



NORTH HINKSEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 17TH DECEMBER

TERM 2 VALUE: THANKFULNESS

SCHOOL UPDATES

END OF TERM

We will be finishing after lunch on Friday 18th December, at the following times:

Usual pick up	3.00pm	3.10pm	3.20pm
Friday 18th December pick up	12.50pm	1.00pm	1.10pm

STREET TAG

Well done to everyone who is part of the North Hinksey Street Tag team. We are still in third place with over 1,600,000 points! Points for this round continue to be counted until 28th December so keep it up!

STAFFING

We say goodbye to Mrs Colucci and Mrs Edmonds today. A huge thank you to both of them for all their work for the school. We hope to see you soon!

CONTACT

As explained in the Parentmail sent, we will be available during the Christmas holidays for parents to inform us of any positive cases. The reason for this is that when a positive case for a child or member of staff is confirmed, we are required to inform anybody who has had close contact with that person in the 2 days before symptoms started, that they must follow the Government guidance for self-isolation (same as NHS Test and Trace). This creates the scenario that a child or member of staff could develop symptoms on either Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th December, access a test and have a positive case confirmed and we would then be required to identify all persons who were in contact with that person on Thursday 17th and/or Friday 18th to tell them they must self-isolate until 14 days since the first day of the positive person's symptoms.

To facilitate this, please text 07787 398029 if your child has a positive test at any point up to and including **Thursday 24th December**. This phone will receive texts only and will be checked daily. A senior member of staff will then get in touch with you. Please note that the instruction to self-isolate is given by the Department for Education Public Health team. We as a school are obliged to contact them immediately upon being made aware of a confirmed positive case within our school community. **Between 25th December and 4th January**, please email the office if your child has a positive test. As during term-time, any communication regarding the need for your child to self-isolate as the result of being in close contact with someone within school who has tested positive, will be via ParentMail, so it is vital all families read any ParentMail messages they receive over the Christmas holidays.

THANKFULNESS

Well done to the following children for demonstrating our value of the term, 'thankfulness'. This includes always using good manners, saying please and thank you and identifying what we can be thankful for.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Idris	Sofia	Hannah	Natasha	Romelo	Cecilia	Ameera
Jonah	Harry D	Lucas	Isla	Shaan	Samuel	Diego
Lyra	Eva	Ida	Ibrahim	Martha	Matthew M	Libby
Aaditri	Tom	Shayan	Callum	Isabelle O	Raffy	Finlay
Caelan	Max	Ethan	Erica	Sienna	Rafe	Daria
Ishmael		Lucy S				

BOOKSHELVES ACHIEVEMENTS THIS WEEK

Bronze—Holly (3)

Silver—Melissa (1), Samuel (6), Isaak (1), Lucy M (3), Max (1)

Gold—Molly (3)

LUNCH MENU

From January, there will be a new lunch menu. This includes an option of hot food from Monday to Thursday each week and packed lunch bag option every day. You will be able to book for the whole term so please check carefully when booking to ensure the correct dates and options are completed. You will still need to book at least 24 hours in advance.

HOMELESS COLLECTION

Thank you for all your kind donations for homeless people in Oxford. The parcels will be delivered on Christmas Eve to people experiencing homelessness by the Botley community fridge's magnificent cycle delivery team. The Christmas Eve festivities will include a warm dinner, music, warm apple juice, a packaged Christmas meal provided by the Dragon School, and the Christmas presents from us. Thank you to Mrs Colucci for organising this and to Rikki for liaising with us to organise all the boxes.



YEAR 6 CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

This week Year 6 have been designing Christmas jumpers. Our school Art Ambassadors, Edie and Samuel, selected their three favourites, judged on overall design and use of colour.



Ameera



Thuwayba



Emily

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Some of our KS2 classes have been using Google Internet Legends online resources to help them understand how to use online games and the internet safely and wisely. For more information, and to play the games at home, [click here](#).

WRAP AROUND CARE

As you will be aware, we are currently unable to offer Breakfast Club or After School Club. Ruth Vaughan (Pre-School Manager) and I have reviewed the situation and unfortunately we are still not in a position to offer either facility, and are unlikely to be able to in the near future.

We appreciate that this is frustrating for working parents, particularly as you may be aware that some other primary schools are currently offering wrap-around care. Our school is in a particularly unique situation as the staffing and arrangements for the wrap-around care is managed by the pre-school and the sessions take place in their building. We have explained the issues we face below.

