



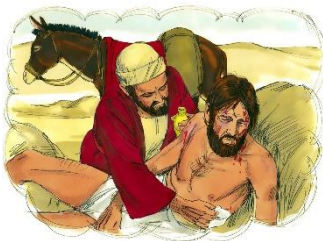
**“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”**

*Matthew Chapter 7 Verse 24*



During our **Marvellous Monday** assemblies this term, we have been learning about the parables of the Bible — stories that Jesus told which carry deeper meanings. We’ve been reflecting on what they teach us and thinking about how we might speak or act differently because of what we have learned.

We began with **The Wise and Foolish Man**, reflecting on where each built their house — one on solid rock, the other on crumbling sand. This helped us think about the choices we make in our own lives, and how following our school values is like building our house on firm foundations.



Next, we looked at **The Good Samaritan** and how he helped someone he did not know by crossing to the other side of the road. This led us to consider who our “neighbour” really is, and we realised that we should show compassion to anyone in need, not just those who live next door.

We also explored **The Parable of the Yeast** by seeing what happens when you add yeast to flour. Just as a few grains of yeast can make the dough rise, just as a small act of kindness can make a big difference to someone else.



**The Lost Sheep** helped us think about what we should do when someone around us is not doing the right thing. We discussed how we can help them return and rejoin our class or school community — and how we can all rejoice when that happens.

Finally, we considered **The Parable of the Sower**, which feels especially fitting at this harvest time. We reflected on the different ways people respond to our values: some ignore them, some try but give up, some get distracted, and some persevere, succeed, and then help others to do the same.



These parables have provided a strong start to the new academic term, helping us to focus on how best to live out our values during the year ahead so we can **Nurture Excellence** in everyone.

Have a lovely half term.

Andrew Denham

## Things to Celebrate at Northbourne

**Girls Football Tournament:** What a fantastic start to our inter-school sports competitions, superbly organised by Mr. Weaving! Our girls' football team took on four other schools in the first tournament of the year and secured an impressive third place! The girls showed amazing courage—overcoming their “Goliath” nerves—and played with determination, teamwork, and brilliant sportsmanship. Their positivity and encouragement for one another made us all proud and set a shining example for future teams to follow.



This is just the beginning! Coming up, we've got netball, boccia, boys' football, athletics, swimming, and dodgeball on the calendar... and we might even throw in a staff vs. parents match for some fun!



**Clubs and Wrap-Around-Care:** What a brilliant start it's been for our North Stars! From Forest School adventures to dodgeball, gymnastics, and so much more, the range of activities has been incredible. The sessions have been superbly run by Mr. Weaving, Mr. Froud, and Mrs. Hart—and of course, we can't forget our amazing Breakfast Club team of Mrs. Hart, Mrs Williams and Mrs. Bradford, who help everyone start the day with a smile.

We'd love to hear what you think! Please take a few moments to complete the Google Form (next page) to share what you love and any ideas for how we can make it even better. Together, we can keep making North Stars shine even brighter!



**School Lunches:** We're really pleased with the successful launch of Northbourne Catering. We'll be honest—it hasn't been without a few teething issues, particularly around lunch registrations, managing food orders accurately, and ensuring that every meal delivered matches what's on the menu. However, we're delighted to see that the number of children choosing school lunches has steadily increased as the term has gone on.

Now that we have a full complement of kitchen staff, we're able to meet the growing demand and deliver the quality and quantity of food that both we and the children expect. Our School Council has shared excellent feedback from their peers. Now we'd like to hear from parents too - please complete the Google Form (next page) to share your thoughts and suggestions. A huge thank-you goes to Connie, our Catering Manager, who has been so open to constructive feedback and committed to making positive changes.

**Courage**

**Compassion**

**Community**

## Have Your Say! Google Questionnaire.

We'd love to hear your views on...

### North Stars Clubs & Wrap-Around Care



<https://forms.gle/sESFv92RaFDa3vUMA>

### Northbourne Catering School Lunches



<https://forms.gle/b9ZSE31fr5qZkkp76>

## Launching on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November! Be Ready...

On the first day of term, we will be launching our **Instagram** and **Facebook** platform.  
Make sure you are **signed up and ready**, so you don't miss a thing!



