

FRIDAY LETTER



Friday 31st January 2025



VALUE FOCUS - This half-term our value focus is **Aspiration**. We are challenging all the children to ensure:

- ✓ Aim high.
- ✓ Be the very best they can be.
- ✓ Be resilient in their learning.
- ✓ To support others to be the best they can be!

Star of the Week Awards

Reception – Payton M & Jacob W

Year 1 – Kyren G & Zachary M

Year 2 – Amelia L & Nancy W

Year 3 – Molly B & Noah R-S

Year 4 – Millie H & Alex P

Year 5- Elouise F & Oliver P

Year 6 – Aahil M & Caoimhe M

This Week's Best Attendance Reception- 97.7%

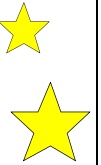


Red Panda Team	654
Lion Team	884
Blue Whale Team	861
Green Turtle Team	821

House Team Competition:

Each week in the 'Friday Celebration Assembly' we have been checking the totals of the house points....

The **LIONS** are still in the lead!



Reading Rewards... We want our children to read at home at least three times per week. To reward the children who regularly read at home and have their reading record signed, we have introduced a bronze, silver and gold reward system! To achieve the bronze award pin badge the children need to earn 60 reading points, silver 200 reading points and gold 300 reading points. Well done to the children below for achieving an award this week...



Bronze Awards:

Year 3	Elise B & Lewis T
Year 6	Cara T



Reception: This week, reception have enjoyed tasting foods that may feature within the Chinese New Year. Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, is a significant cultural celebration marking the start of the lunisolar calendar. The festival holds deep importance in Chinese culture and is observed with various traditions and festivities. The holiday marks the arrival of the Year of the Snake. As a grand finale to their Lunar New Year celebration, reception held their very own Dragon dance parade. They worked hard to make and paint the dragon and learned some fancy dragon moves!



Year 3: This week the children have been learning about how a fossil is formed with Miss Sharrock. They used sand, soil and stone to learn about the different stages of fossilisation.

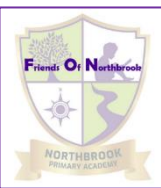




Dance from the Heart: On Tuesday afternoon Year 5 and Year 6 dance leaders attended Worden Academy with Miss Harvey, to learn the steps to this year's South Ribble 'Dance From The Heart' routine. Our amazing leaders will now be tasked teaching the routine to the rest of teamNPA!



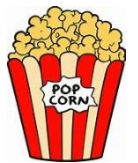
School Council: Today, the school council had the opportunity to meet with Mrs Shorrocks, our new Executive Headteacher. Earlier in the week, the council collated questions from their peers that they would like to ask Mrs. Shorrocks to get to know her better. The children were great representatives of their classes and enjoyed getting to know Mrs Shorrocks as she answered all the questions they had prepared. The council will be feeding back to their classes next week so all our children understand the answers she gave.



Kids Night In: On Thursday 13th February, FON are hosting another kids' night in! There will be a choice of films to watch and a choice of food to enjoy. The films will be soon chosen by our school council and all children will then be given the option to pick which they prefer!

There will be several payment items set up on Arbor so please read the following information carefully.

- **Film and food only** - The cost of the film night and food is £4.50, please make payment on FON Film Night 13.2.25 (HOTDOG) or FON Film Night 13.2.25 (PIZZA) depending on your child's food choice. Please note, food includes hot dog or pizza, crisps and a drink.
- **Film, food and popcorn** - If your child would also like a bag of salted or savoury popcorn, this can be paid for on a separate payment item FON Film Night 13.2.25 with Popcorn (PIZZA) or FON Film Night 13.2.25 with Popcorn (HOTDOG) at £5.50.
- **After School Club attendees** - For those children who normally attend our paid After School Club on a Thursday, all children will watch the film of their choice but have their usual snack in After School Club, however, if your child would like to have the food provided by FON, please pay £2.50 on the payment item FON Film Night 13.2.25 ASC.



