



RESILIENCE noun: the ability to find inner strength to bounce back from a set-back or challenge.

For all the achievements and successes we have in life, we are often faced with challenges and difficulties along the way. It might be in our work, health, friendships or families. So, supporting the children build their resilience to independently find ways to overcome life's hurdles is important.



This is not about saying, 'Just get on with it' but Nurturing Excellence to find the **courage** to try new things, **compassion** to help those who need it and learn to use the skills of our **community** so we can serve each other along the way.

At the start of our Friday Achievement Assemblies, we consider our steps to success; encouraging those who say, 'I won't do it' to come back with a more positive attitude; remind those who say, 'I can't do it' that they 'Can't do it, **YET!**'; and celebrate when someone says, 'Yes, I did it!'.



At this mid-year point of the academic year, I hope everyone in our school community can say, 'Yes, I did it!' to something they have achieved, and approaches next term with the mindset of, 'I can't do it, **YET!**'

Have a lovely half term.

Andrew Denham

Notices, Reminders & Updates

Congratulations to Mrs Allmond and her husband!

Elodie Violet Allmond was born on the 8th of February at 7.10pm. Mother and baby are fit and healthy and happily adjusting to family life.

Learning Review Meetings: **Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th March**

You can sign up for a Learning Review Meeting with your child's class teacher from 6pm this evening, using our new My Child At School system. **Please do not book an appointment if your child is on the SEND register because you will have meetings at the end of Term 4.**

SEND Coffee Morning: **Friday 14th March, 9am – 10am**

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, with Mr Denham and Mrs Parsons. It will be an opportunity for us to share with you our approach to SEND at Northbourne, share resources and signposting to services that may be useful and be available for a chat. At the same time, we want to create a supportive community where you can relax and chat to other parents who have children with SEND. In the future, our coffee mornings will have visiting speakers from the world of SEND who can share ideas with you for supporting your children and consider some of the familiar challenges that you may face.

Spellings: **Home on Monday. Test on Friday.**

From the start of next term, all children, including those in Year 1 and 2, will be bringing spellings home on a Monday to learn for a test on Friday. Please practice them with your child.

World Book Day & Extreme Reading Pictures: **Friday 7th March**

This will take place in the second week of term on Friday 7th March, so it is a fun way to finish the week. The class teachers will have a 'Reading Themed' timetable for the day. If possible, we would like the children to:

- Come to school **dressed as a fictional character** or **bring an item or object** that is related to a character or part of the story. *We would prefer not to have children dressed in football kits.*
- Take a picture of themselves reading a book in strange, different or extreme (adult supervised!) places.

Please send any photos to the key stage phase emails:

reception@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk for Nursery & Reception

Keystageone@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk for Year 1 and Year 2

LowerKeyStagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk for Year 3 and Year 4

Upperkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk for Year 5 and Year 6

School Run Clubs Update:

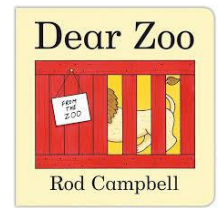
Thank you to everyone who completed the online questionnaire about wrap-around care and after school clubs. There was overwhelming support for seeing a much wider range of activities at Northbourne. Next term we will be recruiting for a Sports and Clubs Coordinator to lead extra-curricular clubs. For now, the clubs that will run during Term 4 (from 3.15-4.00pm) are as follows. *They are running for the same children as Term 3. Any spaces that become available, the office team will contact those on the waiting list.*

Wednesday	Thursday		Friday
Drama Years 3-6	Choir Years 1-6	Multi-Sports Year 1&2	Football Year 5 &6

Note: The Year 1&2 Multi-Sports Club has been moved to a Thursday for Term 4

Nursery & Reception Team

Mrs Dyer (Penguins) writes: This term we started by introducing the story Dear Zoo. The children loved to predict what each animal would do to get sent back to where they came from. They loved to join in with the repeated refrains. We learnt facts about some zoo animals and learnt that African elephants have bigger ears than Indian elephants. We used non-fiction books to gather more facts and information and talked about the difference between non-fiction books and picture books.



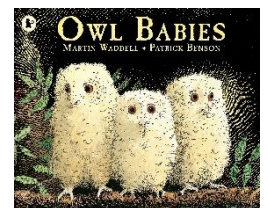
We learnt about how to look after animals and what they need to be healthy. The children learnt that animals may need to see the vet and we had a pretend veterinary surgery in the classroom, so the children could act out the role of a vet by dressing up in scrubs and using the medical equipment to look after the animals. They had appointment sheets where they could pretend to book animals in and practice their mark making and forming letters.

In maths the children made repeated patterns with paint, on peg boards and threading. We also worked on recognising numbers and matching the correct number of items with a given number. Mrs Dyer modelled how to paint a cat, and the children painted their own cat independently and gave their cat a name. These cats are going to be proudly displayed on the classroom wall with their cat's name. We are very proud of how independent the children are becoming. They are amazing at putting their coats and wellies on and using the stool and bowl to wash their hands after visiting the toilet. They are great at choosing their own resources and are getting better at helping each other.



Miss Tierney & Mrs Wyard (Puffins) and Mrs Stanley (Swans) write:

We have had a wonderful Term 3 and have been doing lots of exciting learning. We enjoyed learning the story 'Owl Babies' and found out lots of owl facts from our information book. We were lucky enough to look at some real owl pellets and we were fascinated to see the bones, fur and feathers inside them. We practised our drawing skills by creating some amazing owl drawings. We explored animals that live in hot and cold places. We learnt about how animals adapt to the extreme temperatures and loved watching sidewinder snakes avoid touching the hot sand and penguins huddling to keep warm. We also learnt how people live safely in hot and cold places.



