

Start of Term 4 Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new half term. It has been a pleasure to see the children return with such **positivity and enthusiasm**. The recent glimpse of sunshine — albeit short-lived — has certainly lifted spirits and brought a welcome sense of freshness to the school day.



Reaching the halfway point of the academic year provides an important opportunity to **refresh and reset**. The children have worked incredibly hard since September, and this mid-year moment allows us to refresh key expectations so that the remainder of the year is calm, purposeful and successful.



Uniform

As part of our reset, we are revisiting our uniform expectations to ensure consistency and pride in presentation.



Smart uniform promotes **equality, unity and readiness for learning**, while also preparing children for secondary school and beyond. Further detail about uniform expectations and support available can be found later in this newsletter.

Behaviour

We are also refreshing our behaviour systems, including our new **House Token** approach, to reinforce the **positive conduct** we want to see each day. By clearly identifying a weekly focus and celebrating children who demonstrate it, we aim to strengthen our shared values and create a **calm, purposeful learning environment**. More information about how this works is outlined below.



Attendance

Strong attendance remains **essential for both learning and safeguarding**. If your child is absent, parents/carers **must contact the school** office on the first day (and each subsequent day) by phone or email, providing your child's name, class and reason for absence. Where we do not receive contact, absences are recorded as unauthorised and followed up in line with our safeguarding procedures.



We look to seeing this reset and refresh approach as an opportunity to **springboard** us forward for the second half of the academic year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us maintain high expectations, sprinkled with a little bit of fun, and ensure every child is safe, present and ready to learn.

Kind regards,

Andrew Denham



North Stars Fun, Games and Film Fridays

See the last page of this letter for the North Stars full timetable



Our **Fun, Games & Film Fridays** were a big hit last term, so we are continuing it into Term 4:

- 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!**



Week 1



Week 2



Week 3



Week 4

Uniform Expectations

Daily School Uniform

- Emerald, green sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- White collared polo shirt
- Dark grey/black trousers or tailored shorts (not football shorts), or dark grey/black skirt or pinafore
- Green and white summer dress
- Plain white, grey or black socks, or plain white, grey or black socks or tights
- Black sensible shoes or trainers



PE/Sports Day Uniform

- Green PE t-shirt with school logo
- Black or grey shorts OR black or grey jogging bottoms (especially for outdoor PE in the winter)
- School sweatshirt or cardigan
- Trainers

If the cost of purchasing uniform is the reason your child is not wearing the correct clothing, please don't hesitate to speak to us. We may be able to provide the appropriate items or offer financial support.

The following items are not permitted as daily school uniform:

- White/coloured trainers (except on PE days)
- Football shorts, cut offs or track suits, even if they are dark grey/black or blue
- Leggings; tight pencil skirts; short, tight shorts.
- Girls' skirts or pinafores must reach half-way down their thigh.
- Uniform colours but with motifs/pictures/logos on
- Make-up, nail varnish, fake nails & eyelashes, tattoos and body piercings.
- Jewellery, except for one pair of stud earrings that the child must be able to remove (for PE lessons) themselves without adult support.
- Wristwatches may be worn to school but on the understanding that they are the child's responsibility. *We would prefer that children do not come in with Smart Watches, particularly those that have a picture and messaging system because they are a significant distraction to the children.*



Our New Behaviour Reward System



House Colours, Tokens and Jars

- Children remain in their current House Colours *but no more House Points*.
- Children are awarded a **House Token** for a 'Weekly Focus'
- Children add the token to their **Class House Jar** (one for each House)
- The Class House Jar Tokens are added to **School House Jar** (one for each House)



House Tokens



Class House Jar



School House Jar

Weekly Focus

- At the **start of each week**, the class teacher announces what the Weekly Focus is.
- The Weekly Focus will be **dependent on** what staff believe needs to be worked on at any given time.

Awarding Tokens

- An adult gives a child a token when they **see** a child doing the Weekly Focus.
- By '**catching one person being good**' we reinforce behaviours we want to see rather than what we don't want.
- As it is handed over, the adult **names the focus** they have seen the child do.
- The **child keeps hold** of their token until key points of the day when they can add it to their House Jar.
- Before the child puts the House Token in the House Jar, they **write their name on it**.
- All adults have a **small collection of tokens** in their pockets that can be given out, in the moment.
- They are to be **awarded thoughtfully** so they **remain special!**

Friday Celebration

- **Just before breaktime** on a Friday, the class teacher pulls out a token from each House Jar, and those 4 children will receive an **Excellence Sticker**.
- Any member of staff who sees a child wearing the sticker gives them lots of **praise**.
- Each 'sticker child' brings their **Class House Jar** to **Achievement Assembly**.
- When they arrive, they **add** their tokens into the appropriate **School House Jar**, which will be added up after school and create a **termly total**, which is displayed.
- Those children come up for a **special assembly acknowledgement**, have a photo, and may be included in the Social Media post, if permission has been given.



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.



Reminders and Updates

All/PE Days:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Owls Nightingales Kestrels Kites	Penguins Wrens Robins Puffins Swans	Falcons Hawks Nightingales Robins Wrens	Eagles Owls Hawks Falcons	Kites Eagles Kestrels Phoenix

We ask for children to arrive at school dressed in their **PE clothes** on this day rather than bringing these to change into: green PE t-shirt with school logo; black or grey shorts OR black or grey jogging bottoms (especially for outdoor PE in the winter); school sweatshirt or cardigan; trainers. *Please make sure they are in a different pair to their normal school shoes.*

Some Year 5/6 Children/Swimming:

The swimming curriculum continues this year for children for Years 5 and 6. Parents have been informed if their child is going.

