



Autumn 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers

This term has been focused on establishing our vision and values across the school: Our vision of **Nurturing Excellence** and values of **courage, compassion** and **community** are inspired by the life of Peter, the fisherman who Jesus chose to be the leader of the early Christian Church. Peter, The Rock, was the foundation on which the church was built, just as our school is built on values that are the foundation stones on which we live our lives.

The image so often used to show the story of Peter **stepping out of the boat** to meet Jesus (Matthew 14:22-33) captures the essence of our values: Peter had the **courage** to leave the safety of the boat; Jesus held out his hand with **compassion** to help; and the **community** of disciples willed Peter on.



This is why we have decided to create a new logo for the school, one that has a traditional Nazarene boat of the time at its centre. On the sail you can see the Chi Rho, the first two letters—chi and rho (XP)—of the Greek word ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ meaning Christos (Jesus). In the sky you can see the North Star, which sailors used to guide ships on the voyages.

Our Northbourne North Star is our vision of Nurturing Excellence which will be achieved by following our values: having the **courage** to take on the challenges life presents; showing **compassion** to those who need our help; and remember that almost anything can be achieved when a **community** works together.



To encourage and praise children (with House Points) for following our values we have developed our House Team idea, with individual team colours and mottos, using our new logo as their emblem.



Having embedded a clear vision and values for the school and started setting the high expectations for learning behaviours (sprinkled with a little bit of fun), I am very much looking forward to the future of Northbourne and all that we will achieve, together.

Have a lovely half term with your family and we look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 5th November...

Andrew Denham

Early Years Team

Miss Tierney (Puffins) and Mrs Stanley (Swans) write: We have had a fantastic first term. The highlight has been watching the children get to know each other and explore new friendships. The way they have settled into school life and learnt the new routines of the day has been wonderful. Starting

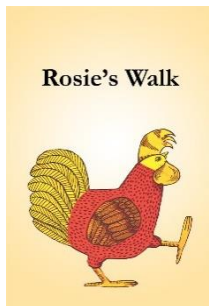


Forest School has been another highlight. The children have shown true resilience by powering through the rain to explore our Forest School area and make the most of their time there. I think the children would probably give a special mention to the hot chocolate too!

We all enjoyed meeting Glory the rabbit and being able to stroke him was something the children are still talking about. Learning to tell the story of Peter Rabbit with signs has been a great success, in fact even Mr McGregor has heard about how well the children did and he sent us some of the vegetables from his garden to try. The pencil drawings of our families make a super gallery in our classrooms, and we really enjoyed looking at each other's family photos. It was lots of fun to look at each other's baby photos too and guess who was who!



Mrs Dyer (Penguins) writes: This term we have been learning about Autumn. We have looked at non-fiction books and stories which link with Autumn. Our main story was 'Rosie's Walk' where we learnt positional language. The children loved that Rosie avoided being caught by the fox and thought it was very funny when the fox fell in the pond and the bag of flour fell on his head. The children made Rosie the hen with handprints and made foxes to display on the classroom walls.



We have looked closely at Autumn leaves, pinecones and conkers with magnifying glasses and watched Mrs Dyer cut open a pumpkin to see what was inside. We had the pumpkin in a tuff tray for a few days so we could scoop it out with spoons and use hammers to knock in golf tees. We have made new friends, learnt school rules and learnt lots of new things.



Courage

Compassion

Community

Year 1 & Year 2 Team

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

We have been so impressed at how much the children in Key Stage One have learnt about pirates this term. They have used all this knowledge in their writing, creating 'Wanted' posters and writing letters to persuade Mr Denham to let them have a Pirate Day.



In Geography we have been learning all about maps, symbols and keys – have you seen any of our pirate maps yet?

We have worked hard in science to learn about the survival needs of humans and animals, testing our senses through investigations to see if we could determine the flavour of different crisps using only our sense of smell or taste, or if we could identify objects using only our sense of touch.



Our DT has been very exciting this term as we have tried following recipes, we have made playdoh and have designed and made our own biscuits. We have all identified improvements to our biscuits, so we are sure lots of children will want to try out their skills at home!

