



Dear Parents and Carers,

I have found myself reflecting on one word more than any other during the last few weeks of the year: **resilience**.



Resilience is about adapting when plans change, learning from setbacks, supporting one another through challenges, and having the courage to hold fast to what you believe in or try again. It is one of the most important character traits we can instil in our children because it will serve them long after they leave the classroom.

Our children have demonstrated resilience every day. They have embraced new learning, persevered when work became challenging, navigated friendships when things have gone wrong, responded to disappointments, and performed on the stage and sports field. They remind us that success is not about never getting things wrong. Mistakes are how we learn—even as adults. Success comes from having the confidence to bounce back, keep going and continue improving, even when it is hard.



Northbourne staff have demonstrated that same resilience in abundance. Behind every lesson, trip, performance, sporting event and celebration lies an enormous amount of planning, teamwork and dedication. They continually go above and beyond because they believe every child deserves the very best educational experience.

The staff have also worked incredibly hard over the last couple of years to adapt to changes in culture and working practices, and that has required real resilience. We are seeing the fruits of that hard work. Where our School Development Plan has focused on Early Years, Phonics and English, we have seen our academic outcomes rise above the national average in each of these areas for the first time in four or five years. We are excited to build on this success next year as we turn our attention to strengthening mathematics, while continuing to embed the huge improvements we have already made.



The final weeks of term perhaps captured resilience most clearly. Faced with extreme heat, changing plans and the need to adapt quickly, our community responded with positivity and understanding. Parents and carers showed resilience too, adapting alongside us. Rather than allowing circumstances to define us, we focused on ensuring our children still experienced memorable moments together—and I believe they did. Our Awards and Presentation Evening was testament to that: a joyful celebration of everything that makes the Northbourne community so special.

Our vision of *Nurturing Excellence* has never been about expecting perfection; it is about encouraging every child and adult to grow in courage, compassion and confidence, learning that setbacks are often the stepping stones to future success. To achieve this, we must resist the temptation to overprotect or hold ourselves back; while ensuring we are supported to take safe, purposeful risks. Together, we will continue nurturing resilience rather than reticence, because that is how we will continue to nurture excellence in everyone.

I wish you all a restful and joyful summer, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Andrew Denham





Our **School Council** has had an exceptional year, and we could not be prouder of every single member from Year 1 to Year 6. They have shown absolute **dedication** to their role, attending weekly meetings with enthusiasm and commitment, always putting the needs of the whole school community before their own.

Throughout the year, they have truly lived our **school values** of community, compassion and courage. With support, they have organised and led whole-school assemblies, carried out class surveys, listened carefully to the views of their peers and ensured every voice was heard. Their feedback has had a direct and positive impact on school life, helping to shape decisions that benefit all the children at Northbourne.



One of their greatest achievements was organising our '**Break the Rules**' Day, which raised an incredible £774.38. They have already planned how this money can be used on projects that will benefit everyone in our school, once again showing that they always think of others before themselves.



Most importantly, our councillors have found and used their voices, supported one another and worked brilliantly as a team. They have been outstanding ambassadors for Northbourne, demonstrating what young leaders can achieve when they work together with kindness, determination and a genuine desire to make a difference. We are incredibly proud of them all.

Overt the last two years the School Council has **£1513.68** and are very keen to see a return of The Monkey Bars to the school playground. So watch this space...

Finally, a big thank you to **Miss Hill** who has done a fantastic job of supporting the School Council throughout the year!

Northbourne Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

On behalf of the staff and children, thank you for the incredible support you have given our school this year.

Your events always bring an extra sense of joy, fun and community to Northbourne. You have given so generously of your time, energy and enthusiasm, asking for nothing in return, simply because you care about our children and our school.

Your service to our school community is deeply appreciated. Thank you for everything you do to help make Northbourne such a special place to learn, work and belong.



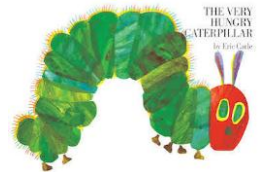
Nursery - Mrs Pearson (Penguins) - writes: What a fantastic and busy summer term it has been in Penguins! The children have enjoyed a wonderful range of exciting learning experiences and have made us incredibly proud.

