

# Christmas Newsletter



“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”



*Luke Chapter 2:10-11*

As we come to the end of a busy and joyful term, Christmas has truly come alive across our school, bringing **hope**, **peace**, **joy** and **love** to our school community.

The Christmas story was beautifully brought to life by our youngest children, who delighted parents with their joy and eagerness to sing and perform. This was matched by the enthusiasm and confidence of the school choir, who performed so well at the Didcot Carol Concert. Children across the school have also embraced our social media reels, keen to share the good news of the Nativity story and our school values.



We had great fun appreciating the variety of Christmas jumpers worn this week, adding to the excitement of a scrumptious Christmas lunch enjoyed by children and staff alike. As our full stomachs tried to cope with turkey and all the trimmings, many of us appreciated the chance to sit back and enjoy the lively iRock concert, which filled the school with music as children confidently delivered their performances.

Our traditional Christmas service at St Peter’s Church encouraged a sense of peace, allowing us to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus and the message of love, goodwill, and a call to love and care for one another.



However you spend your festive break, may the **joy** of the angels, the **eagerness** of the shepherds, the **perseverance** of the wise men, the faithfulness of Joseph and Mary, and the **peace** of the baby Jesus be yours this Christmas.

Have a happy Christmas and joyful New Year.

Andrew Denham



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## Things to Celebrate at Northbourne

We're thrilled to share that our **Christmas Disco** raised an amazing **£832.39!** A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event — the children had a fantastic time, and your generosity has helped us raise much-needed funds for our school. An extra special thank you to all the staff and parent volunteers who gave their time on the night. We couldn't do it without you!



Congratulations to **Theo, Olivia, Chester and Oscar**, who took part in our **Boccia tournament** against South Moreton. They showed great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship, and represented the school and themselves brilliantly.

It was wonderful to have so many parents join us at the start of the school day for the **Moment of Remembrance** on 11th November. The quiet reflection and shared sense of respect shown by our children and families made the occasion particularly meaningful. The selling of poppies raised £262.



We were also pleased to acknowledge **Children in Need**, with pupils taking part in activities that helped raise awareness of the charity's important work. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we raised a fantastic £255, and we are very grateful for everyone's support.

We were pleased to welcome parents to our **SEND coffee morning**, where Kim Coster from the Local Community Support Service spoke with families about the pathways of support available for children and their families.



We continue to be very grateful to the **PTA** for setting up **Elfridges**, which gave the children a wonderful opportunity to put together some gifts for their families at home. The children certainly enjoyed the event, and it helped to get everyone into the Christmas spirit.



A massive thank you to the **PTA** for using funds raised to pay for the two interactive classroom boards, costing **£2,930**, that have now been installed and are making a big difference to the teaching and learning.



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# North Stars Spring Term Timetable



After listening to feedback from parents, we are excited to share some updates to the North Stars timetable, bringing with them a range of new opportunities for the children to enjoy next term.

Please note that **Rounders, Cricket and the Forest School Group will no longer be running**. In their place, we are delighted to introduce the following new clubs:

- **Archery (Years 3–6)** on Mondays.
- **Coding (Years 3–6)** on Thursdays.
- **Dance (Years 1–2)** on Wednesdays.
- An additional **Chill Zone (Reception–Year 6)** on Thursdays.

Due to the popularity of the football club, we have decided to split the group into two separate sessions:

- **Wednesdays** will now be for **KS2 Boys (Years 3-6)**
- **Reception and KS1 Football (Years R-2)** will be on **Thursdays**.

We are particularly excited to launch our **brand new KS1 Dance Club** on Wednesdays. This club will be taught by a **professional dance instructor**, who has choreographed a routine that the children will perform at the **Oxfordshire Dance Festival at the New Theatre Oxford**—an exciting and memorable opportunity for our younger pupils.

Finally, North Stars will be introducing **Fun, Games & Film Fridays**. Every Friday, children can enjoy:

- Fun & Games from 15:15–16:30 (this individual session is available as usual).
- Followed by a **film in the hall from 16:30–18:00**, voted for by the children, complete with snacks.

