



Start of Term 1 Newsletter

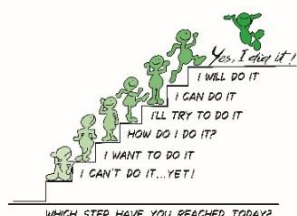
Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to Northbourne this week and to see the school once again full of children, **laughter, learning and life**. There is always something special about the start of a new school year: new classrooms, new teachers, new friendships and, most importantly, new opportunities.



At Northbourne, our vision is **Nurturing Excellence**. For us, excellence does not mean expecting everyone to be the same or to achieve the same things. It means helping every child to grow, flourish and become the very best version of themselves. That means working hard, being curious, making mistakes, persevering when things are difficult and taking pride in doing things well.

Our three values of **Courage, Compassion and Community** will continue to sit at the heart of everything we do. We want our children to have the Courage to challenge themselves and try something new; the Compassion to be kind and think about others; and to understand that they are an important part of our Community, with a responsibility to make it the best it can be.



In my assembly this week, I talked about the importance of wanting to be your best and emphasised the difference between being your best and being the best. We want the children to understand that the outcome does not always matter, so long as they have tried their hardest, learnt from any mistakes or challenges along the way, and can finish feeling proud of what they have achieved.

There is lots to look forward to this year, not least the introduction of the Northbourne Awards Scheme. This is a new initiative that we hope will enthuse and energise the children as they work towards achieving bronze, silver and gold badges throughout the year by completing activities and challenges that bring our vision and values to life.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Here's to another exciting year of Nurturing Excellence at Northbourne!

Andrew Denham

Key Dates and Updates for the Autumn Term

All/Google Form: Immediate Action Required

Please make sure you **fill in the Google Form** we sent out at the beginning of the week to confirm that you have updated your child's MCAS profile, including contact details, medical needs and permissions, as well as confirming that you have read the Parent Handbook and our letter about holidays during term time.

Please find the Google Form [here](#)

So far, **only 105 out of 320 children have had their MCAS profile confirmed as updated**, which means we may be holding out-of-date or incorrect information about your child.

On Monday morning, we will be providing class teachers with key pupil information reports based on the information currently held on MCAS. It is therefore really important that you complete the form and check that your child's information is accurate and up to date before then.

All/Start of the Day/Drop-Off: Daily

Gates Open/children line up 8.40am

Classes go into class and registration open 8.45am

Main gates & registration are closed 8.50am

Any latecomers must go to the office to be registered. A child is marked as late if they arrive after 8.50am.

All/PE Days: Weekly

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Puffins Swans Falcons Owls	Wrens Robins Nightingales Hawks Penguins	Nightingales Owls Falcons Kestrels Eagles	Wrens Hawks Kites Kestrels Eagles	Phoenix Robins Kestrels (Swimming)

Everyone will be having PE outside this term. On their PE day, we ask that children come to school dressed in their PE kit, rather than bringing it with them to change into. PE kit should be:

- Green PE T-shirt with the school logo
- Black or grey shorts OR black or grey jogging bottoms (particularly for outdoor PE during the colder months)
- School sweatshirt or cardigan
- Trainers *Please make sure children wear trainers for PE and that these are a different pair of shoes from their normal school shoes.*

Some children / SEND Meetings: Next Couple of Weeks

Teachers will make contact with parents of children with **Special Educational Needs who are new to their class**, helping them to get to know your child and develop a better understanding of how home and school can work together to support them during the year ahead.

Year 3-6/Snack Cards: Daily

This provides a **daily fruit snack for 12 days**. Cards can be purchased via MCAS.

Year 5&6/Aureus Marketing Visit: Date TBC

This is an opportunity to hear about what the school has to offer and ask any questions you may have.

5&6/DGS & SBS Marketing Visit: Tuesday 15th September, 5.30-6.30pm

This is an opportunity to hear about what the school has to offer and ask any questions you may have.

Year 6/Deadline for Secondary School Applications: 31st October

Please make sure you get your applications in by this time. Applications can be made from the 12th September.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place/year-7-applications>

Kestrels Children/Swimming: Starts 11th September

We will be rotating the swimming between Year 5/6 classes each term for the first half of the year. Starting with Kestrels Class

Reception parents/Phonics awareness session: Thursday 17th September 5-6pm

The class teachers will be leading a session explaining how phonics is taught in school and how you can support at home.

