



Dear Parents and Carers,



As we approach the Easter break, it's a good time to reflect on the message of the Easter story. For Christians, this is a time of hope, growth and new beginnings. It reminds us that even in difficult times, there is always the promise of light, joy and fresh starts ahead. It's a message that feels especially meaningful as we look back on our term and consider what is happening in the wider world today.

We are seeing these themes lived out in our school every day. We see hope in the children who show resilience and keep going, even when learning and friendships feel challenging. We see growth in the academic progress they make over time.



And we see new beginnings in the way so many of them approach each day with a fresh start and a positive mindset.



Although it has been a relatively short term, it has certainly been a busy one!

We have continued to Nurture Excellence in all areas of your child's education, with a wide range of experiences including the Year 6 Plas

Pencelli residential, World Book Day, netball and dodgeball tournaments, a dance festival, our Easter service, the iRock concert and our Excellence Assembly.

These experiences, alongside our core teaching and learning, have supported some great achievements - particularly in writing across the school, as well as in phonics in Early Years and Key Stage 1.



We hope the Easter break gives you all the chance to rest, reflect and enjoy time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming the children back next term, refreshed and ready for the opportunities ahead.

Best wishes<

Andrew Denham



Notices and Reminders

New to 2026: Awards & Presentation Evening: Wednesday 15th 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.

North Stars Summer Term Programme

We have some new activities for our wrap-around care and clubs, including:

Art and Craft Club for Year's 1-6; Dance for Year's 1-6; Go For It (lively, active games and challenges) for Year's 1-6; Computer Coding for Year's 3-6

Staffing Update

We are delighted to say that Mrs List and Mr Guy will be returning after the Easter break. We are very grateful to Mrs Snowball and Mrs Wade for covering their classes so well while they have been away. Sadly, Mr Froud will be leaving us after the Easter break to take up a new job in another school and Mrs Tierney will not be returning to Northbourne.

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.

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/v4Rkz3ZjxmwikiF1Z7>

We will then try to allocate bikes based on availability and the information provided.

Summer Term Key Dates

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

Term 5

Monday 13th April : **INSET Day**
Tuesday 14th April: **Start of Term**
Wed 22nd April: **Year 4 Parent Meeting for Youlbury**

4th May: **Bank Holiday**
Mon 11th May to Thurs 14th May :**Year 6 SATS Week**
Friday 22nd May: **Last Day, 3.15pm finish.**

Term 6

Monday 1st June: **Start of Term**
1st to 3rd June: **Year 4 Youlbury Trip**

Wed 8th July: Sports Day: **EYFS (am) KS1&2 (pm)**
Fri 10th July: Sports Day: EYFS (am) KS1&2 (pm) BACK UP
Monday 13th(6pm):**Year 6 Leavers Play & Rounders Match**
Tuesday 14th (10am): **Year 6 Leavers Service at St Peter's**
Wednesday 15th: **Awards and Presentation Evening**
Thursday 16th : **End of Term, 1.15pm Finish.**

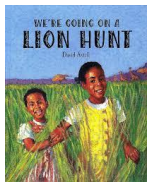
Courage

Compassion

Community

Early Years Team

Mrs Stanley (Swans) and Mrs List (Puffins) write: This term, our learning journey has taken us outside and around the world as we explored the natural environment, discovered important processes in nature, and learned how different communities celebrate special times. We began with Lunar New Year and then moved on to explore what a church is, why it is important to Christians, and how Easter is celebrated.



We started with our key text *The Lion Hunt* by David Axtell. The children enjoyed comparing it with *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and thinking about words that sound like their meaning. They created imaginative descriptive vocabulary for the different settings and used their developing phonics skills to write their own lion descriptions. World Book Day was a highlight, with the children dressing up and exploring a range of texts including *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown and *Sam Plants a Sunflower* by Axel Scheffler and Kate Petty.

Our learning took us into the community as we visited St Peter's Church. The children thought carefully about the route we took, the landmarks we recognised, and what a church means to Christians. Reverend Hannah made us feel very welcome, and we are grateful to all the families who supported us on our first school visit. We also planted sunflower seeds and learned what plants need to grow, linking this to our PSHE focus on healthy eating and the importance of sleep for our minds and bodies.



Inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe, the children created beautiful sunflower sketches and paintings, developing skills such as colour mixing and stippling. In Maths, we explored whole and part numbers and learned about time, including observing how long our seeds take to grow using a time lapse camera.



It has been a busy and exciting term, and the children have worked incredibly hard. Their growing confidence and developing skills have been wonderful to see.

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Community

Year 1 & Year 2 Team

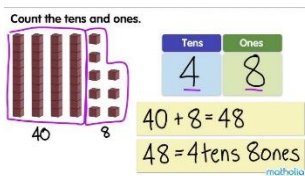
Mrs Jones (Wrens), Miss Pollard (Robins) and Miss Richardson (Nightingales) write: The children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of everything they have achieved.



This term in English, we have been writing exciting setting descriptions about space, thinking carefully about how to uplevel our adjectives to make our writing more vivid and engaging. The children also enjoyed writing instructions for how to brush your teeth in space, using clear steps and bossy verbs. It has also been wonderful to see such pride in presentation, with several children earning handwriting awards.

