



Term 3 Newsletter

As we reach the end of term, it would be impossible not to mention this dreadful weather! The past few weeks have felt particularly wet and grey. Playtimes have involved puddles and mud, fields have resembled marshes, and many mornings have begun under heavy skies that don't seem in any hurry to move on.

It has reminded me of this page from *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*...



At the moment, it might not always feel like the blue sky is anywhere nearby! Yet we know it is there — just beyond the clouds, waiting.

In many ways, school, work and family life can be a little like this. There are bright, joyful days full of sunshine — success in learning or work, laughter, proud moments and great achievements. But there are also days that feel more challenging. Times when work is tricky, friendships and relationships may wobble, or we simply feel exhausted from it all.



Even in the rain, there is warmth in our classrooms, creativity in our lessons, and tremendous perseverance from our pupils. Our staff work hard to ensure that, whatever the weather outside, there is care, encouragement and high expectation within our school walls.

As we head into the holiday, I hope the skies begin to brighten — both literally and figuratively. And if the rain does continue for a while longer, may we remember that it will not last forever. The clouds will move on. The blue sky and sunshine is still there.



Thank you for being part of such a strong and supportive school community. We wish you a restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back next term — hopefully with a little more sunshine...and cake!

With the sunniest of wishes,
Andrew Denham



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Notices and Reminders

Attendance and Safeguarding: Reporting Your Child's Absence

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, and to support good attendance, we would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of reporting absence promptly.

What parents/carers must do

If your child is absent from school, you must contact the school office **on the first day of absence** (and on each subsequent day) to inform us of the reason and expected return date.

Absence can be reported by: Phone: **01235 817744** Email: **office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk**
Please provide your child's **full name, class/year group, and reason for absence.**

Unauthorised absences

If we do not receive contact from a parent/carer, the absence will be recorded as **unauthorised** until an explanation is provided.

If we do not hear from you

Where no contact has been made within the first two days of absence, an **automated email message** will be sent to remind you that:

- your child is absent, and
- the absence is currently being recorded as unauthorised.

Safeguarding and welfare checks

As a school we have a legal safeguarding duty to ensure children are safe. If a pupil is absent and we are unable to establish contact with parents/carers, we will escalate our response.

This may include:

- telephone calls to parents/carers and emergency contacts,
- further written communication,
- and, where appropriate, a **welfare home visit by senior staff** to check that the child is safe and well.

If we have still not been able to make contact after several days, we may need to seek further advice and support from external safeguarding agencies.

Working together

We know that children are sometimes unwell, and we fully understand that these things will happen. However, it is essential that the school is informed promptly so we can ensure accurate attendance records and fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep every child safe and in school wherever possible.

World Book Day

We are really looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day** at Northbourne on **Thursday 5th March**. Children are invited to come dressed as a character from their favourite book. Costumes do not need to be complicated — simple ideas such as Matilda, Harry Potter, Where's Wally or a classic fairy tale character are perfect.

We can't wait to see the wonderful range of characters and celebrate our love of reading together.

Discount Uniform

We are selling 'OLD LOGO' uniform at HALF PRICE. These can be purchased on MCAS at the prices shown below and can be identified as the stock item code is pre-fixed with 'OLD LOGO'. Here are the prices

8 x 24" cardigans @ £4.75 14 x 36" t-shirts @ £3.00 4 x 38" t-shirts @ £3.00
7 x 36" jumpers @ £4.75 6 x drawstring bags @ £2.50

New Fencing

Over half term, work will begin on having new fencing erected around the school, including the main entrance. This is to ensure the school site is even more secure. Some of this work may still need to continue into the first week of the new term so thank you for your patience with any short-term disruption this may cause to drop-off and pick up.

Piano Lessons

If you would like your child to have piano lessons during school time, please contact the school office. Rates are £12 per week for a twenty-minute lesson, and £18 for half an hour. The lessons are run by James Baldock, is a tutor from outside of school. He recommends twenty minutes for most pupils, and certainly beginners; the half hour rate is better suited to more experienced players or those in year six). Lessons are one-to-one, so pupils will always get an experience tailored uniquely to them. Lessons do take place in school time, but he rotates them each week so pupils never miss the same thing twice.

