



# Northbourne News

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012

Term 3 ends at 3pm next Friday.

We re-open as normal on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

## Brilliant behaviour

We are very proud of the behaviour of our pupils at Northbourne. During school visits, we are often complimented on the behaviour of the children, and members of the public have, in the past, phoned me at school to pass on these comments. One of the systems which contributes so strongly to this is our system of behaviour management. As you may know, we have three school rules:

1. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
2. Follow instructions first time
3. Speak kindly to others

These rules ensure that all pupils are safe in school and can learn in a respectful, calm environment. Reward systems and sanctions across the school are used to reinforce these rules. A system of warnings is used when children choose to break our whole-school rules; each warning comes with an escalating series of consequences. We see parents and relatives as crucial partners in ensuring that behaviour at school is as good as possible, and parents are informed at the earliest possible stage if there are any ongoing problems or if any behaviour is a cause for concern. This enables any unacceptable behaviour to be followed up at home, and reinforces to pupils the partnership between home and school.

These school rules are also applied at lunchtimes or break-times; at these times, any unacceptably rough behaviour, any swearing, or any other behaviour which breaks our rules is not tolerated and children who break these rules are given a yellow card. This means their behaviour is monitored closely by lunchtime supervisors and senior staff for the next 5 lunchtimes. Failure to follow the school rules during this period results in pupils choosing to miss their breaks and lunchtimes whilst this behaviour is addressed.

Fortunately, we give out far more rewards than we do sanctions! Pupils are given class points for good behaviour in lessons and around the school, and you may have seen Good Citizenship certificates come home in book bags; these are given in exchange for excellent behaviour at lunchtimes. Individual teachers also give out their own certificates to recognise good work and achievement, and I sometimes give gold or silver headteacher award stickers...although these are very difficult to earn and reflect only the very best work or behaviour!

## Times Tables Talents...

We are continuing to focus on mastering our times tables this term. The national expectation is that **all tables will be known by heart by the end of Y4**. Knowing by heart involves knowing both times tables facts – for example,  $3 \times 4 = 12$  and  $4 \times 3 = 12$  – and also knowing each one ‘backwards’ as a division fact – for example  $12 \div 3 = 4$  and  $12 \div 4 = 3$ . The associated division fact is often the hardest for pupils to remember and can stop them reaching their target – despite the child being able to recall the multiplication fact.

Class teachers will be able to provide more details on the tables your child is currently working on – please ask any questions you may have about this at your parent consultation meeting, when teachers will be happy to provide any help or advice to help you support your child learning these important facts at home.

### Dates for the diary

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 10:30am

Please join us to say farewell to Father Edward in a special service at St. Peters.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 3pm

End of term 3

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> (3:15 – 5pm) and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> (4 – 7pm) February

Parent consultation meetings

## Parent consultations

You should find with this letter a reply slip for parent consultation meetings, which will take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February. These meetings are a very valuable chance for teachers to update you on your child's progress at this halfway point of the year, and we hope you will be able to make an appointment to discuss this. Please note we try to meet as many time requests as possible, but appointments are given on a first-come, first-served basis – so please get your reply back to your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

## Kites and Eagles news

Miss Newton and Miss Murphy are looking forward to seeing the home learning from Kites and Eagles on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Parents and family members are warmly invited to share this work on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March, during the Y5 and 6 World War II event. We hope lots of you can join us.

## Club news

Due to staff training, Basketball Club and Choir will not take place next week. Both will resume during the first week back after half term. Many apologies for any inconvenience this causes.

## Community News

Active Zone is running at Didcot Leisure Centre from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. There is a huge range of Sports and Arts & Crafts to try your hand at. We offer full days, mornings and afternoons so that we can cater for your needs. For children aged 5-12 years old. Call now on 01235 811250 to book your child's space today!

Neighbourhood Kids  February Day Camp  
**Winter Fun Camp 13-17 February 2012**

**Who says winter needs to be dreadful and depressing??  
Why be bored this school holiday?**

All children ages 3-11 are welcome to join us for lots of frosty fun during the upcoming school holiday! With a huge variety of activities mixed with lots of free play time and topped off with special events happening each day there's definitely something for all children to enjoy.

### **FEATURING**

**Mon: Who Am I TODAY?**

**Tues: Will U B My V-A-L-E-N-T-I-N-E?**

**Wed: Fashion Day**

**Thurs: Leap Day Day**

**Fri: The Show Off Show!**

**Full days less than £2.75 per hour!**

**Contact us to secure a place for your child!**

**Childcare Co-ordinator 07599 018 627 [www.willowcroft.org.uk/childcare.asp](http://www.willowcroft.org.uk/childcare.asp)**

Neighbourhood Kids is a joint childcare venture of schools in Didcot.

We're partnering for the positive!

Hope to see you on the playground!