The cost for both of these sessions together is an **unbelievable £10!**

**You can register your child for these clubs via MCAS, Wraparound Care.**

We would like to offer children a **FREE** club that they can attend during the school week and will be continuing with Choir this term on **Thursday, 3.15-4.00pm, for Years 1-6**. You can sign your child up for choir by taking the following steps on My Child at School (MCAS): **MCAS > Dashboard > Clubs > Choir > Enrol now**.

We're really looking forward to welcoming the children to these exciting new activities and hope they enjoy the refreshed timetable.

## Reminders and Update

### Some/Staffing Update

- We are delighted to welcome back **Mrs Allmond**, who is returning from maternity leave and to her role as Deputy Headteacher, and she will be teaching **Falcons** on a Monday. **Mrs Smith's** working days will be Tuesday to Friday.
- **Mrs Snowball** will be working across the two Reception Classes (Swans and Puffins) from Tuesday to Friday
- **Mrs Middleton** will be working across Reception and Nursery (Penguins) classes
- **Miss Kellock** in **Robins** class will be starting her maternity leave at some point during Term 3! To ensure continuity throughout the term, **Miss Pollard** will be the main class teacher throughout the week from the start of term.

### Term 3 Key Dates *(it's a quieter one!)*

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

#### January

Monday 4<sup>th</sup>: **INSET DAY**  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>: Term Starts  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>: Year 5/6 Athletics Event (school time)

#### February

Friday 6<sup>th</sup>: SEND Coffee Morning  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup>: Year 5/6 Netball Competition (after school)  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>: Spring Disco  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup>: Last Day (3.15pm finish)

**Term 4: INSET: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Term Starts: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

## Early Years Team

**Mrs Pearson (Penguins) writes:** We have had a very busy term. We started by learning to tell the story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. We learnt to join in with the repeated refrains and to sequence the story. We made a dark bear cave in the classroom and used torches to be able to see in there.

We have been learning about the changes from Autumn to Winter and studied celebrations that happen at this time of year.

In maths we have been learning about what the word subitising means. This is being able to recognise a small number of objects without counting them. We have also worked hard learning about more than and fewer than, as well as sorting big, medium and small objects into size order.

In PE we have been continuing with our climbing and balancing, in this our confidence has grown massively. We have also been practising forward rolls and throwing and catching a large ball.

We were very lucky and got some more magnet tiles to add to our already great collection, this has meant we could build much bigger towers and castles together, some of our creations have been amazing!



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Over the last couple of weeks, we have started to learn about the Christmas story and have been practicing songs to perform at our Nativity, we have especially enjoyed dancing to the Wiggly Nativity song. We decorated our Classroom Christmas tree and were lucky enough to see Santa flying above our school in a helicopter.

We had an Elf arrive in our classroom and we have enjoyed looking to see where he has moved too each day. We also enjoyed making paperchains to decorate the classroom, as well as lots of Christmas creations to take home. We wish you all a very merry Christmas.

**Mrs Stanley (Swans) and Mrs List (Puffins) write:** We have had a very busy term. When we returned to school after half term, we investigated whether our predictions about what may happen to our pumpkins were accurate.



We started by learning to tell the story of Goldilocks and the three bears. We also enjoyed listening to some different versions. We made maps of Goldilocks' journey from her house to the bears' house and thought about what she might have seen. We loved testing different toppings for our porridge- some of us hadn't realised that we like porridge.

We found out why we have fireworks on 5th November. We made rockets and painted fireworks. We also enjoyed making breadstick sparklers with melted chocolate and sprinkles.



Exploring the Jewish celebration of Hannukah was great fun. We listened to traditional Hannukah music, learned the Hannukah story and lit candles. The children have relished the opportunity to put on a Nativity play! We now know the story very well and we enjoyed performing for our families.