Parent Teacher Association

Thank you to the PTA and other parent helpers who delivered another great disco, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the children.

Term 4 Key Dates

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

February

Monday 23rd: **Term Starts**
Mon 23rd-Fri 27th: **Y6 in Plas Pencelli and Y5 Bikeability**

March

Tuesday 10th: **Dance Festival New Theatre**
Thursday 12th: **Class Group Photos**
Tuesday 17th: **NCMP Screening Reception and Y6**
w/c Mon 9th&16th: **SEND Pupil Parent Meeting**
Friday 20th: **SEND Pupil Parent Coffee Morning**
w/c Monday 23rd: **Parent Meetings**
Wednesday 25th: **Easter Service @ St Peter's: 10.00am**
Wednesday 25th: **IROCK Concert @ 2.30pm**
Friday 27th: **End of Term. Finish**

Term 5: INSET: Monday 13th April. Term Starts: Tuesday 14th April

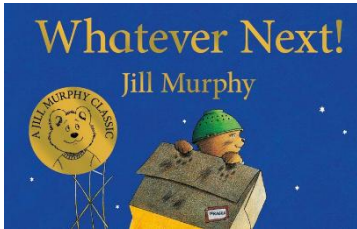
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Early Years Team

Mrs Stanley (Swans) and Mrs List (Puffins) write: This term, our learning journey was inspired by space and extreme climates, exploring how our planet is affected by its position within the solar system. Themes of space exploration, ice, and changing environments sparked children's curiosity and provided many opportunities to develop language, creativity, and a deeper understanding of the world around them.



In Literacy, we began with our key text *Whatever Next!* by Jill Murphy. Children explored the story's themes and new vocabulary while developing early writing skills. They practised writing CVC words, labels, and captions, applying their phonic knowledge through daily Read Write Inc. phonics sessions. As the term progressed, children enjoyed a wide

range of fiction and non-fiction texts linked to science, history, art, and design, including *Sun, Moon and Stars*, *How to Catch a Star*, and *The Barnabus Project*.

Our Understanding the World learning was closely linked to Literacy. In Science, children explored forces such as gravity and took part in practical investigations, including freezing water and melting chocolate. They made predictions, observed changes, and discussed their results.



In Design and Technology, we explored the work of artist Phoebe Cummings, whose nature-inspired clay installations influenced our own work. Children experimented with clay, creating pinch pots and flowers. In Art, our Space and Ice theme led to rocket models, penguin collages, Arctic animals, and colourful planet artwork using balloon printing and colour mixing.

In Maths, we focused on number composition and developing a deeper understanding of number, as well as exploring capacity, mass, and increasingly complex repeating patterns.

Alongside this, children developed movement and spatial awareness in PE through tag rugby and enjoyed musical storytelling in Music, exploring tempo, dynamics, and percussion instruments. Handwriting focused on long ladder letters, while PSHE centred on goals and dreams, resilience, perseverance, and future aspirations. It has been a fun, creative, and engaging term for everyone



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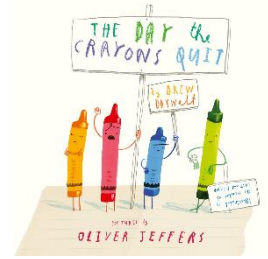
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Year 1 & Year 2 Team

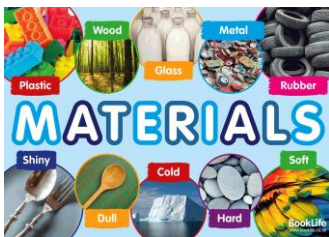
Mrs Jones (Wrens), Miss Pollard (Robins) and Miss Richardson (Nightingales) write:

This term, the children in KS1 have worked incredibly hard and shown fantastic enthusiasm across all areas of learning. We are especially proud of the progress they have made in their writing. Inspired by the text *The Day the Crayons Quit*, the children produced some thoughtful complaint letters, working hard to choose adventurous vocabulary and express feelings clearly. We have been particularly impressed by the emotive language used in their letters.