The children have continued to make great progress in Phonics, working through their Set 2 and Set 3 sounds. Practising the phonics videos at home has really supported their learning, so thank you for your help with this. Please continue using the QR codes in reading records to watch the videos over the Easter holidays.

Phonics



Our Maths learning has focused on developing number knowledge. Year 1 have begun exploring place value up to 50, using practical resources to understand tens and ones. Meanwhile, Year 2 have been learning to count and calculate with money, recognising coins and working out totals.

During PE lessons, the children have been learning to play tennis, practising how to hold the racket and developing their forehand and backhand skills.

There has also been lots of excitement in Science, where the children have carried out a range of hands-on investigations, some of which even included delicious treats!



Our work in Geography has involved comparing Didcot and Abingdon, while developing our map skills and learning how to use compass directions.



Through our RE lessons, we have been learning about Mitzvot in Judaism, meaning good deeds, and thinking carefully about how we can show kindness and help our community.

Finally, in DT, the children learned about healthy eating and safe food preparation, before making a scrumptious fruit salad. Thank you very much for your contributions towards this – we really appreciated your support.

Happy Easter!

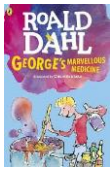
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Year 3 & Year 4 Team

Mr Guy (Owls), Mrs Smith (Falcons) and Miss Hagger (Hawkes) write: This term, Year 3/4 have enjoyed a wide range of exciting learning experiences. In Literacy, we began by exploring the beautiful picture book *Ocean Meets Sky*. The children used the stunning illustrations as inspiration to write their own imaginative endings, while developing their understanding of figurative language such as similes and metaphors.



Later in the term, we moved on to creating our own “marvellous medicines” inspired by George’s Marvellous Medicine. The children thoroughly enjoyed inventing imaginative and revolting ingredients, resulting in some wonderfully creative writing.

In Maths, we have had a focus on fractions, with all children making great progress in their understanding. Our Year 4 pupils have also been working hard in preparation for the MTC, showing determination and enthusiasm.

Our Design and Technology project involved designing and making a healthy wrap. As part of this, the children were fortunate to visit a local restaurant- Zigana’s, where they learned about food hygiene and preparation (and were lucky enough to sample some of their delicious food!)



In Science, we have been developing our skills in working scientifically. The children have learned how to plan, carry out and evaluate investigations, with a focus on rocks and growing chia seeds. They showed great curiosity and teamwork throughout.

In RE, we explored the question: “Why do Muslims call Muhammad the ‘Seal of the Prophets?’” The children gained a deeper understanding of his significance within Islam and engaged thoughtfully with the topic.



Finally, in Geography, our focus on Mountains allowed the children to locate major ranges around the world and in the UK, understand how they are formed, and describe their key features.

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Year 5 & Year 6 Team

Mrs. Kandola (Kites), Miss Hill (Eagles) and Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) write: It has been a fantastic term for our Year 5 and 6 children in Kite, Eagle and Kestrel Class, with so many opportunities to learn new skills, challenge themselves and show their enthusiasm for learning.



Our Year 6 pupils who spent the week at Plas Pencelli Outdoor Education Centre had an amazing time. They embraced every opportunity, trying new activities and demonstrating excellent teamwork and resilience. Alongside the outdoor adventures, they also learnt some important life skills — including how to make their beds and even how to use a Hoover! We were incredibly proud of how they represented the school during the trip.

Meanwhile, our Year 5 children impressed us during their Bikeability sessions. They truly wowed us with their enthusiasm and determination as they developed their cycling skills and confidence on the road.



In PE this term, all children have been developing their tennis skills. It has been wonderful to see the progress they have made, with many showing a real desire to continue improving and practising these skills. We may have been nurturing some future Wimbledon champions.



In History, we have been learning about life in Ancient Greece. The children have developed their historical skills by investigating primary sources of evidence and asking thoughtful questions about the past. They have absolutely loved learning about this fascinating ancient civilisation. Ancient Greece has also provided the stimulus for our literacy learning this term. The children worked incredibly hard to produce BBC-style news reports based on Ancient Greek myths, creating exciting headlines such as: “Trojan Defences Breached; Giant Wooden Horse Left as ‘Offering’ Proves Fatal.” Their creativity and writing skills have truly shone.

In RE lessons, the children have shown a real interest in and respect for learning about different religions and beliefs. This term we focused on Islam and explored the importance of the Qur’an, discussing why it is such a special and significant text for Muslims.



Finally, we would like to say how proud we are of the way all the children approached their assessments this term. They showed maturity, resilience and a positive attitude, giving their very best effort and positive attitude throughout the term - well done, UKS2!

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Community

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>	Dance (Y1-6) <i>Hip, Hop and Bop</i>	Little Ones Football (R-Y2) <i>Pass, Dribble, Shoot</i>	
	Archery (Y3-6) <i>Precision, Focus, Steadiness</i>	Art and Craft (Y1-6) <i>Cut, Stick, Make</i>	Go For It! (Y1-Y6) <i>Active Games & Challenges</i>	Coding (Y3-6) <i>Explore, interact, create</i>	
	Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create</i>	Chill Zone (R-Y6) <i>Relax, play, create</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