



**NORTHBOURNE
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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"if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible."
(Matthew: 17 v20)

HEADTEACHER: MR M. REYNOLDS

SENCO: MRS K. MORRISON

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MRS C. WINSLADE

JOINT VICE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MR B. SEMPLE & MR C. THOMPSON

5th January 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,



Welcome back to Northbourne for the start of Term 3. I hope you all enjoyed a festive and restful break amongst all the hurry and excitement of Christmas.

As we start the new term there are a few updates and reminders for you:

Car Park update

I am sure you have all noticed and appreciated the resurfaced car park! Work took place between Christmas and New Year to scrape back the ground, lay a new bed of chalk down and then resurface with the scalping and earth. We are all hopeful this will give the car park a fighting chance against the pot holes.

Please remember that the car park is not school land. We have it on a very generous lease from the local land owners. Without the car park it would be incredibly difficult to operate a school here. We are responsible for the up-keep of the car park, therefore we ask that everybody drives slowly and carefully through the car park. You will notice divots appearing where car tyres churn up the earth. The more care we take in the car park, the longer it will last before needing more school money spent on it.

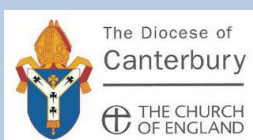
Thank you for your understanding and care with the car park.



Uniform and warm clothing for the winter months

January and February naturally brings very cold weather up here at Northbourne. Please do make sure that your child has warm clothing with them, particularly for PE days and Forest School. As you know, we don't let the weather stop us from heading outside, even when it is cold and wet.

Plenty of layers, waterproofs, hats and gloves are important when out at Forest School; and warm jogging bottoms for PE days are better than spending the whole day in PE shorts!



Jurassic excitement in Willow Class!



There was great excitement in Willow class this week, when the pupils returned from their holiday to find a dinosaur egg, nestled in their play area!

The children will be watching the egg very carefully over the coming weeks. We can't wait to hear all about this discovery and to see what hatches from the egg!



Mining history in Maple Class



The pupils in Maple Class will be learning all about mining this term, including the local history of mining in this part of Kent.

We know that a number of our Northbourne families and friends will have links with the mining history of Betteshanger and beyond. If you have any photographs, artefacts or pieces of history that you would be willing to share with Maple class, please do contact the school. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in coming to talk to the children, again please contact the school.

Later this term Maple class will be visiting the Kent Mining Museum at Betteshanger Park, to learn more about this important part of our local history.

Wizard Stories – workshops for Years 4 – 6



Earlier this academic year our pupils enjoyed a fabulous drama workshop with Wizard Stories, aimed at inspiring and developing their storytelling skills. The pupils had such a wonderful time that we have engaged with Wizard Stories again and are pleased to say that they will be working with us here at Northbourne for the coming term!

Wizard Stories are delivering a whole term of drama and storytelling workshops to our older pupils in Hazel and Oak class. The pupils will take part in a half day workshop every Wednesday throughout Term 3.

We know that the pupils will enjoy these active and exciting workshops, as they develop their creative storytelling skills. Miss Cooper and Mr Martin will be following up these sessions with writing lessons in the class.





Epiphany Service

This morning, considering the inclement weather, we decided to hold our Epiphany Service at school rather than at St Augustine's Church.

Father Andrew led the service for Oak and Hazel Class and was joined by Mr Semple. He used a video of the Saddleback Kids version of the Bible story of

the Wise Men travelling to see Jesus. He then showed us the three wise men that would be in the Nativity Scene at the church in Northbourne and talked about the gifts they brought. He reminded us that the gifts were practical as well as symbolic.



The children participated well and sang beautifully, the service was a wonderful way to bring our Christmas activities to an end.

Parent Governor Vacancy



We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor on our governing body. We are seeking nominations for an enthusiastic and committed parent or carer to join the governing board.

There are no particular qualifications required for the role, just a commitment of your time and enthusiasm for the school.

The term of office for all governors is four years. If you would like to know further details about this role, please contact the school.

Friends of Northbourne update

Please see below for the start of term update from the Friends of Northbourne, including news of the fundraising from last term and dates for this coming term.

Please do consider volunteering with the Friends of Northbourne. In order for events to run smoothly and successfully we do need as many volunteers as possible. We hope you feel able to help out.

INSET DAYS

The remaining INSET days for Northbourne this academic year take place at the very end of July, on the 22nd and 23rd. These are after the pupils have finished for the summer.

There are no further school closure days planned for the rest of this academic year, beyond any unforeseen emergency closures.

Friends of Northbourne Newsletter



We Need You!

We are planning our next school disco for Friday 2nd February 4.30pm-6pm. If you are able to help us at this event then please leave your name and phone number with Mrs Berridge or alternatively e-mail us on fonorthbourne@outlook.com and we will add you to our whatsapp group for this event.

Once we have volunteers confirmed then tickets will go on sale!



Fundraising Update

Happy New Year to all our families, we hope you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. We want to say a huge thank you to all the support you have shown and update you on the amount we have raised.

Last term we raised an amazing £2529.46, this is broken down into £1803.86 at our Christmas Fair and other Christmas events, £433 from tea towel sales, £75 from tuck shops, £63 from uniform sales and £154.60 from easy fundraising. Thank you to all our volunteers at our Christmas Fair, without you these events would not be possible.

We currently have only 18 supporters signed up to easyfundraising. Please sign up and every time you shop online you will earn us a free donation, without costing you a penny!



Dates for your Diary

26th January - Tuck Shop and Uniform Sale

2nd February - School Disco

Christmas Jumpers



Yes...we are already planning Christmas 2024!!! If you have any outgrown Christmas jumpers that you will not need next year then please consider donating them to Friends of Northbourne, we hope to hold a pre-loved Christmas jumper sale next Christmas!