



‘Seek and you shall find’ (Matthew Chapter 7, Verse 7).



Looking for Easter eggs and finding them hidden in different places around the house or garden is not exactly what this Bible verse is referring to but it is something that I will be doing with my daughters this Easter holiday, even though one of them is now an adult! For some, knowing the Easter message can be even more exciting than finding a chocolate surprise...

Christians believe that God created a perfect world, yet we kept messing it up. This upset God but rather than punish us, he sent his Son to Earth: Jesus sacrificed his life for us, so that we could be forgiven by God for the things we have done wrong and always be his friend.



Fast forward a couple of days and we arrive at the greatest time in the church’s year, a day to be celebrated; the day that Jesus rose from the dead. Showing us that whoever believes in him can have eternal life in heaven.

Seek and you will find! Whether you’ll be enjoying an Easter egg hunt or taking time to reflect on the Easter story and its powerful message (or both), I hope you have a lovely holiday with friends and family.

Andrew Denham



Notices, Reminders & Updates

Goodbye and Good Luck: Mrs Dyer

Mrs Dyer is leaving at the end of this term to take up a new job as a Health Visitor Assistant. Mrs Dyer has worked at the school for 14 years and seen many, many children through Northbourne. We wish her all the best in her new role.

Goodbye, sort of! Martin

Martin is stepping down from his role as school caretaker but will continue to be our Lollipop Person. We are grateful for all the work he has done over the 11 years he has worked at the school. Thank you.

Penguins (Nursery) and Wrens (Year 1&2) and Phoenix Class Staff Changes.

Mrs Snowball will be leading Penguins class for the summer term or until we recruit a new Nursery Lead. She will be supported by Mrs Williams and Ms Stear. Mrs Jones will be teaching Wrens class full time. Mrs Parsons will be leading our new Phoenix Class for the summer term. Phoenix class will be supporting children with Communication and Interaction Difficulties, who need to spend time in a smaller classroom group.

SEND Coffee Morning: Friday 9th May, 8.45-9.30

This will be our second coffee morning for parents who have children with special educational needs. We will start our time together with a presentation of how we identify children with SEND and the graduated response we will be taking to supporting them during their time at Northbourne school. We will also touch on how and when a child may get an Education Health Care Plan.

Year 6 SATS Week: Monday 12th to Thursday 15th May

This is a very important week for our Year 6 children. We will work hard to ensure they feel happy and relaxed about taking the test by giving them lots of positive encouragement.

School Run Clubs Update:

In September 2025 we will be bringing the wrap-around-care and after school clubs 'in-house'. Get Active will no longer be operating at Northbourne. See the last page of this newsletter for an example of the types of activities that will be on offer and how you will be able to access them. The clubs will be run by highly motivated and skilled staff with an energy and passion for the activities they deliver, therefore ensuring that your children are kept engaged and active. There will be a cost for all clubs. Subsidies will be available.

For now, Get Active will continue to run wrap-around care and we will run some additional clubs between 3.15-4.15pm. You will be able to sign up for the clubs in the first week back after the holidays. The clubs will start in the second week of the summer term (apart from Choir that starts in Week 1) & finish on 11th July.

Session	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.15pm to 4.15 pm	Girls Netball <i>For girls in Year 3 to Year 6</i>	Girls Cricket <i>For girls in Year 3 to Year 6</i>	Football <i>For boys and girls in Year 3&4</i>	Multisports <i>For boys and girls in Year 1&2</i>	Tag Rugby <i>For boys and girls in Year 5&6</i>
			Drama <i>For boys and girls in Year 1&2</i>	Choir <i>For boys and girls in Year 1&2</i>	

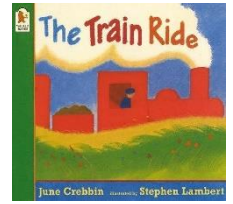
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Nursery & Reception Team

Mrs Dyer (Penguins) writes: This term we started by introducing the story 'The Train Ride' by June Crebbin. The children loved to join in with the repeated refrain, which mimicked the sound of a steam train. They learnt the story well and were able to remember parts of the language used. For the first part of the term the roleplay corner was changed into a train station. The children used tickets to board the train, which they bought from the ticket office. They had a conductor's hat so they could act out collecting the tickets. This led us to learning about people who help us. We talked about doctors and dentists and what they do to help us when we are ill or have sore teeth, we also looked at non-fiction books about the emergency services.



one	1	•
two	2	••
three	3	•••
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five	5	•••••

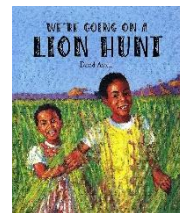
In maths we learnt how to represent a number with marks e.g. dots or lines. We played games such as skittles and how many bean bags can we get in the target, then record the score on big pieces of paper. We also learnt the language of more and fewer.