In Maths, strong progress has been evident across both year groups. Year 1 children have been developing their confidence with addition and subtraction within 20, using a range of practical resources and methods to support their understanding. Meanwhile, Year 2 pupils have been practising multiplication and division, building fluency and applying their skills through problem-solving activities.

Our History learning has focused on comparing transport from the past and present. The children explored how bikes, trains, cars and aeroplanes have changed over time and discussed how these developments have shaped the way we live today. Alongside this, we learned about famous inventors, including the Wright brothers, and their important contributions to modern transport.



In Science, we have built on our learning about materials from Term 1. The children investigated which materials can be squashed, bent, twisted and stretched, and practised describing their properties in more detail using scientific vocabulary.

In RE, the children are now experts on the Creation Story, having explored it in depth during our Christianity lessons. Looking ahead, we are excited for Safer Internet Day in Week 6, when we will learn how to stay safe online. We are also looking forward to a visit from the police, who will share the PC Ben story and help us understand how they support our community.



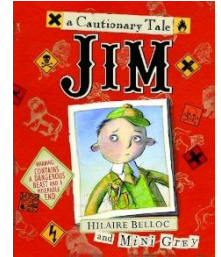
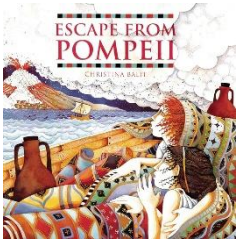
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Year 3 & Year 4 Team

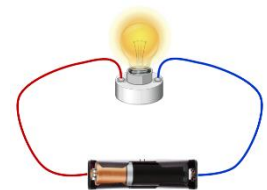
Mr Guy (Owls), Mrs Smith (Falcons) and Miss Hagger (Hawkes) write: A new calendar year has seen a wonderful level of effort and progress across the three Year 3/4 classes. We began literacy this term by sharing a picture book that linked beautifully with our topic of The Romans. Using *Escape from Pompeii*, we explored the contrast between settings before and after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and went on to write our own conclusions to the story of Tranio and Livia's escape from the impending disaster. Our next text, *Until I Met Dudley*, helped us learn how everyday appliances work, before writing our own explanations of how they actually function. Finally, we explored the cautionary poem *Jim* and created our own cautionary poems in a similar style, using exaggeration, humour and rhyme.



In history, we explored Roman Britain by confidently placing the Roman Empire on a world timeline and discovering why it expanded and came to Britain. We compared Roman life with today, learned about Roman gods and rituals, uncovered the secrets of the Roman army's success, and explained why the Romans eventually left Britain and how this changed life for those who remained.

In maths, after focusing on addition and subtraction of larger numbers using column methods, we shifted our attention to our times tables. We explored patterns and links between known tables and began tackling more challenging multi-step word problems involving multiplication and division.

Our science topic this term was electricity, where we learned about appliances powered by batteries or mains electricity. We drew and built our own working circuits and investigated the properties of insulators and conductors.



In RE, we used our knowledge of the Gospels, parables and the roles of church leaders to help answer our Big Question: What kind of world did Jesus want? In addition, we focused on interpreting and creating branching databases in computing, developed our still-life drawing skills in art, and explored the determination needed to achieve our Dreams and Goals in PSHE.

We wish you all a restful break and look forward to some exciting new topics next term...

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Year 5 & Year 6 Team

Mrs. Kandola (Kites), Miss Hill (Eagles) and Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) write: This term in UKS2 has been out of this world! Our topic on space has really captured the children's imagination, and they have thrown themselves into their learning with enthusiasm and maturity.

We explored the space race, learning about the incredible achievements of both the USSR and the USA, including the historic moon landing. The children were particularly inspired by the Hidden Figures, discovering the vital contributions of often-overlooked individuals, and produced some thoughtful, high-quality writing celebrating their hard work and determination. Alongside this, we enjoyed diving into science fiction, both as readers and writers, with some wonderfully creative results.