[www.instagram.com/northbourneprimarieschool](http://www.instagram.com/northbourneprimarieschool)



<https://www.facebook.com/northbourneprimarieschool>

## Term 2 Key Dates

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

### November

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>: **INSET DAY**  
 Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>: **First Day Back**  
 Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>: **Community Moment of Remembrance**  
 Wednes. 12<sup>th</sup>: **Odd Sock Day (Anti-Bullying Week)**  
 Friday 14<sup>th</sup>: **Children in Need: Wear something spotty**  
 Wednes. 19<sup>th</sup>: **PTA Event: Rags 2 Riches**  
 w/c Monday 24<sup>th</sup>: **SEND Pupil Parent Meetings**  
 Friday 28<sup>th</sup>: **SEND Pupil Parents Coffee Morning**

### December

w/c Monday 1<sup>st</sup>: **SEND Pupil Parent Meetings continued**  
 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>: **Christmas Disco**  
 Mon 8<sup>th</sup> & Tue 9<sup>th</sup>: **Parent Meetings**  
 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>: **PTA Event: Elfridges**  
 Mon 9<sup>th</sup> to Thu 18<sup>th</sup>: **Christmas Book, Biscuit & Brew**  
 Monday 15<sup>th</sup>: **Reception & Nursery Nativity**  
 Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>: **Year 1 & 2 Nativity Play**  
 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>: **Christmas Jumper Day**  
**Christmas Service at St Peters (am)**  
**Christmas School Lunch**  
**IROCK Concert (pm)**  
 Friday 19<sup>th</sup>: **Last Day. 1.15pm finish**

**Term 3: INSET: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Term Starts: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

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## Early Years Team

**Mrs Stanley (Swans) and Mrs List (Puffins) write:** What a wonderful first term we have had in EYFS!

The highlight for all the team has been watching the children get to know each other and form new friendships. They have settled beautifully into school life, learning the daily routines with enthusiasm and confidence.

This term, the children have also been introduced to their Forest School groups and had their first Forest School sessions. These have been a real success, giving the children opportunities to explore nature, work together, and enjoy learning outdoors.



In Literacy, we have been learning to tell the story of Peter Rabbit using signs, and the children have absolutely loved it! Their storytelling skills have been so impressive that even Mr McGregor himself heard about their efforts and kindly sent us some vegetables from his garden to try! We were also lucky to have a visit from Seanne and her beautiful lop-eared miniature white rabbit from Didcot Pet Store. The children learned so much about how to care for rabbits and thoroughly enjoyed this up-close and personal experience.

In Maths, we have been busy subitizing numbers up to four, using language such as more than and fewer than, and sorting objects by different criteria. The children have shown growing confidence in recognising patterns and quantities. In Music, we have been exploring how to use symbols to follow sounds and experimenting with our voices to create varied soundscapes—some very creative performances have been enjoyed by all!



We've also had lots of fun cooking rhubarb crumble with Connie, exploring pumpkins, and celebrating all things Autumnal. Our Harvest Festival songs were sung with great joy.

## Year 1 & Year 2 Team

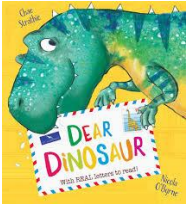
**Mrs Jones (Wrens), Miss Pollard/Miss Kellock (Robins) and Miss Richardson (Nightingales) write:**

What a fantastic start to the school year it has been for our Robins, Wrens and Nightingales! The children have settled into their new routines with enthusiasm and positivity, showing great curiosity and a real eagerness to learn. It has been wonderful to see them engaging thoughtfully in lessons and supporting one another as they embrace new challenges.

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We began the term with the exciting text Dear Dinosaur. The children were instantly captivated by the story and loved the idea of writing letters to a dinosaur! Many have even asked to read the sequels — Dear Spookysaur, Dear Chocosaur and Dear Santasaur — which has been fantastic to see. Their enthusiasm for reading has really shone through, both in school and at home.

In History, the children have loved learning about The Great Fire of London. They explored how the fire started, how it spread and what life was like in 1666. They also discovered fascinating facts about Samuel Pepys and how his diary became an important primary source for understanding this famous event.



We were also thrilled to welcome local firemen to school on Tuesday 31st October. The visit was a huge success! The children explored a real fire engine, examined the equipment and learned how firefighters help to keep people safe. They asked brilliant questions and made fantastic links to their learning about fire safety and the events of 1666.