Year 3 & Year 4 Team

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

Our big topic this term has been the Ancient Egyptians and the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the importance of the River Nile, the purpose of the enormous pyramids and the incredible beliefs that dictated much about Ancient Egyptian life. A highlight has been practising writing in

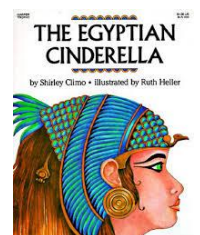


Hieroglyphics and learning about the gory process of mummification!



In science we have been learning about scientific enquiry. The children took great delight in some simple investigations where they explored how air pressure could launch rocket mice from an empty milk container and the relationships between their handspans and their height. These led to a range of related questions that they could explore further. Finally, we used these skills to work as a team to mummify a tomato! We'll see after half term how successful we have been...

In our literacy, we looked at the story, The Egyptian Cinderella, and the children worked towards creating a persuasive advert for the Pharaoh's new chariot. We then put our investigation hats on and unpicked the mystery of the missing items in our classrooms. We were fortunate to have them returned by Hermelin, the detective mouse! We then proceeded to learn about his adventures solving mysteries on Oakly Street. In fact, we were so intrigued, that we wrote an application letter to become a detective assistant, using our skills of persuasion!



Courage

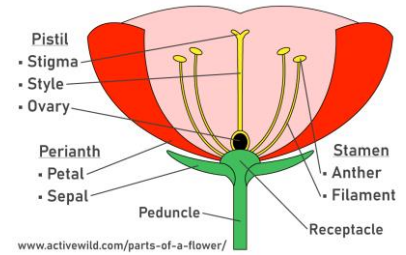
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Year 5 & Year 6 Team

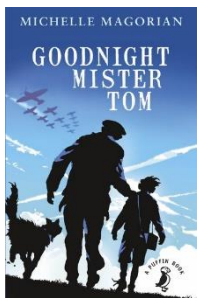
Mrs. Allmond (Kites), Miss Hill (Eagles) and Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) write:

In Science, in our Living Things unit, we explored the fascinating world of plant reproduction through flower dissection. The children had the opportunity to observe the different parts of a flower up close, learning about their functions and the role they play in the plant's life cycle.



Our History lessons have taken us back in time to World War II, where we focused on key events such as The Blitz, rationing, and evacuation, developing a greater understanding of this significant period and its impact on society. We also examined personal stories and historical items – a special thanks to the children who brought in and shared items, pictures and stories from home, especially Edward in Kites, for bringing in a real WWII helmet belonging to his Great-Grandad (which we found surprisingly heavy!); Izzy in Kites, who brought in a cannonball believed to have been used in the war; Lucas and Roman in Eagles, who shared their family's involvement in WWII through photos, scrapbooks and memorabilia; Florence in Kestrels who made a PowerPoint on her families link to WW1; and Jasper in Kestrels, who wrote a detailed report on his Grandad and his Great Grandad

The children have also been extremely creative in Art lessons, producing some fabulous works of art inspired by the techniques and compositions of Henry Moore. They have worked hard to recreate the emotions Moore captured in his shelter drawings, which were created in the London Underground during the Blitz.



In Reading, we delved into the book Goodnight, Mister Tom. The children really connected with the characters and themes in the story – including friendship, growing up and loss – which inspired them to create their own written pieces in Literacy. This term the children have written setting descriptions, dialogue between evacuees, diary entries, letters, and newspaper reports from the perspectives of the story's characters. Our walls of wonderful writing in our classrooms have been looking fab with so many beautifully published pieces!

We have been lucky enough to have been joined by two special visitors this term. A volunteer from the NSPCC joined us to discuss important topics around staying safe, and P.C. Dix from Thames Valley Police spoke with the children about appropriate behaviour outside of school. These sessions have been invaluable in reinforcing important messages about safety and responsible behaviour, and we are proud of the engagement and enthusiasm shown by the children, who asked many thoughtful questions.



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Updates & Notices

School Dinners Questionnaire

WIN a week of FREE school dinners by completing this short questionnaire and help us make our school dinner offer even better: <https://forms.gle/EV2yRQxj8hgsdrXf7>



Friday Achievement Assembly

Starting next term, we will be inviting parents of children who are going to receive a 'Stepping out of the Boat' certificate to come and join the assembly so they can see their child being presented with the award...and maybe try Mr Denham's Challenge! Parents will be contacted on the Thursday to let them know if their child is getting the award. The assembly runs between 2.30-3.05pm on the Friday.

