



Northbourne News

7th July 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)

A massive thank you to everyone who took the time to come along to the Birthday Barbecue last Friday. Despite the downpour as the gates opened at 5pm, a huge crowd joined us to celebrate Northbourne's 60th anniversary. It was wonderful to see so many former pupils and their families, and to share in such a special performance from the choir. I know that those of you who came along will have seen what a mammoth organisational task the evening was, and will join me in passing on thanks to our wonderful PTA committee, their families, and all of the volunteers who spend time lending a hand setting up, running the event, and tidying away at the end; huge thanks, too, to the staff members who gave up their evening to help out. Northbourne is so lucky to have such a proactive, committed group of people leading and supporting our fundraising efforts – thank you, on behalf of our whole school community. I will share information about how much was raised through the event when this has been finalised.

With no time to rest, the PTA have turned their attention to organising next week's Colour Run – more information below.

Please do take time to share the sponsorship link with family and friends, and challenge pupils to run as many laps of the field as they can...it would be great to end this year's fundraising with a bang. Thanks in advance for your support with this.

Youlbury

Huge well done to the x Y4s who travelled to Youlbury Scout Camp, just outside Oxford, for their two night residential last week. I know from Mr. Macfarlane, Miss Kellock, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Froud and Mrs. Smith that everyone threw themselves into every activity they took part in – the 3G Swing seems to emerge as a particularly popular challenge! We are all so proud of you for managing without your parents, getting on with each other so well, and pushing yourself to achieve new things...what a great end to your time in Lower Key Stage Two. As always, I know you will join me in passing on your thanks to the staff who led this trip, and Mrs. Johnston for her organisational skills – residential visits involve a considerable commitment of time and energy from school staff, and we are very fortunate to have a team who give so willingly of their own time to provide such memorable experiences for our pupils.

Parents and family members are very welcome to join us at 9:10am on Thursday 13th July for a special assembly to hear more about Y4's adventures and challenges...we hope you can join us.

Reports

Your child's end of year report will be emailed out to you through Parentmail later this evening. Please look out for these in your in-box; hopefully the covering letter will explain much of what the report means but, as always, please let me or your child's class teacher know if you have any questions about any of the information included. It has been a joy to read through these reports over the last few weeks – I hope you agree the reports you are sent really capture your child's achievements over this school year.

Class transition

You will also receive a second Parentmail later today with information about your child's class for next year, and some more information about their transition visits on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Please look out for this and read through carefully. As previously explained, pupils will spend next Tuesday and Wednesday morning, including lunchtime, in their new class, and, as outlined in the transition letter, will need to go directly to their new class at the start of the day. The information you will receive gives an indication of where these classrooms are, and staff will be on hand to help with directions if you need a little bit of help. Transition can always create anxiety, as well as excitement, and we hope these visits give your child a chance to start to get to know their new teacher.

Parents of children in Penguins who are starting school in September will also receive a Parentmail giving details about the arrangements for the transition visits to school next week; please look out for this and get in touch if you would like to clarify anything.

Northbourne is 60

Our 60th birthday events have not ended with the Birthday Barbecue last Friday, and continue into next week...

Dress Through the Decades: We are very excited to see your fashions from the last few decades for our non-uniform day on Thursday (13th July)...make sure to dig out your flares, tank-tops, neon T-Shirts and combat trousers...

Picnic Lunch: We are hoping (weather permitting) to enjoy lunch on the field for a special Birthday Picnic on Friday. Tracy will be preparing special picnic bags for the lunch meal option, or feel free to send a picnic from home for your child's lunch.

Colour Run: Our sponsored Colour Run will take place during the afternoon of Friday, after our picnic. The PTA have set up a Just Giving page to collect all sponsorship donations: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Northbourne-pta>; there are a small number of paper sponsorship forms which can be collected from the office if you would prefer, but, if using these, please make sure that any cash donations are handed to the PTA on Friday 14th July.