Year 3-6/Snack Cards

This provides a **daily fruit snack for 12 days**. Cards can be purchased via MCAS.

All/Parent and carer invitations to the Friday Achievement Assembly: 2.30pm

We will be continuing to invite parents of children who are getting a 'Stepping out of the Boat' and 'Learner of the Week' award to join the whole school for this celebration assembly. Please be aware that the email will be sent on Thursday after school, the day before the assembly.

We acknowledge that this is last minute and that some parents may not be able to change their plans with such short notice. The reason is because the award congratulates the achievement of the child for something during that week, which may not happen until the Thursday. Thank you for your understanding.

All/New Fencing

We are very pleased with the new fencing erected around the school over half term. This has ensured the school site is even more secure. Thank you for your patience with any short-term disruption that may have been caused as we get used to the new operating and intercom system.

All/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



Key Dates for Term 3

All/World Book Day: Thursday 5th March

We are really looking forward to celebrating World Book Day. 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.

Year 1-6/ Assessment Week: Week beginning 9th March

Across the school the children will be doing assessments in phonics, reading, maths, spelling, punctuation and grammar. This is an important time in the school calendar because it is an opportunity for the children to demonstrate the learning they have achieved so far. It is also crucial in helping the teachers identify any gaps the children may have in their learning and can therefore assist in planning for the summer term's teaching.

North Stars Dancers/Dance Festival at the New Theatre: Tuesday 10th March, from 1.00pm

The children will travel by coach from Northbourne Primary School, departing at 12:15pm, and will arrive at the venue in time for a rehearsal at 1:15pm. The children will have an early lunch at school before they leave. Outfits for the performance will be provided on the day by our dance instructor. However, she has asked that all children bring the following items to change into for the show:

- A black top (T-shirt or long-sleeved)
- Black bottoms (leggings or tracksuit bottoms)
- Black trainers, if possible

As the children will be at the theatre during the evening, we kindly ask that parents provide a packed tea for their child to eat while at the venue. Once we know the running order, we shall advise you on where to collect the child from after the show.

All/Class Photos: Thursday 12th March

Please ensure your child comes to school looking nice and smart so they can be part of their class photo. Children who are not in uniform will not be able to be a part of the class photo. **Please note that PE kits are not to be worn on this day.**

All/PTA Mothers and Others Pop-Up-Shop for Someone Special: Friday 13th March

To coincide with Mother's Day weekend, the PTA will be giving children the chance to choose a gift from a selection of items in the PTA's pop-up shop. Children will be given the opportunity to come out of class to visit the PTA shop and select a gift of their choice.

Gifts will be packaged in a paper gift bag and sent home via class on Friday 13th March, ready for Mother's Day on Sunday 15th March 2026. With a variety of gifts and accessories on offer there will be something for everyone. So why not let the children treat the special ladies in their life – items are suitable for mums, aunts, grans, carers etc. Gift tickets are now available priced at £3.50 each, payable on MCAS. Multiple may be purchased. **All gift tickets MUST be purchased by the end of Thursday 12th March.**

Some/SEND Review Meetings: Week beginning 9th and 16th March

This will be an opportunity for parents of children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to meet with the class teacher and discuss how their child has done during the Spring Term and set targets for the Summer Term. Teachers will arrange appointments directly with parents.



Parents of Children with Autism who have previously completed a Swift Course: Termly Catch Up - Friday 13th March 2.00pm Please let us know if you would be interested in attending a future SWIFT course.

Some/ SEND Coffee Morning: Friday 20th March, 8.45-9.45am

We would like to invite parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to our termly SEND coffee morning, with Mrs Parsons. We want to create a supportive community where you can relax and chat about the joys and challenges of having children with special needs. This term **Bryony Landsbert**, the **Educational Psychologist** for our school will give an insight into her role and will also share some ideas around how to help your child to regulate their emotions.

Most/Parent Meetings: Week beginning 23rd March

Parents will only be able to sign up for these meetings using our parent communication system MCAS. We will send out meeting times to sign up to in the next couple of weeks. Parents will have the option of having the meeting in person or via Microsoft Teams. SEN parents do not need to book on to these.

All/Easter Service: Wednesday 25th March @ 10.00am @ St Peter's Church

This year we will be holding our Easter Service in the School Hall. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

iRock children and families/iRock Concert: Wednesday 25th March @ 2.30pm

The children who have been practicing with their IRock band will be performing in the school hall. Parents are welcome to attend.

Some/Excellence Assembly: Friday 27th March @ 9.00am

This is the assembly when we give our special awards to children who have shown outstanding effort and/or achievement over the term. Parents will be informed if their child has been chosen the week before to enable enough time to make arrangements so they can attend.

All/Last Day: Friday 27th March, finish at 1.15pm

All/Term 5 Starts: Tuesday 14th April (INSET day on the Monday)



North Stars Term 4 Timetable

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	Drink & Snack for All
	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>	Fun Games & Film Fridays! (R-Y6) <i>Fun with friends and food with a film!</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

Northbourne Catering Term 4 Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1					
23rd 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>
16th March	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding
Week 2					
2nd 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>
23rd March	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding	Pudding
Week 3					
9th 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.