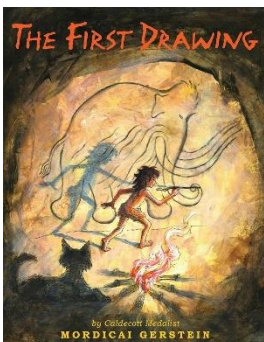
In Science, the children have been investigating Materials and Their Properties, while in Maths they have been exploring Place Value — recognising, representing and comparing numbers with growing confidence.

Many children have also been watching the phonics videos at home, which has really helped to consolidate their learning in school. Thank you for your support with this home learning!



## Year 3 & Year 4 Team

**Mr Guy (Owls), Mrs Smith (Falcons) and Miss Hagger (Hawkes) write:** What a fantastic start to the school year we've had! The children have settled in brilliantly and, despite it being a long term, they've worked incredibly hard and shown a great attitude throughout. We've been especially proud to see so many children demonstrating our core values of Courage, Compassion and Community—whether that's having the confidence to try something new, showing kindness to others, or working together as a team.



In history, we placed the Stone Age on a timeline and began to investigate what life was like during this time. We looked at religion and rituals, and examined the tools and technologies developed during this time.

In Literacy, we started the year with creative shape poems and then moved on to work inspired by the story The First



Drawing. The children explored a variety of literary techniques and have produced some fantastic writing, including recounts, character descriptions and planning their own non-chronological reports.

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**Community**

In Maths, we've been getting to grips with numbers up to 1000—partitioning, adding and subtracting with confidence. We've also made a strong start on building fluency in our times tables, which will continue to be a key focus as the year goes on.

In Science, we've learnt so much about rocks and soils. The children can now identify different types of rocks and soils, describe their features and explain why certain rocks are used for particular purposes.

In Computing, we've explored a variety of digital tools and techniques to edit photos—cropping, rotating, changing colour tones and even removing objects from images. We also had thoughtful discussions about the impact of photo editing on us as viewers and how it can change the way we see things.

In Art, we've been developing our drawing skills by creating some impressive perspective drawings. The children also explored how shading can be used to add depth and realism to their artwork.

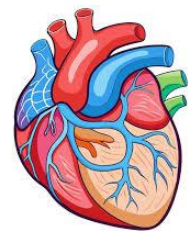


Finally, in RE we explored the Trinity and how God is depicted in different ways in the Bible.

## Year 5 & Year 6 Team

**Mrs. Kandola (Kites), Miss Hill (Eagles) and Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) write:** What a brilliant start to the new school year it has been for Years 5 and 6! The children have returned to school with enthusiasm, curiosity and a fantastic attitude to learning, and we couldn't be prouder of how well they've settled back in.

In Science, we launched our Animals Including Humans topic with a fascinating (and slightly messy!) heart dissection using real lambs' hearts. This hands-on experience helped bring our learning about the heart and the circulatory system to life, sparking lots of thoughtful questions and scientific curiosity.



Our history lessons have taken us back to Tudor times, where we've been exploring what life was like during this exciting period, from

Henry VIII and his six wives to his dramatic break with Rome. The children have really enjoyed debating the King's choices and comparing life then with life today.

In English, our work has been inspired by Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman. We've experimented with different styles of story openings, written balanced discussion texts, and created suspenseful narratives full of atmosphere and tension.

Art lessons have encouraged us to look closely at detail, as we've been sketching sections of our own faces with incredible care and precision. In

French, pupils have been extending their vocabulary by describing themselves and others using more complex adjectives.



