



Overcoming our Goliath!

As we come to the end of another school year, I've been reflecting on the theme we've explored together in our collective worship assemblies: David and Goliath. It's a story about courage, faith, and facing giants — and I believe it's been particularly meaningful this year.



We've all faced our own Goliaths at some point during the academic year. For staff, the challenge of adapting to new expectations and approaches has required resilience — yet brought fresh energy and growth. For parents, changes at Northbourne school may have required patience and trust. And for children, difficulties may have come from friendships, new experiences or simply growing confidence in their own learning journeys.



Each of these Goliath's, while daunting at first, has helped us move forward as a school. Like David, we've used our 'sling shot' to face these moments not with fear or worry, but with **courage** to overcome them, **compassion** to help others when they have needed it and working together as a **community**, so that our Goliaths have been managed or overcome.



And with each challenge has come newness: new staff members bringing fresh ideas, new friendships and learning among children, and new ways of connecting with families. Our school community has started to grow stronger over the year — and more ready for what comes next.



Thank you to every member of our community — children, parents, and staff — for your support, your adaptability, and your belief in what we're building together. As we look ahead to a new school year, may we continue to face any giants with courage and hope.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful summer.

Andrew Denham

Notices, Reminders & Updates

Term Starts:

Children in **Reception to Year 6** come back to school on **Tuesday 2nd September**. Children who are **currently in nursery** and staying in nursery next year, start school on **Wednesday 3rd September**. Children who are **new to Nursery** next year, join us for a 'Stay and Play' on Wednesday 3rd afternoon between 2.00-3.15pm and then start formally on **Thursday 4th September**.

Parent and Carer Handbook and Google Form: In preparation for the new academic year, we will be emailing you a **handbook** that we hope will provide all the information you need in one place. Included in the email will also be a **Google Form** that we are asking all parents to complete so we can update our records on key information about your child/ren, including medical needs, permissions and who can collect from school.

Goodbye and Good Luck: **Mr McFarlane** (Year 3&4 class teacher), **Mrs Wyard** (Reception Class Teacher), **Tracy Jackman** (Catering Manager), **Mr Bennett** (Y3&4 Teaching Assistant), **Miss Denham** (Phoenix Class Teaching Assistant & Netball/Cricket Clubs). We extend our deepest gratitude to these wonderful staff members of Northbourne School who have given varying lengths of time and service to the school but who have all shown a passion for making the lives of the children better, through their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment. They have all made a difference to our school community. Thank you.

Welcome to New Staff in September: **Mrs List**, will be leading the Nursery Class; **Miss Pollard**, teacher in Robins Class; **Miss Hagger**, teacher in Hawks Class; and **Mr Weaving**, North Stars Coordinator and PE teacher; and **Mrs Colinswood** who will be our new Catering Manager/Cook. We are delighted with the new staff appointments for next year, bringing fresh energy and ideas to the school while building on the strong foundations already in place.

Class and Staff Organisation for September

Phase	Class	Year	Teachers/Lead	Phase HLTA's/TA's
Early Years	Penguins	Nursery	Mrs List	Mrs Pearson Ms Sear Mrs Kearsley
	Swans	Reception	Mrs Stanley	
	Puffins	Reception	Mrs Tierney Mrs Snowball (Wednesday's)	
Key Stage 1	Nightingales	1&2	Miss Richardson	
	Robins	1&2	Miss Pollard Miss Kellock (Tuesday's & Fri pm)	
	Wrens	1&2	Mrs Jones	
Lower Key Stage 2	Owls	3&4	Mr Guy	Mrs Kemp Mr Field Mrs Hart
	Hawks	3&4	Miss Hagger Mrs Snowball (Thursday's)	
	Falcons	3&4	Mrs Smith Mrs Snowball (Friday's)	
Upper Key Stage 2	Kites	5&6	Miss Kandola	Mrs Wade Mrs Lewis Mrs Hardiman
	Kestrels	5&6	Mr Mallam	
	Eagles	5&6	Miss Hill	
Class	Phoenix	Reception to Year 3	Mrs Jones	Mrs Smith Mrs Chappel

Note: Teacher's and curriculum leader's get some 'release' time during the week. When this occurs, Mrs Kellock, Mrs Snowball, Mrs Weaving, Mr Froud or one of our Higher-Level Teaching Assistants will be covering the class.

