s) you would like to help with if you can spare us some time.

### **Transition information**

Our assemblies this week have continued to focus on dealing with change and growing up. As always, pupils approached our discussions in such a mature way; Hayley in Robins gave a fantastic explanation of how silly it would be if we refused to get older, move classes and learn new things, modelling an excellent attitude to transition! We understand the nerves and anxieties that come with new teachers and new classes, so please continue to speak to your children at home if they talk about worries. Normalising these and stressing that, while none of us may like change, transition to new classes brings exciting opportunities is really important and will help with any nerves.

This year, children will visit their new classes during the mornings of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – the same day most of our Y6 pupils visit DGS and St. Birinus for their transition visits. Information about your child's new class will be emailed home before these visits, so please look out for this.

### **Festival of Voices**

It was a pleasure to watch our Key Stage Two choir members take part in Festival of Voices at Dorchester Abbey last Friday evening. As always, our pupils sang with clear enjoyment and enthusiasm, relishing the opportunity to show off their skills in such a special building. It was great to see so many families supporting choir; as always, many many thanks to Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Green for giving so freely of their Friday evenings to enable our pupils to take part in this event.