Deadline for bookings is Tuesday 11th February.

On the day, children will stay after school, all children need to be collected at 5.15pm. Details of which door to collect from will be sent nearer the time. Thank you!

- The main staff car-park is not to be used for drop off at the start of the school day or pick up at the end of the school day.
- Children attending 8:30am breakfast club need to wait outside the reception entrance so staff starting work can sign.
- Children's water bottles should contain water and not fruit juice or fizzy pop.
- Children should not bring toys in to school. This includes things such as keyrings and fidget toys. Sensory support needs are to be discussed with Miss Sharrock in her role as SENDCo.



- Earrings should be stud earrings only. Earrings need to be removed for PE days. If children can not remove their own earrings it should be done at home before they leave school.
- Long hair should be tied back each day.
- Reading at home should take place at least three times per week. Thank you for your support it really does make a difference to your child.
- Curriculum overviews, homework grids and the club timetables for each class can be found on our website here [Classes | Northbrook Primary Academy](#).

Thank you for your continued support!



Last week, we have sent out an important letter to parents regarding a leadership update for NPA. Please check your inbox or jump on the link below to our website to read the letter... [Letters | Northbrook Primary Academy](#).



We are excited to inform you that next week we will be joining in with national Children's Mental Health week. This week will focus around helping children understand what mental health is and how we can keep ourselves and our minds healthy. The theme of this year's event is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' in partnership with Here4You, supported by The Walt Disney Company and the Inside Out 2 characters. We will be joining in with various activities throughout the week to help us recognise our emotions and learning strategies to help nurture our mental health. **On Friday 7th February we are inviting**

children to celebrate Children's Mental Health week by coming into school in non-uniform. We are asking children to come into school dressed as, or in the colours of one of the emotions in Inside Out 2 or the monsters from the story 'The Colour Monster'. Alternatively, your child can come to school dressed in clothes that can represent their personality, e.g. a uniform for a club they attend, a favourite jumper etc. As always, we thank you for your continued support and are looking forward to sharing our activities with you next week!



This week in our in-class picture news assemblies, we learned that new data has shown that 2024 was the Earth's hottest year on record, warming by 1.5 Degrees Celsius. Around 200 countries had agreed to help keep the temperature rise below this figure because scientists say that increases could cause more extreme weather. This includes events such as heatwaves, storms and wildfires. The children then considered how our actions have a direct impact on the world around us!



Democracy

We all have the right to share our ideas and be listened to. At COP29, world leaders showed democracy in action by working together to make decisions that will protect our planet.

Key Dates:

- Week beginning Monday 3rd February – Children's Mental Health Week
- Week beginning Monday 3rd February - TLP Meetings with Parents (times arranged with class teachers)
- Tuesday 11th February – Whole Borough KS2 Cross-Country
- Thursday 13th February – Year 4 Cuerden Park Visit
- Thursday 13th February – Year 3 and Year 4 Whole Borough Sports Hall Athletics
- Thursday 13th February – FON Film Night (3:15-5:30pm)
- Friday 14th February – Literacy Kicks Year 5
- **Friday 14th February – School closes for half-term at 3:10/3:15pm**



If you need to contact school please do not hesitate to email enquiries@northbrookpa.org

Tel: 01772 421599 [Contact Us | Northbrook Primary Academy](#)

Have a great weekend! See you on Monday 3rd February.

TAKEHOME

17th January
- 2nd February



**Who should be involved
in key decisions for
the world?**

In the news this week

New data has shown that 2024 was the Earth's hottest year on record, warming by 1.5°C. Around 200 countries had agreed to help keep the temperature rise below this figure because scientists say that increases could cause more extreme weather. This includes events such as heatwaves, storms, and wildfires.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Share what you know about climate change with others at home, and ask others to share their understanding.
- > Do you think more could and should be done to tackle climate change? If so, what and by whom?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Message in a Bottle!