School Lunches:

We are bringing our school lunch catering ‘in house’ next year. It will be an exciting opportunity to create **new menus** that will encourage more children to take up school lunches, hold more **events** using the kitchen facilities and we may even start some **cookery lessons** for some children! We will be sending out refreshed menus and booking instructions over the summer holidays, in readiness for the new year.

Northbourne North Stars:

Don’t forget to sign up! See our **previous email** on how to do this – sent out on the **10th July**. Here is a reminder of the brilliant activities we have on offer in Term 1:

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 3.15am to 4.30pm	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All
	Mixed Dodgeball (Y2-Y6) <i>Dodge, duck, dip, dive — throw, catch, win.</i>	Mixed Gymnastics (R-Y6) <i>Balance, roll, shapes — grace meets precision & power</i>	Girls Netball (Y2-6) <i>Pass, pivot, shoot — teamwork rules the court.</i>	Girls Football (R-Y6) <i>Pass, dribble, shoot — teamwork drives the game.</i>	Friday Fun & Games! <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>
	Mixed Rounders (Y2-6) <i>Hit the ball, run fast, field smart.</i>	Mixed Tag Rugby (Y2-Y6) <i>Run, dodge, tag — fast-paced teamwork and fun.</i>	Mixed Football (R-Y6) <i>Pass, dribble, shoot — teamwork, skill, goal, victory.</i>	Mixed Cricket (Y2-Y6) <i>Bat, bowl, field, run — strategy meets patience.</i>	
	Mixed Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	Mixed Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	Mixed Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	Mixed Forest School (R-Y6) <i>Outdoor play, exploration, nature connection.</i>	
Afternoon Session 2 4.30pm to 6.00pm	Tea and Drink Free Play <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	Tea and Drink Free Play <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	Tea and Drink Free Play <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	Tea and Drink Free Play <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	Tea and Drink Free Play <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>
Nursery Provision	8.00-8.35 3.15-5.00	8.00-8.35 3.15-5.00	8.00-8.35 3.15-5.00	8.00-8.35 3.15-5.00	8.00-8.35 3.15-5.00

Swimming is Back:

The swimming curriculum will return next year for children for **Years 5 and 6**. During the first few weeks of term, all children in these year groups will be assessed on their swimming skills and abilities. Based on these assessments, we will create a plan to ensure each child receives the support they need over the course of the year to be able to confidently swim 25 metres by the time they leave primary school.

Keep Your Child Reading Over the Holidays!

Children have made super progress in their reading this year. Let’s keep the reading going this holiday to give them the best possible start next school year! Please note that children will not be bringing RWI books home during the summer break. However, there are excellent free resources available on the Oxford Owl website. Simply visit home.oxfordowl.co.uk, register for a free account, and log in to access a wide range of engaging fiction and non-fiction eBooks.

If your child selects a book that seems a little challenging, we encourage you to read it together. Being read to is a powerful way to develop comprehension skills, expand vocabulary, and nurture a lifelong love of reading. Children often enjoy hearing favourite stories read again and again—it’s all part of the learning process! You might also consider visiting your local library, where you’ll find a wonderful variety of books to share with your child. Exploring stories together is a great way to keep them motivated and excited about reading throughout the summer.

Our School Governors Message

At the end of another school year, it was wonderful to hear children in Ys 1-6 enthusiastically singing the Northbourne Song this week at the Y6 Leavers Service. If you've not heard it before, ask your child to give you a rendition! It's a song which talks about the myriad of activities across the school week, it reminds us of where we've come from over the last 100 years and how with every year we move forward, we see progress and we grow, we embrace change – and we continue to nurture excellence. The song finishes, “So much has changed along the years, but Northbourne goes on strong. And that is why we celebrate today – Northbourne!”

And this year we have seen Northbourne go from strength to strength; from the moment term started in September, school has hardly stood still as new values and logo were introduced, strengthening the foundations laid over the years, parents were welcomed into school for weekly celebration assemblies, in-person Parents Evenings and events - opportunities for children to share their achievements with you and for you to have a sneak peek at some of the highlights that mark the daily rhythms of the school week. At Easter, Phoenix Class opened its doors, following the successful awarding of funding for this key provision for our school.