We loved having Mrs Parsons visit us to tell us about her life in Australia. We felt very sorry for her because she couldn't have an ice cream at the beach; it would have melted as soon as it came out of the freezer!

We found out how people celebrate Lunar New Year, and we did our own dragon dance during PE. We watched some lion dancing, and we could not believe how clever the two people were who were inside the lion costumes. We made clay pinch pots and clay coil pots in DT which took great concentration and strong hand muscles. We continued to enjoy our visits to Forest School and in this cold weather the hot chocolate has been enjoyed even more than usual.



Courage

Compassion

Community

Year 1 & Year 2 Team

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



We are very proud of our children this term, they have been working so hard. We have been learning all about castles and their different features that help to defend them from attack. We had fun imagining what different objects could have been used for in Norman times! We learned all about William the Conqueror and studied Oxford Castle, which was one of the castles he built after becoming King. We are very much looking forward towards next term when we have an exciting trip planned to Warwick Castle!

In science we did some investigations into the properties of different materials. We had a very fussy princess who needed our help with a new pillow, and then a pair of curtains. We also carried out an investigation into which material would be the most waterproof to fix an umbrella – lots of fun experimenting with water and syringes!

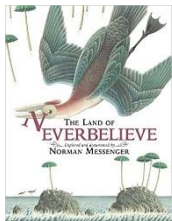


In RE learning learnt all about the different festivals around Jewish New Year, learned the story of Jonah, have tasted some delicious pomegranate, apple and honey, which went down a treat. We have also had great fun creating digital art in our computing lesson and 'pop art' portraits in our art lessons.

Year 3 & Year 4 Team

Mr Guy (Owls), Mrs Smith (Falcons) and Mr Macfarlane (Hawkes) write:

What a fantastic term we have had in Lower Key Stage 2! Our Big Topic has been The Anglo-Saxons, and we have had a wonderful time exploring who these invaders and settlers were, where they came from and what they were looking for. We then delved deeper by exploring the Vikings who sailed in their longships from Scandinavia to raid the riches from Britain!



In literacy, the children explored The Land of Neverbelieve, a mythical island where strange creatures and mysterious plant-life thrive. Using this as a springboard to design our own mythical islands, we wrote our own non-chronological reports about the wonders of our islands and the different biomes that we had created. Finally, we put a spotlight to our own mythical creatures who reside in our islands, describing them in detail (with some wonderful language devices about which we had been learning!)

In PSHE we looked at Dreams and Goals. Working towards our own goals is a wonderful motivator and it can be exciting to achieve them. However, we have also taken time to explore what disappointment looks like, how we can deal with this feeling and develop resilience to help us continue to make steps towards achieving success and our goals in the future.



In our science topic was about 'Light and Shadows'. We learnt about natural and artificial light sources, how we can protect ourselves from the dangers of the sun, how different materials demonstrate different levels of transparency and how shadows are formed. We concluded our science by planning and conducting an investigation about 'How does the distance between the light source and the object affect the size of a shadow?'

Courage

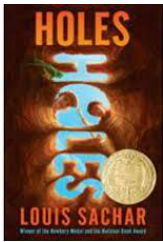
Compassion

Community

Year 5 & Year 6 Team

Mrs. Kandola (Kites), Miss Hill (Eagles) and Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) write:

Term 3 has absolutely flown by, but we have had amazing time and learnt so many new things through our Crime and Punishment topic. In our history and reading lessons, the children have realised how hard it would have been to be a child in Victorian times and just how lucky they are. The children were completely disgusted, and somewhat horrified, to learn about Victorian children working as toshers, cotton scavengers and down the coal mines. Some were also not that keen to experience the kind of tasks you might face if you ended up in a Victorian prison!



Using our class story Holes as a stimulus, the children wrote some fabulous, and in a few cases quite scathing, Tripadvisor reviews of Camp Green Lake. They also worked hard to produce descriptions of settings, information reports on yellow-spotted lizards and journalistic style writing. In science, the children have very much enjoyed conducting investigations testing which materials make the best thermal insulators and electrical conductors.

The classrooms have also been full of creativity through our art lessons on street art and our music lessons on body percussion. The children have continued to become fitness experts and have created their own fitness routines and are ready to try them out with you over half term. As well as this, we have managed to fit in a return trip to Didcot library and a fire safety talk by the Fire Service. Are you testing your smoke alarm once a week?



Term 4 Key Dates

February

Monday 24th: Term Starts

W/C 24th: Y6 Residential to Plas Pencells & Y5 Bikeability for Year 5 (Level 1& 2)

March

Tuesday 4th: Reception and Y6 National Weighing and Measuring Programme

Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th: Learning Review Meetings

Friday 7th: World Book Day

Wednesday 26th: Y4 attend International Day at Didcot Girls School

Thursday 27th: Class Photos

Friday 28th: PTA Rags2Riches event

April

Tuesday 1st: Easter Church Service at St Peters (am)

Thursday 3rd: Last Day for Nursery & PTA School Disco

Friday 4th: Last Day for Reception to Year 6 (1:15pm finish)

Monday 7th to Tuesday 21st April: Easter Break (Term 5 starts on Wednesday 23rd April)

Courage

Compassion

Community