## Year 1 & Year 2 Team

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

This term has been an exciting and productive time for our class, filled with curiosity, creativity, and lots of hard work! In Science, we explored the fascinating characteristics of living things, learning how to distinguish between what is living, dead, and has never been alive. The children especially enjoyed investigating different food chains and discovering how plants and animals depend on one another for survival.

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In RE, we learned about Judaism, focusing on the importance of the Torah and the story of Moses. The children were captivated by Moses' journey and the meaning it holds for Jewish people today. Our Geography lessons took us on an adventure from busy towns to peaceful countryside landscapes, comparing natural and human-made features. We then moved on to examining aerial maps and even had a go at drawing our own, showing great attention to detail.



In English, the children have been incredibly enthusiastic about reading Little Red Riding Hood. Inspired by the story, they produced fantastic re-tellings and wrote very persuasive letters of complaint to the Big Bad Wolf! Their creativity and sense of humour really shone through.

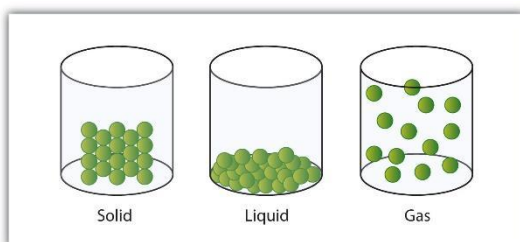
In PE, everyone worked hard to develop their football skills, focusing on teamwork, ball control, and positive communication on the pitch. Alongside all of this, the children have also been practising their singing and performance skills with tremendous effort and enthusiasm. We are so proud of how confidently and joyfully they have prepared for their upcoming performance. Overall, this term has been full of energy, learning, and achievement, and we couldn't be prouder of the dedication and progress the children have shown.



## Year 3 & Year 4 Team

**Mr Guy (Owls), Mrs Smith (Falcons) and Miss Hagger (Hawkes) write:** As a very busy term leading up to Christmas draws to a close, we can look back on a fantastic period of learning and wonderful progress across Year 3 and 4.

In literacy, the children explored a new class story, The Promise, which they used as a springboard for some amazing diary entries. These focused on exploring the motivations and thoughts of the main character and how the events of the story changed her. We then wrote lyric poems based on the children's own journeys through a virtual forest, where they used their five senses to capture their experiences. Finally, we studied The Flood, a wordless picture book, which the children reimagined as a newspaper article.



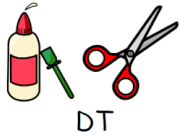
In geography, we learned about the water cycle and how it is vital for providing drinking water and shaping the landscape around us. This linked closely with our science topic, States of Matter, where the children explored the differences between solids, liquids, and gases. They also planned an experiment to investigate how temperature affects the rate of evaporation of water.

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In maths, the children continued to build their understanding of numbers up to 10,000. This included rounding to the nearest 10, 100, and 1,000, ordering numbers, and using efficient calculation strategies. They also applied this knowledge to measures and represented data using bar charts and tables with different scales.



We took great delight in designing and building our own night lights in DT this term. The children constructed some wonderful examples based on their plans, with a clearly defined intended audience influencing their design choices.

In RE, we explored the big question, “How does a Muslim show their submission and obedience to Allah?” The children learned about the call to prayer, explained why Bilal was chosen as the first muezzin, and discussed why Muslims take such care in preparing for prayer.



We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and feel that the children have truly earned a restful break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year. Merry Christmas!

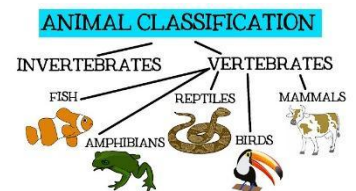
## Year 5 & Year 6 Team

**Mrs. Kandola (Kites), Miss Hill (Eagles) and Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) write:** What a fantastic and full-on Term 2 it has been in Year 5/6! The children across all three classes have thrown themselves into every challenge with enthusiasm, creativity and resilience, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.