It has been affirming and helpful to hear from parents, staff and pupils through our recent surveys; having not run a survey for a few years, it has been a helpful marker in the sand as we plan for next year and seek to improve and pursue excellence. Last week, we had the joy of meeting with nine children from across all classes, hearing from them about their experience of being at Northbourne – and wonderful to hear them articulate how the school values are lived out across the course of the school day and week – a lovely reflection of our school vision to nurture excellence in all things, through courage, compassion and community.

As we look ahead, we are delighted to welcome new staff and governors to our team in September, and to build upon the growth we've seen this year. But as we stop to mark some of the highlights from the year, we'd like to thank our staff team, school leaders, children and families for helping to make Northbourne a school to celebrate today.

The Northbourne School Governors

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Nursery & Reception Team

Mrs Snowball (Penguins) writes: This summer term has been particularly busy and has involved a lot of change. We would like to start by thanking all our Penguin families for their positivity and flexibility across the term, being greeted every morning by so many smiling faces has been an honour. The children have shown enthusiasm and resilience in all our activities and we are so proud of how much we have achieved together.



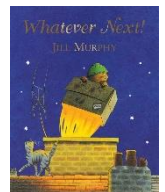
The children have thoroughly enjoyed our topic on Minibeasts. It was fascinating watching our caterpillars turn into butterflies. We also managed to collect some ladybird larvae and watch them as they changed into ladybirds. We have explored the lifecycles of humans, birds and frogs and made comparisons. Our interest in the topic of minibeasts has led us to create some amazing artwork – our symmetrical paintings of butterflies have been displayed on our classroom wall and our clay models of insects are impressive in their character and detail.

We began the term reading ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’ by Eric Carle, and continued to delve into more of his books, including ‘The Very Lonely Firefly’ ‘The Bad-tempered Ladybird’ and ‘The Very Busy Spider’. The children have enjoyed the repeating sections of the stories and often choose to look at these books independently. We have also spent time looking at non-fiction books about animals and lifecycles and are always ready to go outside looking for animals!



Sports Day this term was a real highlight for us. The children truly demonstrated our school values of courage, compassion and community and it was so lovely to see so many families enjoying a picnic with us after the races.

Miss Tierney & Mrs Wyard (Puffins) and Mrs Stanley (Swans) write: Our final term in Reception has been just as busy and exciting as all the others! We began by exploring the story *Whatever Next!* by Jill Murphy, which sparked some fascinating discussions about space and the planets. The children asked amazing questions—such as which planet is the coldest—and we enjoyed discovering the answers together.



Their curiosity about gravity led us to explore other forces like push and pull, and we investigated how different materials change. One particularly popular activity during the warmer days was experimenting with ways to make ice melt faster—this hands-on exploration led to fantastic learning opportunities.

Both classes also had a wonderful time at Forest School, where we celebrated our final session with a popcorn party. Forest School has truly been a highlight of the year. The children made the most of their time on the hammocks and slack line and thoroughly enjoyed their snacks!



We ended the term by exploring the vibrant artwork of Wassily Kandinsky and creating our own collages inspired by his style. It was a fantastic way to round off a year full of creativity, learning, and fun.

This year has been filled with discovery, friendship, and growth. Miss Tierney, Mrs Wyard, Mrs Stanley, and the entire Reception team are incredibly proud of the progress each child has made.

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Year 1 & Year 2 Team

Mrs Snowball & Mrs Jones (Wrens), Miss Kellock (Robins) and Miss Richardson (Nightingales) write:

It's been another very busy and rewarding term across key stage one! All the children have worked incredibly hard and have shown just how ready they are for the next stage in their learning journey. Their resilience, enthusiasm and determination have shone through in every subject, and we are so proud of everything they've achieved.



Our RE lessons have focused on the Jewish celebration of Shabbat. Through stories, discussion and reflection, the children have thought carefully about the importance of rest, family and being thankful. It's been a lovely way to help them think about gratitude and the special times we share with others.

In Science, we've been learning all about how to keep ourselves healthy. The children have explored the importance of exercise, eating well and getting plenty of rest – some great habits to take into the summer holidays!

Art has been a real highlight this term, with children exploring aboriginal dot painting and mono printing. The creativity on display has been amazing, and we've been blown away by the beautiful and thoughtful pieces of artwork the children have produced. It's been a real celebration of colour, pattern and imagination.