Our topic, "Changes," has captured everyone's imagination. One of the highlights was watching our caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies. The children were fascinated by each stage of the life cycle and loved releasing the butterflies into the garden. We also explored the life cycles of humans, birds and frogs, making comparisons and discussing how living things grow and change.



The topic inspired some wonderful creativity. The children produced beautiful caterpillar artwork and colourful bubble-blowing butterflies, which have brightened our classroom displays. They also enjoyed looking at baby photographs of themselves before drawing self-portraits, helping them reflect on how much they have changed as they have grown.

Our learning was supported by a range of wonderful stories. We began with *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle before enjoying more of his favourites, including *The Very Lonely Firefly*, *The Bad-Tempered Ladybird* and *The Very Busy Spider*. We also loved sharing *Tad* by Benji Davies.



We ventured into the garden for a bug hunt, although the warm, dry weather meant we found fewer insects than we had hoped! Nevertheless, the children enjoyed exploring nature and observing their surroundings.



Sports Day was another memorable event. The children showed fantastic enthusiasm and truly demonstrated our school values of courage, compassion and community. It was lovely to see so many families join us afterwards for a well-earned snack

As the term comes to an end, we have been talking about exciting new beginnings. Some children are moving into Reception, others are starting at new schools, while those remaining in Penguins are looking forward to becoming our "big" children and helping to welcome our new starters in September.



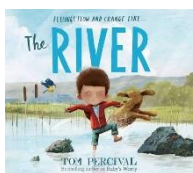
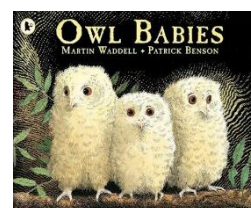
Courage

Compassion

Community

The Reception Team - Mrs Stanley (Swans) and Mrs List (Puffins) - write: What a wonderfully busy

and memorable final term we have had! The children have spent time reflecting on the changes in their world and celebrating how much they have grown. Through our learning about Owl Babies, we explored how the owlets faced the challenge of missing their mother and developed their independence.



We also followed Rowan's emotional journey in The River, thinking about how feelings can change with life experiences, just as a river changes along its course and through the seasons. Inspired by Kandinsky's artwork, the children explored how colours, shapes and patterns can evoke feelings such as joy, calmness and wonder. They created their own interpretations through imaginative collages.

In Literacy, our daily Book Talk sessions have supported children in reflecting on how they have physically grown and changed, as well as the many new skills they have developed throughout their Reception journey. We have enjoyed information books about insects, stories about growth and change, and explored the fascinating lifecycle of a butterfly in Science. The children were especially excited to hatch our own butterflies and release



them into our courtyard. It was wonderful to witness their awe and curiosity as they observed caterpillars transform into chrysalises and finally emerge as beautiful butterflies.



During Understanding the World, the children explored the question, 'Who am I and where do I belong?' They considered the difference between individual and group identity, recognising that although we are all unique, we are also connected through our communities. We also explored how Christians become part of a Christian community through Baptism.



In Music, the children discovered what makes an instrument and created their own using different modelling materials. Through PSHE, they reflected on growing healthily, how their abilities have changed since they were babies, their feelings about moving into Year 1 and the many achievements they have celebrated this year.



As the school year comes to an end, we would like to thank you and our amazing Puffin and Swan children for a year filled with adventures, friendships, laughter and learning. We will miss them so much, but like our butterflies, they are ready to spread their wings and fly towards new adventures. We wish them every happiness and success.

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The Year 1 & 2 Team - Mrs Jones (Wrens), Mrs Snowball (Robins) and Miss Richardson (Nightingales) and Miss Pollard - write: This year, the KS1 children have grown enormously in confidence, independence and resilience, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.

A particular highlight of the term was our fantastic KS1 trip to the Story Museum in Oxford. The children loved exploring the magical Whispering Wood before relaxing together on the enormous Story Bed in the Small Worlds gallery. They also enjoyed bringing familiar tales to life by acting out The Fox and the Crow and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm, imagination and love of stories throughout the day.



