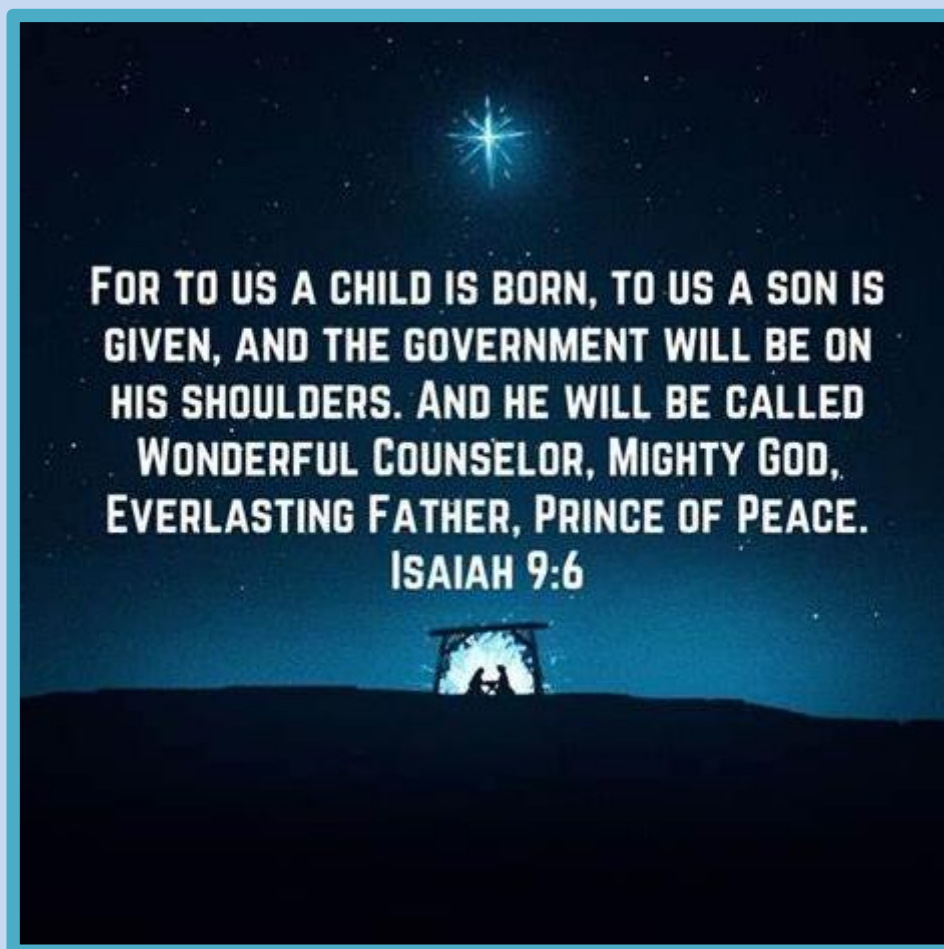


19th December 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,



 **Wishing all the Northbourne CE Primary School community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!** 

**We will see you all on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January, for the start of Term 3.** 

## Nativity performance

Thank you to all of our families and friends who supported the Nativity performances this year. The pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 looked amazing as they presented Simply Nativity to us all! We hope you enjoyed the singing, acting and spectacular costumes! Well done to all of our fabulous performers and narrators.

The children have had a truly festive few weeks at school and it has been lovely to be able to open up the doors and welcome you all into the school for these special events.



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## Christmas Singing & Christingle Service

This week we have rounded off our Christmas celebrations with an afternoon of Christmas singing at school followed by our traditional Christingle service at St Augustine's church in Northbourne village.

The pupils have learnt about the meaning of the Christingle this week, as they all had the opportunity to make a Christingle for themselves. The pupils learnt that the orange represents the world, the sweets and fruit show God's goodness, the ribbon represents God's love, and the candle is Jesus, the light of the world.



Thank you to all the family and friends who were able to join us for these two events. We hope you enjoyed the children's festive singing, prayers and readings as much as we did.



## Christmas Fair



Thank you to everybody who supported the Christmas Fair last week. The Friends of Northbourne are busy counting up the money raised over all of the Christmas events. We will update you with the total in the new year.

Thank you all so much for your support and generosity! All of the money raised will go towards supporting the pupils at Northbourne throughout the coming year.

Thank you to the Friends of Northbourne and all of the volunteers who helped to make the Christmas Fair such a success.

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## A visit from Father Christmas!



We were very excited when Father Christmas dropped into school on Wednesday afternoon this week, to surprise all of the pupils. He took time out of his very busy schedule to visit each of the classes and hand out an early Christmas present to everybody.



The pupils were extremely excited to welcome him into their classrooms, and they all showed lovely manners as they thanked him for their gift!

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## Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day



Wednesday saw the whole school dressed in bright, festive, Christmas jumpers as we all gathered in the school hall to enjoy our Christmas lunch together. All of the adults in school served the pupils their lunch, and each child had a cracker to pull with their friends. Christmas music was playing and a round of applause was given for Louise and Tracy, our wonderful school cooks. It was a lovely way to top off our week of Christmas celebrations!

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## Oak class discover the Kingdom of Benin

This term, Oak Class have been learning about the Kingdom of Benin, and on Wednesday, they were fortunate to be able to meet Virgile, who can trace his family back to the Kingdom of Benin and the Kingdom of Dahomey.

It was fascinating to meet Virgile and listen to him talking about the history of Benin and see some of the artefacts he brought with him. He showed the children items which belong to his family and are passed to the chief, through generations - these are unique to each family, so we were very fortunate to be able to see such unusual and special items!



We saw items that he would wear as chief of the family, such as bands around his arm and a special hook which went over his shoulder and had the family symbol of a chameleon on it. The children listened very carefully and asked lots of questions, showing their inquisitiveness! It was a wonderful way to end the topic of learning about the Kingdom of Benin!

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**\*Please note:**

**Tuesday 7th January – Start of Term 3 for all pupils**

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## The Big Question:

Is it better to give or receive a gift?



## Attendance Update

This week's attendance percentages: Week beginning 19.12.24.

**Willow**  
**88%**

**Beech**  
**81%**

**Maple**  
**89%**

**Hazel**  
**94%**

**Oak**  
**93%**

**Whole school  
cumulative this  
year  
96%**

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### A prayer for Christmas – read by Eada Arnett at today's Christingle service

Lord Jesus - light of the world – as we hold our Christingles, thank you for your great love for us and creation. We especially pray for people in places of darkness at this time – children and families who do not have enough food, clean water or safe places to call home. Help us to take this light into the world and to share your love with others. Amen

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