

## Start of Term 5 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the start of this term, our focus across the school has been on trying to be our best. This links closely to our school values of courage – being prepared to give things a go – and compassion – supporting those who may be finding things difficult. Whether in the classroom or on the playground, we are encouraging all children to give their very best effort and to support one another to do the same.



This is a particularly important time of year as children prepare for end-of-year assessments, including phonics screening (Year 1), multiplication checks (Year 4) and SATs (Year 6). We have been reminding pupils that success is not just about results, but about trying their hardest, showing perseverance and believing in themselves. They may not be the best but everyone can try their best!

Trying your best can be challenging not just for children, but for adults too. That is why, at the end of our INSET day on Monday, staff took part in a wellbeing session. During this time, we reflected on the fact that, like the children, there are always pressures and challenges in our lives. Rarely is there a time when there isn't something we want or need to improve. Developing our own toolkit of strategies to manage these pressures is crucial in building resilience—so that we can face challenges ourselves, rather than always relying on others—and ultimately be our best.



We will also be living out our value of community at the end of this term, when the whole school is invited to our Awards and Presentation Evening. This will be a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate the many successes of our children—both academic and non-academic—recognising those who have truly tried their best. The evening will be a joyful occasion, with achievements celebrated alongside song and dance performances that showcase the talents and confidence of our pupils.

Let's try our best for a great summer term.

Kind regards,

Andrew Denham



## Key Dates and Updates for the Summer Term

### Term 5

#### Early Years and Year 1 & 2/Bike Library

We are excited to introduce a new initiative at school: our Bike Library. A Bike Library is a collection of donated and refurbished balance and pedal bikes available for long-term borrowing. Children can keep the bike for as long as they need it, until they grow out of it.

We are initially offering this opportunity to children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2, and would like to invite families to register their interest in borrowing a bike for this period. We plan to extend this into Key Stage 2 next academic year.



The bikes will be arriving in the next couple of weeks, and we will contact parents who have already expressed an interest in having one, once they arrive. If you would like your child to have a bike for the first time or maybe they are about to grow out of their existing bike and you can't buy a new one, please complete this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/v4Rkz3ZjxmwkiF1Z7>

#### All/Lost Property: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

During morning drop-off and pick-up, we will be displaying the lost property that has been accumulated since the start of the year. Any uniform that is not claimed by the end of the week will be offered for free on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup>

#### Year 4/Youlberry Meeting; Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, from 3.30pm

This is an opportunity for parents and children to find out a little more about the upcoming residential, including the all-important kit list and to ask any questions. The meeting will be held in Miss Hagger's classroom (Hawks). Final payment is due on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Year 6/SATs: Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May

This is a very important week for our Year 6 children. We will work hard to ensure they feel happy and relaxed about taking the tests by giving them lots of positive encouragement.

#### Some Key Stage 2/Cross Country: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

Mr Weaving will be contacting parents of children who have been selected to take part in an inter-school cross country competition.

#### All/Last Day & Colour Run: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, finish at 3.15pm

The famous Colour Run is back!!! Details to follow...

### Term 6

#### All/Term 6 Starts: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June

#### Year 4 Children/Youlbury Trip: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Year 4 children will go on their residential trip. The trip gives children the chance to build independence and confidence away from home. It will help them develop teamwork and social skills through shared challenges and experiences. They will also gain lasting memories while learning in a fun, hands-on environment outside the classroom. Final payment is due on 11<sup>th</sup> May.



**Year 1 and some Year 2 Children/Phonics Screening Check: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June**

The Phonics Screening Check is a short assessment taken by children in Year 1 to assess their ability to decode words using phonics. It helps teachers identify how well each child is progressing with their phonics skills and whether they may need extra support. The check includes both real and made-up words, allowing children to demonstrate their understanding of letter-sound correspondence. The check takes 5-10 minutes.

**Year 4 Children/Multiplication Tables Check: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June.**

The Multiplication Tables Check is a short, online assessment taken by children in Year 4 to assess their knowledge of times tables up to 12 × 12. It helps ensure children have a strong foundation in mental maths, which is essential for more advanced maths work. The check consists of 25 questions and is designed to be quick and simple, with just 6 seconds to answer each question.

**School Choir Y3-6/Festival of Voices: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

A coach will be taking the children from school in the afternoon (after lunchtime) to Dorchester Abbey for rehearsals before the event. The children will need to bring a picnic tea that they will eat before the concert starts at 6.30pm. We are expecting the performance to finish around 8.00pm and children must be collected from Dorchester Abbey.

**Year 1-6 Parents/Sports Day: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

The Nursery and Reception children will race in the morning, followed by a picnic. The rest of the school will race in the afternoon. The 'Back Up Day' (in case of bad weather) will be on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July**.

NOTE: this is a change of date to the one originally advertised in the end of Term 4 newsletter.