We began our final English unit with the beautiful book The Big Book of the Blue. The children were fascinated by the incredible creatures that live beneath the sea. They designed their own imaginative sea creatures before writing detailed fact files, describing each creature's diet, habitat and behaviour. They then used these ideas to create their own underwater adventure stories, carefully including expanded noun phrases, conjunctions and ambitious adjectives to make their writing exciting and engaging.

In Geography, we have been learning about the Wonders of the World and locating them on different continents. The children were amazed by the incredible Great Barrier Reef, with many choosing to include it as the setting for their own stories. In Science, we investigated what plants need in order to grow and stay healthy, learning about the importance of soil, water and sunlight. It was exciting to observe our plants growing over time as we carefully looked after them and watched the changes each week.



In RE, we have been learning about Judaism and exploring the qualities that make a good leader. The children particularly enjoyed DT this term, where they brought together many aspects of their learning to design and create wonderful underwater scenes using levers and sliders. Their finished products demonstrated fantastic creativity, careful craftsmanship and excellent problem-solving skills.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. It has been a privilege to teach your wonderful children and watch them grow into confident, kind and enthusiastic learners. We wish all of our families a happy, relaxing summer break and look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting year in September!



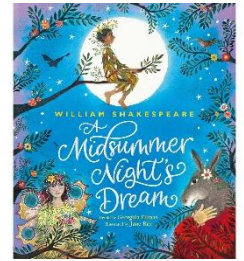
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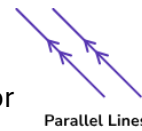
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The Year 3 & 4 Team - Mr Guy (Owls), Mrs Smith (Falcons) and Miss Hagger (Hawkes) - write:

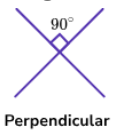
The final term of our school year has been a busy and successful one across all subjects for Years 3 and 4! In English, we began by building on our knowledge of haiku poetry and writing our own tankas and cinquains, the latter of which we performed in front of the class. We then read an adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and wrote our own first-person scene from the story, focusing on description and characterisation. Finally, we turned our attention to ourselves by writing our own autobiographies.



In Maths, we focused on place value when multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100, including moving digits into the tenths and hundredths columns on a place value chart. We then explored division, learning how sharing and grouping numbers can lead to remainders. Finally, we investigated parallel and perpendicular lines before reflecting patterns and shapes in mirror lines to identify lines of symmetry.



Parallel Lines



Perpendicular Lines



In Science, we learned about how humans and animals survive by exploring nutrition, skeletons and muscles. The children particularly enjoyed investigating how our bodies work through practical activities (the model hand was a favourite!) and comparing different types of animal skeletons.

In Geography, we compared Oxfordshire and St Lucia by exploring their location, climate, landscapes, jobs and daily life. The children used maps, photographs and data to investigate similarities and differences between the two places before presenting their findings in a variety of ways.



In RE, we explored whether a story needs to be true to teach an important lesson, considering different beliefs, perspectives and interpretations. Through stories, symbols and proverbs, the children reflected on how our own experiences and beliefs influence the way we understand truth.

In DT, the children learned a variety of sewing stitches before using their new skills to make their own token holders. Finally, in PSHE, they explored the concept of growing up, learned about puberty and the physical and emotional changes that take place during this stage of life. They also reflected on moving on to their new classes and shared how they feel about the changes that next year will bring.

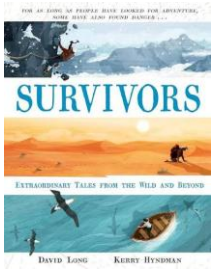


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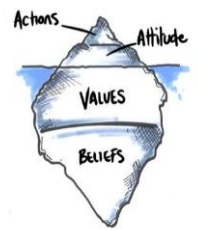
Community

The Year 5 & 6 Team - Miss Hill (Eagles), Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) and Mrs. Wade (Kites), write: As another wonderful year comes to a close, we are incredibly proud of everything our children in Kite, Eagle and Kestrel classes have achieved. It has been a term filled with enthusiasm, curiosity and resilience, and it has been a privilege to watch every child continue to grow in confidence. Not only have they made fantastic progress in their learning, but they have also shown kindness, maturity and determination, making us proud every single day.