An Australian man walking along his local beach in Peterborough, in the southeastern state of Victoria in Australia, was very surprised to find a real message in a bottle! The bottle had been sent by an American man, named Joe Johnson, whilst on a cruise ship holiday in Brazil in November 2008. The bottle took 16 years to travel across the southern hemisphere! Mr Johnson said he had sent 'about a hundred' messages in bottles in his life, and that he had launched this one into the Atlantic Ocean, somewhere between Rio and Salvador.



Pictured: Message in a bottle found on beach!
Source: Canva.

Mr Johnson's letter, inside the bottle, promised the finder a reward of \$20 for their trouble of contacting him, to let him know it had been found and where its final location was! One of the funniest parts of this story is that Mr Johnson had thrown many bottles into the ocean on his holidays to Australia, but it was the one he sent from Brazil (approx. 15,000km/10,000m away!) that had made the incredible journey all the way there!

If you were to send a message in a bottle, what would you write?

Mammal Migration

An incredible and unusual natural phenomenon has captured scientists' awe, wonder and interest in Zambia, Africa. Kasanka National Park is currently seeing millions of fruit bats from all over the world flock to its evergreen forests. Scientists aren't exactly sure why the nocturnal mammals are choosing this particular habitat as their home for just three months, but they have said it could be for the delicious fruits that are found there. Whilst there, they play an important role in helping preserve the ecosystem, by

spreading and dispersing fruit seeds when they fly at night. One bat, dropping one seed, in a colony of a million, equals a lot of seed spreading! Like many creatures, they are at risk from habitat loss and hunting, which could affect both animals and humans who rely on the seeds they disperse, once they have grown into plants.

Can you name any other nocturnal animals?



Pictured: Flying fruit bats!
Source: Canva.

Should you be allowed to build homes anywhere?



I think if people have paid for the land they should be able to build their homes on that land.

Jasper

Planetary Parade

It is an exciting time for skywatchers, as throughout January and February, six planets of our solar system will align in the sky. Saturn, Venus, Jupiter, Mars, Uranus and Neptune will form a planetary parade. During this period, you may be able to see Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Saturn with the naked eye in the northern hemisphere! You will need a telescope to see Uranus and Neptune. The celestial event doesn't occur every



Pictured: Looking through a telescope.
Source: Canva.



Pictured: The solar system. **Source:** Canva.

year - the next one won't happen until 2040! The planets will appear to be in a line. They are always on the ecliptic plane (an imaginary line in the solar system on which the planets orbit around the sun), though we typically can't see them! Famous astronaut, Buzz Aldrin, posted on social media, "We may be in the depths of winter, but the coming planetary alignment is something to look forward to at the end of January. We should be able to start seeing things on the 18th and moving into February. I know it's great when the "stars align" but it's something else when the planets get in order!"

Are you interested in planets?

Would you like to see the planets align?

Endangered 'Dancing' Bird Thriving in Captivity

The Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity (ACCB), in Cambodia, has announced their Bengal florican population is 'thriving in captivity'. The birds are being reared in a special facility, where they can develop their wild instincts. The critically endangered birds are ground-dwelling and the largest member of the bustard family. Their numbers are decreasing as the grasslands they live in come under threat. The species are well known for the male birds' elegant courtship displays. Described as an 'aerial dance', they hum, strut, fluff their necks, and can jump up to 2.4 metres in the air to strike impressive poses! Bengal florican eggs laid in the wild are being carefully hatched and then

raised at a conservation centre, as the subspecies was predicted to be extinct by 2023. It is hoped that the semi-captive birds will be able to be reintroduced to the wild.

Do you know any facts about Bengal floricans?

Have you seen the birds' 'aerial dance'?



Pictured: Bengal Florican Management Programme. **Source:** Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity on Facebook.

Should you be allowed to build homes anywhere?



No, because some people are building homes in deserts, beaches and forests and taking animals home!

Ella May