**New Reception Children/Induction Meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July , 6.00-6.45pm**

We will be holding an informal welcome meeting on Wednesday 11th June at 6pm in the school hall for parents who have children starting in Reception in September 2025. It's an opportunity to meet key members of staff and to find out more about the routines and arrangements of Northbourne school.

**All Children/Transition Days/Morning: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

Year 6 children transitioning to Aureus, St Birinus School or Didcot Girls' School will spend these days in their new schools. Reception to Year 5 children will get to spend one of the mornings with their new class teachers for next year.

**Y6/Leavers Play & Evening Event: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

The Y6 Performance will start at 6pm and be followed by an event on the school field

**Y6/Leavers Service & Pool Party: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

The Leavers Service will be at St Peters Church at 10am, followed by the Pool Party at 11am.

**Whole School: Awards & Presentation Evening: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 5.30-8.00pm**

On the penultimate evening of term, we will be having a whole school community event on the field, with all the children performing and individual awards given out for achievements throughout the year. The whole event will have 'festival like' vibe with the PTA running a BBQ and Bar with some disco music to follow.

**YR-Y6 /Last Day: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July, finish at 1.30pm.**



## 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



Week 5



Week 6

## Regular Reminders

### All/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.*



**All/PE Days:**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Owls Nightingales Kestrels Kites Falcons	Penguins Wrens Robins Puffins Swans	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.*

## 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.



## North Stars Term 5 Timetable

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 (Y1-Y6)</b> <i>Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive</i>	<b>Gymnastics (R-Y6)</b> <i>Balance, Roll, Shapes</i>	<b>Dance (Y1-6)</b> <i>Hip, Hop and Bop</i>	<b>Little Ones Football (R-Y2)</b> <i>Pass, Dribble, Shoot</i>	<b>Fun Games &amp; Film Fridays! (R-Y6)</b> <i>Fun with friends and food with a film!</i>
	<b>Archery (Y3-6)</b> <i>Precision, Focus, Steadiness</i>	<b>Art and Craft (Y1-6)</b> <i>Cut, Stick, Make</i>	<b>Go For It! (Y1-Y6)</b> <i>Active Games &amp; Challenges</i>	<b>Coding (Y3-6)</b> <i>Explore, interact, create</i>	
	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	
<b>Tea and Drink</b>	<b>Tea and Drink</b>	<b>Tea and Drink</b>	<b>Tea and Drink</b>		
<b>Afternoon Session 2</b> 4.30pm to 6.00pm	<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>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b> <b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b> <b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b> <b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b> <b>3.15-5.00</b>

## Northbourne Catering Term 5 Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> April 4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>13<sup>th</sup> APRIL</b> <b>INSET DAY</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> MAY</b> <b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	Tacos (M) Veggie Tacos (V) Wrap with filling (A) with salad.  <b>Pudding</b>	Chicken Roast (M) Quorn Roast (V) Wrap with filling (A) with potatoes, mixed veg & Yorkshire Pudding.  <b>Pudding</b>	Chicken Stir Fry (M) Mac 'n' Cheese (V) Wrap with filling (A) With mixed veg or salad  <b>Pudding</b>	Fish Fingers (M) Vegan Nuggets (V) Jacket Potato (A) With chips, beans or vegetables.  <b>Pudding</b>
<b>Week 2</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> April 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Pizza Puffs (M) Pizza Puffs (V) Wrap with filling (A) with vegetables or salad.  <b>Pudding</b>	Garlic Chicken with Noodles (M) Tomato Pasta Bake (V) Wrap with filling (A) with vegetables.  <b>Pudding</b>	Chicken Roast (M) Quorn Roast (V) Wrap with filling (A) with potatoes, mixed veg & Yorkshire pudding.  <b>Pudding</b>	Sweet & Sour Chicken (M) Veggie Sweet & Sour (V) Wrap with filling (A) with rice & vegetables.  <b>Pudding</b>	Scampi (M) Spring Roll (V) Jacket Potato (A) with chips, beans & vegetables.  <b>Pudding</b>
<b>Week 3</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> April 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Pepperoni Pizza (M) Cheese Pizza (V) Wrap with filling (A) With vegetables or beans.  <b>Pudding</b>	Spaghetti Bolognese (M) Veggie Bolognese (V) Wrap with filling (A) with pasta & vegetables  <b>Pudding</b>	Sausages (M) Veggie Sausages (V) Wrap with filling (A) With potato tots & vegetables.  <b>Pudding</b>	Pulled Pork Pitta (M) Spicy Corn Fritter (V) Wrap with filling (A) With potatoes & vegetables  <b>Pudding</b>	Sausage Roll (M) Cheese & Onion Roll (V) Jacket Potato (A) With peas or beans  <b>Pudding</b>

A salad bar and fresh fruit is available daily.