It was very exciting when we started to see signs of spring outside. This allowed us to start learning about what happens in Springtime. Mrs Dyer brought some daffodils into class, and we all looked at them carefully. She then modelled how to draw a daffodil using chalks and pastels and we did really well with our drawings, they have been displayed on the class wall and we are very proud of them. We looked closely at the beautiful blossom trees, growing in our playground garden and learnt all about baby animals that are born in Springtime.

We particularly enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a frog and now know that baby frogs are called froglets.

Miss Tierney & Mrs Wyard (Puffins) and Mrs Stanley (Swans) write: The children have all made huge progress in their learning and it has been wonderful to watch their confidence grow in their newly developed skills. One of the highlights of the term has been making damper bread at Forest School and cooking it on the fire. Our focus book was 'We are Going on a Lion Hunt'. We have enjoyed writing our own extra pages for the book and also creating a class story where we changed the animal. Puffin Class wrote 'We're Going on a Crocodile Hunt' while Swan Class chose a snake.



We used Mod Roc to cover half a balloon and make bowls. We worked in teams to do this and then painted our own section of the bowl with bright colours, inspired by African patterns.

We planted seeds and explored what they would need to grow successfully. We also found out about what each part of a plant does. We looked at some fantastic flower paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe and then we painted our own flowers using watercolours. The results were pretty spectacular and make excellent galleries in our classrooms.



We learnt about where our food comes from and about what we can grow ourselves. We enjoyed making our own tasty fruit salad dishes. Finally, we have been discovering the meaning of Easter and finding out why it is such a special story for Christians.

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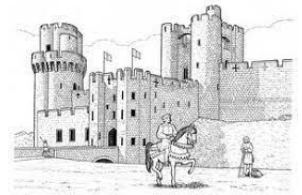
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Year 1 & Year 2 Team

Mrs Snowball & Mrs Jones (Wrens), Miss Kellock (Robins) and Miss Richardson (Nightingales) write: What another busy term we have had! Everyone in KS1 has been working incredibly hard and demonstrating our school values.

We continued our work on castles and have been fascinated to learn more about the types of work that people used to do in castles. We learnt about the roles of the gardener, candle maker, jester, blacksmith, carpenter, cook, messenger and knight. We wondered if we would enjoy doing any of these jobs, and then looked at how these jobs are different in today's world. Our trip to Warwick castle was brilliant. Thank you to all the parents who helped on the day!



In Design and Technology, we investigated the way levers, sliders and pop-up mechanisms work and will be using some of our skills to create a fairy tale picture with moving parts – look out for these coming home soon!



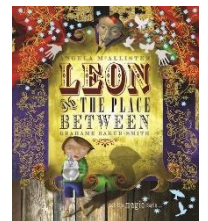
In RE, we explored the Christian story of Easter, the meaning given to these events and how some people choose to celebrate at this time of year. We used everything we have learnt to create some artwork based around Easter.

We have worked hard to keep our bodies healthy and to learn new skills. We discussed what being healthy means and, in our PE, have been looking at how exercise affects our bodies. We have also been challenging ourselves to develop our ball skills, getting better at throwing and catching different sized balls, and moving on to hitting balls with our hands and feet before using different bats and balls.



Year 3 & Year 4 Team

Mr Guy (Owls), Mrs Smith (Falcons) and Mr Macfarlane (Hawkes) write: In Literacy, we explored our intriguing picture book, *Leon and the Place Between*, by Angela McAllister – where all is not quite as it seems! We used some of the wonderful imagery and illustrations to build up our own descriptive writing and develop our dialogue between the characters in the story. We then analysed the features of a review before writing our own about the circus performances. Finally, we started uncovering the mystery of the lost rabbit and how she came to be in the Place Between as inspiration for our own stories.



In Geography, learnt about The Americas and developed an understanding of the vastness of these two fascinating continents. We also looked at some important cities and plotted our own route using the eight compass points.



Our Science topic was on sound. The children learnt all about what sound is and how the vibrations created by objects allow us to hear. We looked at how our inner ear works and after exploring what affects pitch and volume, we considered what makes a good sound insulator, conducting our own experiments using decibel meters.

In RE we have revisited the story of Easter and endeavoured to make connections between our lives and that of the disciples and Jesus during the events that led up to the crucifixion. And finally, our PSHE unit this term has been Healthy Me, where we have been looking at friendship groups and our roles within these, peer pressure and facts about alcohol and smoking.



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Year 5 & Year 6 Team

Mrs. Kandola (Kites), Miss Hill (Eagles) and Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) write: Term 4 has flown by, and as we head into Term 5 and approach Easter, it's been another action-packed and fun-filled term. The Year 6s had a great day taking part in Junior Citizens, where they learnt valuable skills to stay safe at home and in the community. From first aid to personal safety, they gained lots of confidence in handling different situations.



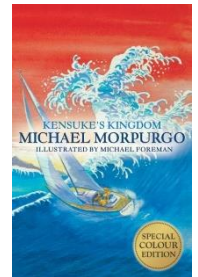
We also had a fantastic time on the Year 6 Residential trip, where the children took part in outdoor activities, challenges, and team-building exercises. It was a great opportunity for everyone to bond and grow in confidence.