Friday will be a non-uniform day; children should come to school wearing old clothes – or, at least, clothes that you don't mind potentially being stained with the dye that will be used during the run. White or light coloured clothes will show the colours best, so please keep this in mind. Children are welcome to wear plastic wrap-around sunglasses or goggles but these aren't essential. Please make sure children have their water bottles and a hat, and come to school wearing suncream

Unfortunately, due to lack of space, it won't be possible for parents and family members to join us for this – but I am sure the outcome of the run will be visible when children leave school at normal time...

Y6 News

Another busy week for Y6 coming up as we rapidly approach the end of their time in primary school...

- **Transition days:** A reminder that, on Tuesday and Wednesday, pupils transitioning to Didcot Girls' School and St. Birinus should go straight to their new secondary school each morning rather than coming to Northbourne. The secondary schools ask that pupils wear their primary school uniform for these days.
- **I'm a Y6, Get Me Out of Here!** This week you should have received a Parentmail asking you to specify whether you are planning on using your initial allocation of 2 tickets for the Y6 performance on Monday 17th July. Please make sure to complete the form before next Monday (10th July); if you have requested additional tickets over the initial allocation, we will be in touch at some point next week to confirm whether we are able to provide you with any extras.
- **Barbecue:** The Y6 Leavers' Barbecue will take place immediately after the performance; we hope you can stay to enjoy this with us, and join in with our traditional parents vs children Rounders game...I think we are due a parent victory this year! More information, including about how to order food, will follow early next week.
- **Nourish and Flourish:** A reminder that parents of children in Y5 and 6 are very welcome to pop into school at the start of the day (9am) on Monday (10th July) to share some of the work pupils have completed as part of their Nourish and Flourish project. There will also be a chance to find out more about the range of services that SOFEA and You Move offers to support the community, including free activities over the summer. We hope you will be able to spare ten minutes or so to join us.
- **Y6 Celebration:** As part of our Leavers' events, we have arranged a special fun swim at The Wave during the morning of next Friday (14th July). Pupils should bring their usual swimming kits to school with them for this: swimming trunks (not board shorts) for boys and swimming costume (one-piece only, not bikinis) for girls, along with their swimming hat (available from the school office), a towel and a pair of goggles (optional). We hope you have a great time!

Some other dates

Reminders of a couple of other dates, as we head towards the end of term...

- Reception celebration assembly: Monday 17th July at 2:30pm;
- Leavers' Service at St. Peters' Church: Tuesday 18th July at 10am.

Parent lunches – thanks

Many thanks to the parents and family members of children in Robins, Wrens and Nightingales who were able to make time to join us for lunch over the last few weeks. We hope that you enjoyed your meal and got a good idea of how our lunchtimes are structured; I am sure you will agree with me that the behaviour of pupils, both in the Hall and when playing outside, is exemplary. Huge thanks to Tracy and her staff for their extra hard work on these lunchtimes, and for keeping us fed throughout the year – we are very lucky to have such a talented catering team.

Summer Reading Challenge

Exciting news...this year's Summer Reading Challenge starts tomorrow! Always a highlight of the Summer, this year's challenge has a games and sports theme – children can join a fictional team and their animal mascots as they use their skills to weave through summer obstacle course. The challenge runs until 9th September, and all children across Oxfordshire are invited to take part. As in previous years, children who take part are challenged to set themselves a reading goal – typically 6 books – and then collect special stickers to add to their poster, and other incentives, as they read each book.

More information is available on the Reading Challenge website (<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>) or the website for Oxfordshire Libraries (<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge>), so have a look and get involved. We always love to give out any medals in celebration assembly, so please send them into school on our return and we can show off all of your achievements.

Reading books: Please have a really good look in children's bedrooms for any school reading books that may be lying around and return these to your child's class teacher before the end of term – thanks in advance for your help with this.



iRock

It was a joy to watch our iRock bands in their end of year concert this week – many thanks to all of the parents and carers who came along to lend their enthusiastic support. iRock will continue to run sessions at Northbourne from September, and offer tuition to children starting from Reception; a sign-up sheet with more information is attached with this newsletter, so please have a look at visit the iRock website should you have any questions.