Penguins (Mrs Dyer, Nursery) and Swans (Mrs Stanley, Reception) Class Move

These two classes will be swapping rooms over half-term. So, on the first day back, children will line up in different places to be dropped off and collected by their parents. This is the start of a longer-term project to develop the Early Years Environment.



Goodbye Mrs Deeley After 16 years of working at the school, Mrs Deeley will be leaving at the end of this term. We are incredibly grateful for all the work she has done, particularly at lunchtimes but also helping in the classrooms. We will miss her cheerful and caring approach to working with the children.

Cycling to school.

It is great to see so many children being healthy and cycling to school. Please make sure they are wearing a helmet and reflective clothing, especially as we go into the darker autumn and winter days.



School Run Clubs

All clubs run from 3.15-4.00pm. Children who were on the waiting list from last term will get their turn this term. Emails will be sent round to confirm places.

Tuesday: Multi-Sports Year 1&2

Thursday: Multi-Sports Year 3&4

Choir Year 1-6

Friday: Football Year 5&6

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School Governor Update

Working alongside Mr Denham and the Senior Leadership Team is a committed and passionate group of elected volunteers who form the Northbourne Local Governing Body (LGB). As a church school, the majority of the governors are Foundation Governors, appointed by the Church of England. Together the LGB set and support the strategic direction of the school, ensuring our vision of Nurturing Excellence is the guiding star for all that happens at Northbourne – and the school values of Courage, Compassion and Community are embedded throughout.



The LGB met earlier this term for the first meeting of the school year. The meeting, for which the minutes will be publicly available next term, saw the following governors assigned to these key roles:

Kate Woods – Chair of Governors	Sarah Mollen – Vice-Chair of Governors
Simon Hodder – Chair of Resources Committee	Paul Smith – Safeguarding Governor
Michelle Williamson - Governor with responsibility for SIAMS	Jane Basey – SEN Governor
Marie Murphy - Governor with responsibility for SIAMS	Rebecca Parsons – Staff Governor
Hannah Reynolds – Vicar, St. Peter’s Church	

If you’d like to get to know our governors a little better, please head over to the Governor page of our school website

<https://northbourne.oxon.sch.uk/our-school/governors>

Term 2 Key Dates

Details and timings for these events will be given in the Start of Term Letter

November	December
Monday 4 th : INSET DAY	Monday 2 nd to Thursday 5 th : SEND Reviews
Tuesday 5 th : First Day Back & Photos	Thursday 5 th : PC Ben talk to Year’s 1 to 4
Tuesday 5 th to Monday 11 th : Poppy Appeal	Friday 6 th : Christmas Fayre
Monday 6 th to Friday 10 th : School Meals Week & Tasting	Monday 9 th to Friday 13 th : Assessment Week
Thursday 7 th : PTA Meeting	Mon 9 th , Tues 10 th & Fri 13 th : Christmas Book, Biscuit & Brew
Friday 8 th : Deadline for Christmas Card Designs	Monday 16 th : Nursery Christmas Concert
Monday 11 th to Friday 15 th : Anti-Bullying Week	Tuesday 17 th : Reception Nativity Play
Tuesday 12 th : Year 5&6 Visit Didcot Library	Thursday 12 th : Year 1&2 Nativity Concert
Wednesday 13 th : Puffins Parents Invited to Lunch	Wednesday 18 th : Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 14 th : Year 3&4 Cinema Trip	Christmas Service at St Peters (am)
Autumn Disco	Christmas School Lunch
Friday 15 th : Year 5&6 Cinema Trips	IROCK Concert (pm)
Odd Sock Day	Last day of term for Nursery children.
Childn in Need Day	Friday 20 th : Christmas Games Day
Wednesday 20 th : Swans Parents Invited to Lunch	1.15pm finish for Reception to Year 6
Thursday 21 st : Year 1&2 Cinema Trip	Saturday 21 st : Santa Fun Run



After half-term, we will be formally advertising for a School Office Assistant. The position will be for 4 hours a day, 8.30-12.30, Tuesday to Friday, term time only. If you would like to find out more, please come and speak to Mr Denham.

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