Cleaning

Within current COVID restrictions, any area being used by both school children for wrap-around and pre-school children would need to be cleaned thoroughly between sessions. There is not enough time for this to happen.

Mixing of Children

Children in wrap-around care mixing with each other will increase the risk of the spread of COVID and the likelihood of children and staff being requested to self-isolate. This is particularly true for our situation as the wrap-around care could include pre-school children, as well as school children from all year groups. We have worked very hard in both settings to keep each class of children completely separate to each other and a wrap-around facility would change this for both pre-school and school.

Staffing

Mixing with additional children increases the risk of the spread of COVID and the likelihood of staff being requested to self-isolate. Any situation of staff self-isolation increases work load for other members of staff and we are aware of some settings who have had to close classes, or indeed the whole setting, due to staff self-isolation. This situation is particularly difficult as staff working in the wrap-around care only receive 5 days paid 'sick' followed by statutory sick pay.

Space

We have considered if there is a space in school that could be used for wrap-around care. Of the 15 local schools we have contacted, those that are running wrap-around care either have a dedicated space within school they use or use an external space, e.g. a village hall. We do not have a space available in either pre-school or school.

Next Steps

Ruth and I are keen to continue to work together to explore options, both for during the period of time while COVID restrictions are in place, and looking to the future when things return to normal. To help guide us with this, we would appreciate it if you could complete the Parentmail form that will be sent home soon to indicate if you would definitely use wrap-around care if it was available, either now and/or from September 2021. Please note that any wrap-around care offered during times of COVID restrictions, is very different to the previous provision. Following Government guidance, the provision is most likely be children sat at a table using their own set of equipment with very little opportunity for free play, sharing of resources or mixing with others.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS



Congratulations to Samuel G (Year 5) for coming 1st place in the Cadets A final championship!

Congratulations to Neo for achieving distinction in his Grade 1 piano exam.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Communications Team Administrator £17,575 p.a.

Term-time only, 37 hours a week.

Do you have great office IT skills, especially with spreadsheets and databases / Management Information System? Matthew Arnold School requires an Administrator to join its communications team. A job description and application details are at www.maschool.org.uk/contact/vacancies.

Matthew Arnold School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check is required for the successful applicant.

Free Christmas Hampers for local households on a low income

How to request a hamper and donations wanted



Christmas is around the corner and with the global pandemic it has been a challenging year for many local households. We are providing hampers for households with a low income in West Oxford, Botley, North Hinksey and Cumnor.

Requests for a hamper from households on a low income can be made by adults in the household or by adults on behalf of a household by one of the following methods:

1. Online: <https://forms.gle/NTEmQVSoiJ2AY1Jp8>
2. Downloading a form from the Botley Bridges website - www.botleybridges.org, and e-mailing the form to sue@botleybridges.org.
3. Completing a form and handing in to your school or pre-school – schools will have hard copies available.

We are also looking to our local community to spread some Christmas cheer.

Can you donate?

- Dried food
- Christmas treats
- Wrapped gifts for children or adults (stating age and sex suitable for)

Donations can be dropped off at St Peter and St Pauls Church Hall, Botley on Monday 22nd December from 2-5pm or Tuesday 23rd December from 10-4pm. If you cannot drop off at these times please e-mail sue@botleybridges.org to arrange an alternative venue and time.

This is a joint venture between the Community Larder, Food for Charities and Botley Bridges Family Support.

Thanks also to grant funding from Vale of White Horse District Council, donations and lots of volunteers.

Many thanks and a Merry Christmas to you all.

DATES

Friday 18th December	End of Term 2	12.50, 1.00, 1.10
Tuesday 5th January	Start of Term 3 for children (Monday 4th January is an INSET day)	
Friday 12th February	End of Term 3	Normal time
Monday 22nd February	Start of Term 4	
W/b 8th March	Parents' evenings	TBC
W/b 22nd March	SEN review meetings	TBC
Wednesday 31st March	End of Term 4	1pm
Monday 19th April	Start of Term 5	
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday	
W/b 10th May	Year 6 SATs	
Friday 28th May	End of Term 5	Normal time
Tuesday 8th June	Start of Term 6 for children (Monday 7th June is an INSET day)	
W/b 28th June	SEN review meetings	TBC
Wednesday 21st July	End of Term 6	1pm

Term dates for 2020-21 are available on the school website. Please click [here](#) for a link.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday and we look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday 5th January.