**Courage**

**Compassion**

**Community**

Sessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Morning</b> 7.30am to 8.35am	<b>Breakfast Club</b> <i>Craft, Games &amp; Activities &amp; Breakfast</i>	<b>Breakfast Club</b> <i>Craft, Games &amp; Activities &amp; Breakfast</i>	<b>Breakfast Club</b> <i>Craft, Games &amp; Activities &amp; Breakfast</i>	<b>Breakfast Club</b> <i>Craft, Games &amp; Activities &amp; Breakfast</i>	<b>Breakfast Club</b> <i>Craft, Games &amp; Activities &amp; Breakfast</i>
<b>Afternoon Session 1</b> 3.15am to 4.30pm	<b>Drink &amp; Snack for All</b>	<b>Drink &amp; Snack for All</b>	<b>Drink &amp; Snack for All</b>	<b>Drink &amp; Snack for All</b>	<b>Drink &amp; Snack for All</b>
	<b>Dodgeball (Y2-Y6)</b> <i>Dodge, duck, dip, dive — throw, catch, win.</i>	<b>Gymnastics (R-Y6)</b> <i>Balance, roll, shapes — grace meets precision &amp; power</i>	<b>Girls Netball (Y2-6)</b> <i>Pass, pivot, shoot — teamwork rules the court.</i>	<b>Girls Football (R-Y6)</b> <i>Pass, dribble, shoot — teamwork drives the game.</i>	<b>Friday Fun &amp; Games!</b> <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>
	<b>Rounders (Y2-6)</b> <i>Hit the ball, run fast, field smart.</i>	<b>Tag Rugby (Y2-Y6)</b> <i>Run, dodge, tag — fast-paced teamwork and fun.</i>	<b>Football (R-Y6)</b> <i>Pass, dribble, shoot — teamwork, skill, goal, victory.</i>	<b>Cricket (Y2-Y6)</b> <i>Bat, bowl, field, run — strategy meets patience.</i>	
	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	<b>Forest Group (R-Y6)</b> <i>Outdoor play, exploration, nature connection.</i>	
<b>Afternoon Session 2</b> 4.30pm to 6.00pm	<b>Tea and Drink</b>	<b>Tea and Drink</b>	<b>Tea and Drink</b>	<b>Tea and Drink</b>	<b>Tea and Drink</b>
	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create - fun for all.</i>
<b>Nursery Provision</b>	<b>8.00-8.45</b>	<b>8.00-8.45</b>	<b>8.00-8.45</b>	<b>8.00-8.45</b>	<b>8.00-8.45</b>
	<b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>3.15-5.00</b>

**Registration:** Families need a My Child at School (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. Sign up will close after 9am Friday & reopen again at 9am on Monday morning for the following week.

**Activity Choice:** Families must choose an activity to do in Session 1 e.g. dodgeball, rounders or chill zone

**Cost:** Flat rate (regardless of what time the child arrives or leaves) of **£6** per child for Breakfast Club; **£7** for Afternoon Session 1; and **£8** for Afternoon Session 2

**Nursery:** Flat rate (regardless of what time the child arrives or leaves) **£4** for the morning session; **£12** for Afternoon Session, including the snack and tea.

**Reductions:** Children on Free School Meals may be entitled to a subsidy. Please contact the email below for more information.

**Last Minute Bookings:** Parents can book their children into the provision 'on the day' by phoning the School Office. This will cost £10 per child, per session.

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

**Question?** Please contact [northstars@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:northstars@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) not the School Office

# Northbourne Lunch Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	INSET Day	Chicken Pasta Bake (M) Macaroni & Cheese (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>with vegetables</i> Pudding	Pork Roast (M) Quorn Roast (V) Bap with filling (A) <i>With potatoes, mixed veg &amp; Yorkshire pudding.</i> Pudding	BBQ Sticky Pork (M) Veggie Stir Fry (V) Bap with filling (A) <i>With noodles and vegetables.</i> Pudding	Fish Bites (M) Samosa (V) Jacket Potato (A) <i>With chips or pasta, peas or beans.</i> Pudding
<b>Week 2</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Ham/Sweetcorn Pizza (M) Cheese Pizza (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>with vegetables or beans</i> Pudding	All Day Breakfast (M) All Day Breakfast (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>with peas or beans</i> Pudding	Chicken Roast (M) Quorn Roast (V) Bap with filling (A) <i>with potatoes, mixed veg &amp; Yorkshire Pudding</i> Pudding	Chicken Curry (M) Tomato Pasta Bake (V) Bap with filling (A) <i>with rice or potatoes &amp; vegetables</i> Pudding	Fish Fingers (M) Vegan Nuggets (V) Jacket Potato (A) <i>with chips or pasta, peas or beans</i> Pudding
<b>Week 3</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Pepperoni Pizza (M) Cheese Pizza (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>with vegetables or beans</i> Pudding	Beef Burger (M) Veggie Burger (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>with potato wedges or baps, vegetables or beans</i> Pudding	Sausages (M) Veggie Sausages (V) Bap with filling (A) <i>with crispy potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding vegetables</i> Pudding	Creamy Chicken Pie (M) Cheese & Potato Pie (V) Bap with filling (A) <i>with potatoes &amp; vegetables</i> Pudding	Fish Cake (M) Spring Roll (V) Jacket Potato (A) <i>with chips or pasta, peas or beans</i> Pudding



A salad bar and fresh fruit is available daily.