Our English lessons were full of imagination as the children thoroughly enjoyed writing their own adventure stories, inspired by *Survivors* by David Long. Their excitement for the book shone through every lesson, sparking thoughtful discussions and some fantastic creative writing. In Geography, pupils were fascinated by learning about extreme weather hazards, asking insightful questions and developing a real understanding of their impact around the world.

RE lessons encouraged some incredibly mature and reflective conversations as children explored different worldviews and considered how values and beliefs shape our lives. Alongside this, our PSHE lessons helped children reflect on change and transition, preparing them with confidence for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. Children also embraced the challenge of designing and creating museum alarm systems in DT, applying their knowledge of electrical circuits with great creativity and problem-solving skills.



A special mention must go to our Year 6 pupils. Despite soaring temperatures, timetable changes and the excitement of the end of primary school, they showed remarkable dedication while rehearsing and performing their end-of-year production, 'I'm an

11-Year-Old...Get Me Out of Here!' It was a fantastic performance that had everyone laughing from beginning to end. The confidence, teamwork and commitment shown by every child made us incredibly proud.

As we say goodbye to our amazing Year 6 children, we do so with enormous pride. They leave us as kind, confident and capable young people, ready for the exciting adventures of secondary school. They will always be part of the Northbourne family, and we know they will continue to shine wherever their next adventure takes them.

To our Year 5 children, we are so excited to welcome you back as our new Year 6s. We know you will embrace the opportunities and responsibilities that lie ahead and be fantastic role models for the rest of the school



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Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

As we approach the end of another academic year, we, the Governors, would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to Mr Denham and the entire staff team. Their **unwavering dedication, professionalism and care** have helped to create a vibrant and nurturing environment in which every child can thrive.

It has been a pleasure for Governors to spend time in school, meeting such **well-behaved and articulate children** and hearing directly from them how much they enjoy coming to school because their teachers make learning fun and engaging. This **enthusiasm is clearly reflected in the progress they are making**. The school is firmly on its journey towards excellence, which will make an even greater difference to the lives and future outcomes of your children.

Your support as parents and carers, particularly in ensuring that your children attend school regularly, has made a significant contribution to this shared goal, and for that we thank you sincerely.

We have also been delighted to see the **expansion of North Stars**, which now provides a wide range of sporting, creative and enrichment clubs before, during and after the school day. New initiatives, including the Bike Library, Wheelie Fun Club, athletics and pickleball, have further broadened the opportunities available to our pupils.

We would also like to thank all of you—staff, parents and carers—for your continued support and for taking the time to complete **our surveys**. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and plays a crucial role in shaping our plans and priorities for the year ahead.

Finally, the **Board of Governors is currently seeking volunteers** to join us as Foundation Governors. If you know of anyone who is not currently a parent at the school and who may be interested in this rewarding role, we would be delighted to hear from them. Further **details are provided below**.

As we look ahead to the summer break, we hope it provides an opportunity for you and your families to rest, recharge and enjoy some well-earned time together.

Wishing you all a peaceful, restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Warm regards,

Northbourne Local Governing Body

Become a Foundation Governor – Make a Lasting Impact on Education

Are you passionate about education and your local community? Do you want to help shape the future of young people and support the values and ethos of our school? We're looking for a dedicated individual to join our governing body as a **Foundation Governor**.

What is a Foundation Governor?

Foundation Governors play a vital role in ensuring the school's religious character is preserved and developed. They are appointed to bring valuable perspective to the leadership and strategic direction of the school.

What We're Looking For:

- A commitment to supporting the school's ethos and values
- An interest in education and the welfare of children
- Good communication and teamwork skills
- Willingness to attend meetings (usually termly) and take part in governor training

What You'll Gain:

- A chance to give back to your community
- Valuable experience in strategic leadership and governance
- The opportunity to support and challenge the school to be the best it can be
- A rewarding role that makes a real difference in young people's lives

No prior experience in education is needed—we welcome people from all walks of life who are willing to learn and contribute.

