



In our assembly this week, we reflected on the story of Pentecost — when God sent the Holy Spirit to act as a guide, comforter, and source of empowerment for people. We thought about who helps and supports us in achieving the things we strive for.

Most of us have dreams and goals that can sometimes feel out of reach. However, when we spend time with people who believe in us and encourage us to be our best, we often find that those hopes and dreams become possible. Achieving them still takes hard work, determination, and perseverance.



Last week, I was fortunate enough to achieve a boyhood dream of representing our country in sport. But it wouldn't have happened without the collective support of coaches, family, friends, and colleagues who helped me along the way.

Every day, our children are working towards their own goals in school — whether it's learning to write for the first time, improving their maths strategies, trying something new in Forest School, preparing for statutory tests, or learning how to get along with others during playtime. With support and encouragement from friends, family, and staff, these goals become more attainable.



At Northbourne, we aim to Nurture Excellence across our whole school community. So whether you are a pupil, parent, or member of staff, if you set your mind to something and surround yourself with a supportive community to guide, comfort, and empower you — much of what we aspire to can be achieved.

I hope you all have a lovely half-term break.

Andrew Denham



Notices, Reminders & Updates

Governor Update

Thank you to all our families who completed the recent Parent and Carer Survey. We appreciate the time you took to share your feedback with us. Over the next term, we will be working closely with school leaders to carefully review all the responses as part of our school development planning for the next academic year. We will share further updates on the feedback and resulting actions in due course.

School Run Clubs Update:

Next term, most of the school-run clubs will continue as they did in Term 5. However, due to high demand for Girls' Netball and Cricket, Miss Denham will increase the number of participants in these clubs. The Netball Club will be split into two sessions: Year 5 and 6 on Mondays, and Year 3 and 4 on Wednesdays. These additional places will be offered only to families who were on the waiting list from last term. The clubs will run until 11th July, and there will be no clubs in the final week of term.

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

From September 2025, we will be bringing wrap-around care and after-school clubs in-house. This means that Get Active will no longer be operating at Northbourne, although they will continue to run clubs until the end of this academic year.

Please note that there will be a cost for all school clubs and wrap-around care from September. Subsidies will be available for those who need them. We will send out sign-up information for breakfast and after-school clubs/wrap-around care next term.

Nuts and Peanut Butter:

Please do not send children in with whole nuts or peanut butter sandwiches. Products containing traces of nuts are acceptable.

Welcome:

We are pleased to welcome Darren Edwards as our new caretaker. He looks forward to meeting families during his rounds at the beginning and end of each school day.

Morning Breakfast Club: Daily, 7.30-8.45

Please ensure that your children are booked in advance. We are seeing an increasing number of families arrive without prior booking, expecting their children to be admitted on the day. This makes it difficult for us to plan staffing and resources effectively.

We understand that emergency care may occasionally be needed, and we will always try to accommodate this — but it must remain the exception, not the norm.

SEND Coffee Morning: Friday 4th July, 8.45-9.45

This will be our second coffee morning for parents of children with special educational needs. Next term, we are pleased to welcome Sarah Vincent, from the Communication and Interaction Advisory Teacher Service, specialising in neurodiversity. She will be offering advice and strategies on supporting children with emotional regulation.

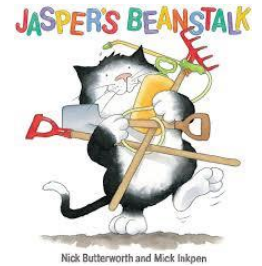
Year 1 Phonics Screening and Y4 Multiplication Tables Check: Monday 9th to Friday 13th:

This is a very important week for our Year 1 and 4 children. Please speak with the class teacher to find out how you can help to ensure they are as ready as they can be for the tests they will be about to do.

Nursery & Reception Team

Mrs Snowball (Penguins) writes: This term has been incredibly busy and full of change. We would like to start by saying how very proud we are of all our children, who have accepted and managed changes in their class environment and have continued to be enthusiastic in their learning.