In Literacy, we’ve been exploring the power of language through poetry. The children impressed us with their ability to use vivid imagery and symbolism to create poems that were atmospheric, thoughtful and wonderfully imaginative. We then shifted gears and stepped into the eerie world of Coraline, where the classes crafted suspense-filled chase scenes that had us all on the edge of our seats! To round off the term, the children produced travel and survival guides linked to their geography work on Eastern Europe. Their writing showcased not only their skills but also their growing knowledge of the region.

Science has been another area where the children have truly shone. Our focus on classification had them thinking like real scientists—asking precise, purposeful questions to help sort and identify a wide range of plants and animals. Their curiosity and willingness to puzzle things out have been wonderful to see.



One of the absolute highlights for many pupils has been developing video-making skills using the iPads. The children planned, filmed and edited their own short videos with impressive creativity and collaboration. Watching their ideas come to life on screen was a brilliant way to finish the term.

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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>Fun Games &amp; Film Fridays! (R-Y6)</b> <i>Fun with friends and food with a film!</i>
	<b>Dodgeball (Y1-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 (Y3-6)</b> <i>Pass, pivot, shoot – teamwork rules the court.</i>	<b>Girls Football (Y3-Y6)</b> <i>Pass, dribble, shoot – teamwork, skill, goal, victory</i>	
	<b>Archery (Y3-6)</b> <i>Precision, focus, steadiness – take aim and hit the target.</i>	<b>Tag Rugby (Y2-Y6)</b> <i>Run, dodge, tag – fast-paced teamwork and fun.</i>	<b>KS2 Boys Football (Y3-Y6)</b> <i>Pass, dribble, shoot – teamwork, skill, goal, victory.</i>	<b>Reception &amp; KS1 Football (R-Y2)</b> <i>Pass, dribble, shoot – teamwork, skill, goal, victory.</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>Dance (Y1-2)</b> <i>Learn a routine from a dance instructor to perform at the New Theatre Oxford!</i>	<b>Coding (Y3-6)</b> <i>Explore, interact, create – computing with Mr Mallam!</i>	
<b>Afternoon Session 2</b> 4.30pm to 6.00pm	<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>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create – fun for all.</i>	
	<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</i>	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	
<b>Nursery Provision</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</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.

# Northbourne Lunch Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	INSET DAY	All Day Breakfast (M) All Day Breakfast (V) Wrap with filling (A) with peas or beans Pudding	Chicken Roast (M) Quorn Roast (V) Bap with filling (A) with potatoes, mixed veg & Yorkshire Pudding Pudding	Chicken Curry (M) Tomato Pasta Bake (V) Bap with filling (A) with rice or potatoes & vegetables Pudding	Fish Fingers (M) Vegan Nuggets (V) Jacket Potato (A) with chips or pasta, peas or beans Pudding
<b>Week 2</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Pepperoni Pizza (M) Cheese Pizza (V) Wrap with filling (A) with vegetables or beans Pudding	Beef Burger (M) Veggie Burger (V) Wrap with filling (A) with potato wedges or baps, vegetables or beans Pudding	Sausages (M) Veggie Sausages (V) Bap with filling (A) with crispy potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding vegetables Pudding	Creamy Chicken Pie (M) Cheese & Potato Pinwheel (V) Bap with filling (A) with potatoes & vegetables Pudding	Fish Cake (M) Spring Roll (V) Jacket Potato (A) with chips or pasta, peas or beans Pudding
<b>Week 3</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Cheese Pizza (M) Cheese Pizza (V) Wrap with filling (A) With vegetables or beans. Pudding	Chicken Pasta Bake (M) Macaroni & Cheese (V) Wrap with filling (A) With vegetables Pudding	Pork Roast (M) Quorn Roast (V) Bap with filling (A) With potatoes, mixed veg and Yorkshire pudding. Pudding	BBQ Sticky Pork (M) Veggie Stir Fry (V) Bap with filling (A) With noodles and vegetables Pudding	Fish Bites (M) Samosa (V) Jacket Potato (A) With chips or pasta, peas or beans. Pudding



A salad bar and fresh fruit is available daily.

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