If you're ready to make a difference and would like to find out more, please contact marie.murphy@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk

2026-27 Start of Term Dates

Monday 31 st August:	All: Bank Holiday
Tuesday 1 st September	Staff: INSET DAY
Wednesday 2 nd September	Staff: INSET DAY (New uniform collection day for parents*)
Thursday 3 rd September	All: Term Starts

**The school office will be open between 9.00am to 3.30pm for parents to come and collect school uniform they have ordered for the new academic year.*

Northbourne CE Primary School Term Dates: 2026-27

Aug-26							Sep-26							Oct-26							Nov-26							
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Dec-26							Jan-27							Feb-27							Mar-27							
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Aug-27							Sep-27							Half Term		Days	Autumn Term		74 days									
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	1	38	Spring Term		54 days										
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30	31													TOTAL	195													

Save the Date: Monday 19th July 2027 - Northbourne Festival: Awards, Performances and Entertainment!

Next year's event will be even bigger than this year's!

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Autumn 2026 Northbourne North Stars: Playful and Purposeful Provision by Professionals

A one-stop-shop of children's clubs and wrap-around care for working parents, for children aged 4 and above.



Sessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 7.30am to 8.35am	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games, Activities & Breakfast</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games, Activities & Breakfast</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games, Activities & Breakfast</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games, Activities & Breakfast</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games, Activities & Breakfast</i>
Afternoon Session 1 3.15pm to 4.30pm	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All
	Dodgeball (Y2-Y6) <i>Dodge, duck, dip & dive</i>	Gymnastics (Y1-Y6) <i>Building confidence through movement.</i>	Dance Club (Y1-Y6) <i>Learn a routine and perform at Oxfordshire Dance Festival!</i>	Football (Y3-Y6) <i>Improve technically and tactically, together!</i>	Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create</i>
	Cricket Cubs (R-Y1) <i>Mini, mighty cricket with Mrs List!</i>	Athletics Club (Y3-Y6) <i>Run, jump & throw with Mrs Lewis!</i>	Go for it! (Y1-Y6) <i>Fun games & challenges with Mr Denham!</i>	Choir (Y1-Y6) <i>Be a part of the Northbourne Choir for free.</i>	
	Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Scrap Book Club (Y1-Y2) <i>Complete a scrap book by exploring new styles each week.</i>	Wheelie Fun Club & Pit Stop (R-Y6) <i>Have a go at bike obstacle courses or simply build confidence on two wheels. Tea and drink all included for £10!</i>
Afternoon Session 2 4.30pm to 6.00pm	Tea and Drink	Tea and Drink	Tea and Drink	Tea and Drink	
	Free Play <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Free Play <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Free Play <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Free Play <i>Relax, play, create</i>	
Nursery Provision	8.00-8.35	8.00-8.35	8.00-8.35	8.00-8.35	8.00-8.35
	3.15-5.00	3.15-5.00	3.15-5.00	3.15-5.00	3.15-5.00

Registration: Families need a My Child at School (MCAS) account to be able to register their children for activities

Sign Up: By 9am on Friday of the week before you would like them to attend. Sign-up via MCAS. Sign up will close after 9am Friday & reopen again at 9am on Monday morning for the following week.

Activity Choice: Families must choose an activity to do in Session 1 e.g. dodgeball, rounders or chill zone.

Cost: Flat rate (regardless of what time the child arrives or leaves) of £6 per child for Breakfast Club; £7 for Afternoon Session 1; and £8 for Afternoon Session 2

Nursery: Flat rate (regardless of what time the child arrives or leaves) £4 for the morning session; £12 for Afternoon Session, including the snack and tea.

Reductions: Children on Free School Meals may be entitled to a subsidy. Please contact the email below for more information.

Last Minute Bookings: Parents can book their children into the provision 'on the day' by phoning the School Office. This will cost £10 per child, per session.

Expectations: Northbourne North Stars is not school but the expectations for good behaviour are just as high so that all children feel happy and safe.

Question? Please contact northstars@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk not the School Office.

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