As spring has turned into summer, we have been learning about how plants grow. We have read books about plants, including Jasper's Beanstalk, From Bean to Plant, and Jack and the Beanstalk. We have investigated the parts of plants—from roots and shoots to leaves and branches—exploring the shapes, sizes, and smells of the plants around us. We have planted some beans and have been observing their growth. This has been exciting and is also helping us practise patience, as some of our beans have been much slower to start than others!



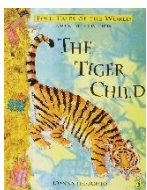
We have been working on recognising shapes and using them for different purposes. Which shapes can roll? Which shapes would make a good roof? What shapes can we make using other shapes? We are getting pretty good at building with shapes—some of our towers are as tall as we are!



In our PSED, we have been talking about family and friends, and how we can build and develop healthy relationships. The children are very enthusiastic about sharing their ideas and are working on calming down when they feel upset, and using kind words with each other.

We have started thinking about Sports Day and have been trying out different types of races. We enjoy balancing a beanbag on our heads and are getting better at the egg and spoon race. Look out for an invitation to our Sports Day soon.

Miss Tierney & Mrs Wyard (Puffins) and Mrs Stanley (Swans) write: It has been wonderful to see Term 5 bringing the sunshine! One of the best parts of Forest School is watching the seasonal changes — there is always plenty to see. The children have been excited to spot shoots and flowers emerging, especially when they were planted by us.



We have all enjoyed our focus story, The Tiger Child, and had great fun creating our own versions. As The Tiger Child is set in India, we also learnt about different places in the country. The children thought the Taj Mahal was very impressive! We explored maps and globes to find different countries, including the UK, India, and other places we've visited or heard of.

In addition, we've been learning about transport in the past and how it has changed over time. We're all quite glad that we can travel quickly now!



We have also been exploring patterns and creating our own designs. We scratched our patterns into foam tiles and, using paint and rollers, transferred them onto our own bags — they look amazing!

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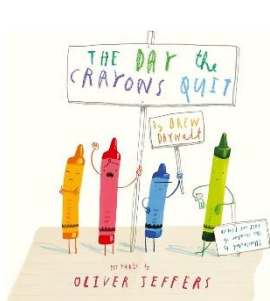
Year 1 & Year 2 Team

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

This term, we've had an exciting and action-packed time learning all about dinosaurs! We journeyed through the three periods of the Mesozoic Era—Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous—exploring how Earth changed over millions of years and discovering the incredible variety of dinosaurs that lived during each time. From towering carnivores like the T. rex to gentle, plant-munching giants like the Brachiosaurus, we loved learning about their unique features and how they adapted to survive.



We also explored the three main dietary groups—herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores—which involved investigating real dinosaur poo... (yes, really!) to discover which dinosaurs ate what! We looked at fossils to understand how they help us learn about the past and even had a go at making our own fossil replicas.



In English, we had our very own classroom drama – all our glue sticks decided to go on strike! We enjoyed reading *The Day the Crayons Quit*, which inspired us and helped us write in a more dramatic style. Thankfully, all our stationery supplies have since returned to their day jobs!

In Maths, we've been busy building our multiplication skills—working hard to count in 2s, 5s, and 10s—and learning how to become more efficient problem-solvers by spotting patterns and choosing smart strategies.

Our brains have been working just as hard as our bodies, as we've also started training for Sports Day with lots of running, jumping, and cheering each other on. It's been a term full of curiosity, creativity, and plenty of prehistoric fun!

Year 3 & Year 4 Team

Mr Guy (Owls), Mrs Smith (Falcons) and Mr Macfarlane (Hawkes) write: What a short but busy term we've had! The children have created some beautiful work based on the wordless picture book *The Journey*. Because the book had no words, it gave us the freedom to explore a wide range of activities and interpretations.



We began the term by finishing off *The Rabbit's Story*. Then, we created an advert for the red crayon, exploring a variety of language features — we may have some future advertisers among us! We ended the term by planning our own sequels to *The Journey*.

Our Science topic this term was Plants. Despite the short term, we managed to conduct a range of experiments, including investigating whether the number of seeds planted affects plant growth, placing celery into coloured water to observe how the stem transports water, and observing the germination of our own broad beans.