Back at school, the Year 5 children had been busy with 'Bikeability' sessions, learning important cycling skills for staying safe on the roads. It's been great to see their confidence soar as they improved their cycling abilities.



In Geography, our topic this term is *Raging Rivers*. The children have been exploring how rivers shape our world, from their role in landscapes to how they impact communities. We've had some fascinating discussions on flooding, river management, and the powerful force of water.

In English, we've been diving into *Kensuke's Kingdom*, exploring themes of survival, friendship, and resilience. The children have been busy creating discursive texts, where they've learned to weigh up different arguments and express their ideas clearly and effectively.



In Science, we've been investigating the factors and variables that affect experiments. The children have been experimenting with their own dissolving experiments, testing different materials and liquids to see how they dissolve. They've been honing their skills in controlling variables and understanding how one factor can change the results of an experiment.



In P.E., the focus has been on orienteering and athletics. The children have been learning important map-reading skills and improving their fitness through a variety of athletic events. It's been a fun way to get outside and develop teamwork and personal skills.

In Design and Technology, we've been inspired by our class book, *Kensuke's Kingdom*, to create toys that use cams mechanisms. The children have enjoyed learning how these mechanisms work and have been applying their skills to design and make their own moving toys.

Term 5 Key Dates

April

Monday 21st: Bank Holiday

Tuesday 22nd: INSET Day (no children in school)

Wednesday 30th: Year 4 Parents Meeting for Youlberry Residential @ 3.30pm

May

Monday 5th: Bank Holiday

Friday 9th: SEND Parents Coffee Morning, 8.45-9.30am

Monday 12th to Thursday 15th: SATS Week for Year 6's

Thursday 15th: PTA Outdoor Cinema Event

Tuesday 20th: Vision Screen for Reception Class

Friday 23rd May: Last Day of Term, 3.15pm finish

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Term 6 Key Dates

June

Monday 2nd: Term Starts
 Monday 2nd to Wednesday 4th: Year 4 Residential to Youlbury
 Monday 2nd to Friday 6th: Year 6 Bikeability (tbc)
 Monday 2nd to Friday 6th: Year 1 Phonics Screening Week & Year 4 Multiplications Check
 Wednesday 11th: Pentecost Service
 Friday 20th: Festival of Voices
 Friday 27th: PTA Summer Fete
 Monday 30th June to Friday 4th: SEND Reviews

July

Monday 7th: Sports Day (pm)
 Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th: Transition Mornings for all children, including Y6 going to secondary school.
 Tuesday 15th: Y6 Swimming Pool Party
 Wednesday 16th: Leavers Service (am) & Y6 Production and Pizza Picnic
 Friday 18th: Last Day of Term, 1.15pm finish

Coming in Autumn 2025...

Outlined below is an EXAMPLE of the **Northbourne NorthStars** Programme for one week. These are not the exact clubs that will be taking place in Autumn, but we hope they give you an idea of the variety and quality there will be. Most clubs will be open to all children from Reception to Year 6. At this time, we are not able to offer anything for Nursery children, but this is something we will be trying to put in place during 2025-26.

We are sharing this plan with parents now so that they can consider whether they sign their child up for a 'Non-Northbourne School Club' after the summer holidays. We would like to assure you that the quality of provision at **Northbourne NorthStars** will match, probably exceed, anything found locally after school.

Sessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 7.30am to 8.45am	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games & Activities</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games & Activities</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games & Activities</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games & Activities</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games & Activities</i>
Afternoon Session 1 3.15pm to 4.15pm	Gymnastics <i>Agility, Balance & Coordination fun</i>	Nerf Wars <i>Nerf Blaster games</i>	Karate <i>Learn a new martial art</i>	Dodgeball <i>Fun & fast team game</i>	Fun & Games! <i>Adult led Games or Chill Zone</i>
	Tabletop Games <i>All the classics</i>	Forest Craft <i>Exploring & building dens</i>	Chill Zone <i>Lego, colouring, & role play</i>	Art and Craft <i>Cutting, sticking and making</i>	
Afternoon Session 2 Tea&Play 4.15pm to 6.00pm	Jacket Potato & Fruit	Chicken Wrap & Fruit	Curry & Rice & Fruit	Pasta&Meatballs & Fruit	Sausage Rolls & Fruit
	Free Flow <i>Adult led Games or Chill Zone</i>	Free Flow <i>Adult led Games or Chill Zone</i>	Free Flow <i>Adult led Games or Chill Zone</i>	Free Flow <i>Adult led Games or Chill Zone</i>	Free Flow <i>Adult led Games or Chill Zone</i>

Registration: Families need a 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

Cost: There will be flat rate of £7 per child for Morning Club and Afternoon Session 1 & £8 for Afternoon Session 2

Vouchers & reductions: Childcare vouchers can be used. Children on Free School Meals may be entitled to a subsidy.

Last Minute: 'On the Day' bookings can be made. These will cost £10 per child, per session.

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

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