In science, pupils developed a strong understanding of the Earth, planets, moons and stars, learning all about orbits, day and night, and the seasons, including an investigation into orbital periods that really helped bring these concepts to life. Our space-themed artwork has been a real highlight, with fantastic pieces created using chinks, sponging and marbling techniques (great fun and very effective!).

In maths, we have worked hard and made excellent progress as we near the end of fractions, decimals and percentages, while in RE we have reflected thoughtfully on what kind of king Christians believe Jesus was. We are incredibly proud of the children for their effort, curiosity and positive attitude throughout the term - well done, UKS2!



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Sessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 7.30am to 8.35am	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games & Activities & Breakfast</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games & Activities & Breakfast</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games & Activities & Breakfast</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games & Activities & Breakfast</i>	Breakfast Club <i>Craft, Games & Activities & Breakfast</i>
Afternoon Session 1 3.15am to 4.30pm	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All	Drink & Snack for All	Fun Games & Film Fridays! (R-Y6) <i>Fun with friends and food with a film!</i>
	Dodgeball (Y1-Y6) <i>Dodge, duck, dip, dive —</i>	Gymnastics (R-Y6) <i>Balance, roll, shapes</i>	Girls Netball (Y3-6) <i>Pass, pivot, shoot</i>	Girls Football (Y3-Y6) <i>Pass, dribble, shoot</i>	
	Archery (Y3-6) <i>Precision, focus, steadiness</i>	Tag Rugby (Y2-Y6) <i>Run, dodge, tag</i>	KS2 Boys Football (Y3-Y6) <i>Pass, dribble, shoot</i>	Reception & KS1 Football (R-Y2) <i>Pass, dribble, shoot</i>	
	Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Dance (Y1-2) <i>New Theatre Oxford</i>	Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create</i>	
Afternoon Session 2 4.30pm to 6.00pm	Tea and Drink	Tea and Drink	Tea and Drink	Tea and Drink	
	Free Play <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Free Play <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Free Play <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Free Play <i>Relax, play, create</i>	
Nursery Provision	8.00-8.35	8.00-8.35	8.00-8.35	8.00-8.35	8.00-8.35
	3.15-5.00	3.15-5.00	3.15-5.00	3.15-5.00	3.15-5.00

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 not the School Office

Northbourne Lunch Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1					
23 rd Feb	Pizza Puffs (M) Pizza Puffs (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>With peas or beans</i>	Garlic Chicken with Noodles (M) Tomato Pasta Bake (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>with vegetables</i>	Chicken Roast (M) Quorn Roast (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>with potatoes, mixed veg & Yorkshire Pudding</i>	Sweet & Sour Chicken (M) Veggie Sweet & Sour (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>with rice & vegetables</i>	Scampi (M) Spring Roll (V) Jacket Potato (A) <i>with chips, beans & vegetables.</i>
16 th March	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding
Week 2					
2 nd March	Pepperoni Pizza (M) Cheese Pizza (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>With vegetables or beans.</i>	Spaghetti Bolognese (M) Veggie Bolognese (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>with pasta & vegetables</i>	Sausages (M) Veggie Sausages (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>With potato tots & vegetables.</i>	Pulled Pork Pitta (M) Spicy Corn Fritter (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>With potatoes & vegetables</i>	Sausage Roll (M) Cheese & Onion Roll (V) Jacket Potato (A) <i>With peas or beans</i>
23 rd March	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding
Week 3					
9 th March	Pizza Pinwheels (M) Pizza Pinwheels (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>With vegetables or beans.</i>	Tacos (M) Veggie Tacos (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>With vegetables & salad</i>	Chicken Roast (M) Quorn Roast (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>With potatoes, mixed veg and Yorkshire pudding.</i>	Chicken Stir fry (M) Mac 'n' Cheese (V) Wrap with filling (A) <i>With vegetables</i>	Fish Fingers (M) Veggie Nuggets (V) Jacket Potato (A) <i>With chips, peas or beans.</i>
	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding



A salad bar and fresh fruit is available daily.