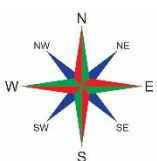


This term, many of our children have also shown great courage and determination, inspired by Mr Denham's assemblies on the story of David and Goliath. Whether it was during assessment week, sports day, or on their transition visits to their new classes, so many of our children have faced their own "Goliaths" and overcome challenges with confidence and pride.

With the summer holidays fast approaching, we want to take a moment to say a huge well done to all of the children for their hard work this term. We wish you all a safe, restful, and thoroughly enjoyable summer break – we can't wait to hear all about your adventures when we return!

Year 3 & Year 4 Team

Mr Guy (Owls), Mrs Smith (Falcons) and Mr Macfarlane (Hawkes) write: In Despite being the final term of the school year, Year 3/4 have continued to pack many exciting topics and areas of learning into these last few weeks. The children explored some wonderful poetry in the nature-themed book, *The Lost Words*, and constructed their own kennings poems about birds. We then used *Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx* as inspiration for our own quest stories, with our heroes solving a thoughtful riddle as an anchor for the resolution of these narratives.



In Science, we looked at how animals and plants can be classified using classification keys, and sorted some of the leaves we found ourselves in this way. Design and Technology allowed us to use some of our mathematical 3D shape skills in designing seed packet nets, and in Geography we built on our knowledge of maps by using 8-point compasses to explore the locations of countries and cities.

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In RE, our Big Question was: 'How and why do people argue that some places can be spiritual?' The children considered what 'spiritual' means to them, and how different interpretations of this are important in various religions. They also reflected on how pilgrimages can be significant to different faiths, and where these journeys may take people of different religions.



Finally, in PSHE, we looked at how our bodies change during puberty, and how growing up leads to other changes that we have little control over. We linked these changes to how, next school year, we have the opportunity to meet new friends and embark on exciting new challenges. From all of us in LKS2, we wish you a wonderful summer break!

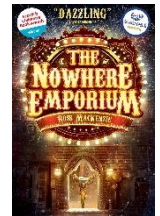
Year 5 & Year 6 Team

Mrs. Kandola (Kites), Miss Hill (Eagles) and Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) write: What a fantastic final term it has been in Upper Key Stage 2! Our Kestrels, Kites and Eagles have finished the year with enthusiasm, creativity and determination. Year 6 pupils showed incredible resilience during SATs – we are so proud of the calm and focused way they approached the challenge. After all their hard work, they shone brightly in our unforgettable end-of-year production of Cinderella & Rockerfella. With sparkling performances, catchy songs and plenty of laughs, it was a brilliant celebration of their talents and teamwork.



In the classroom, we've been exploring the fascinating topic of the human life cycle in science, learning how our bodies grow and change from birth to old age. In RE, we've delved into Humanism, thinking deeply about what it means to live a good life without religion. Our Art lessons have been bursting with creativity as the children designed and built striking sculptures using mod-roc and wire.

In Writing, we've developed our narrative skills, crafting imaginative stories filled with vivid language and atmosphere. Year 5 also produced some fantastic work based on *The Nowhere Emporium* by Ross MacKenzie, including rich descriptive writing and persuasive posters advertising the magical shop.



As the year draws to a close, we want to say a heartfelt goodbye to our wonderful Year 6s. You have been excellent role models and a joy to teach – we will miss you, but we know you're ready for the exciting journey ahead in secondary school.



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Term Dates for 2025-26

Term 1: Tuesday 2nd September - Friday 24 October (3.15pm finish)

Half term: Monday 27 October - Friday 31st October

Term 2: Tuesday 4 November - Friday 19th December (1.15pm finish)

Christmas break: Monday 22 December - Monday 5th January

Term 3: Tuesday 6 January - Friday 13th February (3.15pm finish)

Half term: Monday 16 February - Friday 20th February

Term 4: Monday 23rd February - Friday 27th March (1.15pm finish)

Easter break: Monday 30th March – Monday 13th April

Term 5: Tuesday 14th April – Friday 22nd May (3.15pm finish)

Half term: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Term 6: Monday 1 June – Thursday 16th July (1.15pm finish)

Summer break: Friday 17th July