In History, we have been studying the Shang Dynasty — in particular, when and where they ruled, how their social hierarchy was organised, and how they used oracle bones to communicate.

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Year 3 & Year 4 Team continued...



In RE, our big question was: Why do Hindus want to collect good Karma? We explored the idea of Karma by thinking about how we could bring good Karma into our class. We also looked at how the idea of Karma influences the cycle of Samsara and how this affects the way Hindus live their daily lives.

Lastly, we experimented with watercolours in Art and had lots of fun in Computing, programming a screen turtle to draw objects and patterns!

Year 5 & Year 6 Team

Mrs. Kandola (Kites), Miss Hill (Eagles) and Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) write: We can't believe this term is already over — or just how much we've managed to fit in! It has been such a busy term, full of brilliant work from your amazing children.

We are incredibly proud of our Year Sixes, who all completed their SATs this term. Every single one of them has worked their socks off to be ready, and we are so impressed with what they have achieved. While SATs results are just a small part of who your children are and what makes them so brilliantly unique, we know they are proud to have made it through to the other side.



Elsewhere in UKS2, we've been studying light in Science. We've carried out experiments to explore how light travels, reflects, and refracts, how it splits into the colours of the rainbow, and how we perceive colour.



In History, we've been learning about the Mayan Empire — when and where this civilisation existed, what daily life was like, their religious beliefs, and their writing systems. We even played a game of Pok-a-Tok, an ancient Mayan ball game!

In Design and Technology, we continued our Cam machines from last term because they were so brilliant, and we really wanted to finish them. The final designs are incredibly creative, with moving parts that bob up and down and animate when you turn the crank wheel.

In PE, a highlight has been tennis. We've learned how to serve and return balls using rackets, and we've played some fantastic matches.



In PSHE, we've discussed healthy relationships, focusing on body positivity, self-esteem, and how bodies are portrayed in the media. We've also talked about online safety and the risks of using apps inappropriately. We encourage you to speak with your child about the apps and games they use and whether these are age-appropriate:

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TRAINING THROUGH THEATRE

APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

13+ Facebook Instagram TikTok YouNow House Party	13+ Snapchat Twitter Kik Yubo Monkey	16+ WhatsApp 17+ Sarahah YOLO	18+ MeetMe LiveMe
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Term 6 Key Dates

Note: More details and times will be sent out in the Start of Term 6 letter and/or event specific email notices

June

- Monday 2nd: Term Starts
- Monday 2nd to Wednesday 4th: Year 4 Residential to Youlbury
- Tuesday 3rd to Friday 6th: Year 6 Bikeability
- Monday 9th to Friday 13th: Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
- Monday 9th to Friday 13th: Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check Week
- Thursday 12th June: Year 6 Leavers Photograph **New event and date**
- Friday 13th: Dress Up Day (in rainbow colours) **New event and date**
- Friday 20th: Festival of Voices, Dorchester
- Thursday 26th: Y5 Rounders Tournament at Aureus
- Friday 27th: PTA Summer Fete
- Monday 30th June to Friday 4th: SEND Reviews

July

- Thursday 3rd July: Sports Day: Nursery and Reception (am) **Note: This is a change of date to previously advertised.**
- Friday 4th July: SEND Coffee Morning, 8.45-9.45 **New event and date**
- Monday 7th: Sports Day: Year 1-6 (pm)
- Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th: Transition Mornings for all children, including Y6 children to Aureus, SBS and DGS.
- Friday 11th: Break the Rules Day **New event and date**
- Tuesday 15th: Y6 Swimming Pool Party
- Wednesday 16th: Leavers Service (am) & Y6 Production and Pizza Picnic
- Wednesday 16th: IRock Concert, 2.30pm.
- 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 you can start to consider whether to sign your child up for a 'Non-Northbourne School Club' after the summer holidays or use **Northbourne NorthStars** which will match, probably exceed, anything found locally.

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 4.30pm	Gymnastics <i>Agility, Balance & Coordination fun</i>	Nerf Wars <i>Nerf Blaster games</i>	Netball <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 4.30pm 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.

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