Year 5&6/Didcot Railway Centre Trip: Wednesday 23rd September

This trip is linked to the children's topic this term. More details to follow.

Parents of children with Special Educational Needs/Coffee Morning: Thursday 15th October, 8.45-9.30

We would like to invite parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to the first of our termly SEND Coffee Mornings. It will be an opportunity for us to talk about our approach to SEND at Northbourne, provide useful resources and signposting to services, and simply be available for a chat. Just as importantly, we want these coffee mornings to help create a supportive community for our SEND families – a relaxed and informal space where you can meet and chat with other parents and carers, share experiences and support one another.

All/Photo: Friday 16th October

A professional school photographer will be visiting Northbourne to take individual and sibling photographs.

Year 5&6 Girls/Football Tournament: Friday 16th October, 3.30-5.00

We will be hosting a girl's football tournament for schools in our ODS Trust. More details to follow.

Reception to Year 6/Flu vaccinations: Friday 8th October

Consent forms will be sent via Bromcom.

Whole School/Northbourne Awards Scheme Launch: Friday 24th October

The Northbourne Awards Scheme is our **personal development** programme. It is designed to enrich children's experiences beyond the classroom while **promoting our school values** of Courage, Compassion and Community. The programme aims to:

- develop children's **confidence, resilience and self-esteem**.
- **broaden cultural capital** through a wide range of meaningful experiences.
- encourage children to **live out our school values** in both **school & the wider community!**
- included activities that help children become more courageous, more compassionate or more committed to their community.
- **strengthen partnerships between school and home** by encouraging families to participate in children's learning beyond the school day.

Inspired by programmes such as the Blue Peter Badge and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the Northbourne Awards Scheme celebrates children who actively embrace opportunities to grow as individuals and make a positive contribution to others.

Whole School/Last Day of Term: Friday 24th October, 3.15pm finish.

Supporting your child with Maths at Home

We know that regular, short bursts of maths practice at home can make a real difference to children's confidence, fluency and recall. Alongside the maths learning that takes place in school, we invest in a number of online resources and apps that we recommend for children to use at home.

White Rose 1-Minute Maths: <https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>

A free app providing quick, engaging practice to develop early number confidence and fluency. It is ideal for short bursts of practice and covers key number skills including number bonds, addition, subtraction and multiplication.

NumBots: <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro>

A fun, game-based programme designed to develop early number fluency, particularly addition, subtraction and number bonds. It is especially useful for children in the younger year groups. Children in Years 1-6 will shortly receive their NumBots login to use at home.

Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS): <https://ttrockstars.com/>

A fun and engaging way for children to practise and develop quick recall of multiplication and division facts. Regular practice helps children become more fluent and confident with their times tables. Children in Years 1-6 will shortly receive their TTRS login to use at home.

Sumdog: <https://learn.sumdog.com/en-gb/>

Don't forget about Sumdog, the platform we use for Maths homework for children in the relevant year groups. Sumdog provides engaging, game-based practice across the primary maths curriculum. Activities can help children practise key skills, reinforce learning from school and develop fluency and confidence. Children in Years 1-6 will receive their Sumdog login over the next few weeks.

We encourage children to use these resources regularly alongside the maths they complete in school. If you are unsure which platforms your child should be using, please speak to their class teacher.

Supporting Your Family with Managing Feelings & Behaviour

In Term 2, we will be running a course in school for parents and carers focused on **supporting your family with managing feelings and behaviour**. See attached Flier.

We know that family life can sometimes be challenging, particularly when children are experiencing big emotions or behaviours that can feel difficult to manage at home. This course is an opportunity to explore practical ideas and strategies, share experiences and feel supported.

If you have spoken to us about finding things difficult at home, we would especially encourage you to consider coming along. Please know that you are not alone. Our aim is not to judge or tell you how to parent, but to work alongside you and offer practical support and strategies that could make family life feel a little easier.

The course will be run by **Lisa Knight, a Family Learning Lecturer from Abingdon and Witney College**, and will provide a friendly and supportive environment where parents and carers can talk openly, learn from one another and hopefully take away some useful ideas to try at home.