

## A Message from Ms Yeo

Dear Parents and Carers

So, we are already at that point in the year where we are wishing Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It's coming around more quickly every year! The staff and pupils are all looking forward to a busy final week with school trips, performances, Santa visits and the Christmas lunch.

We have been very pleased to welcome so many new pupils to the school this year - twenty-one so far with a few more joining in January. It's been lovely to see how welcoming our existing pupils have been and how quickly new children have settled into school life.

A real joy this term has been the amount of writing children are doing on Friday mornings (as part of the weekly Big Write) and I often have a queue of proud children lining up for Headteacher awards for their efforts. This is especially rewarding when it's for pupils who have previously not enjoyed writing - great to see that change and progress.

I need to thank all parents again for the time you spend listening to children read at home. This is such a key skill that underpins all learning and so many pupils come to us with significant delay in their attainment. It's wonderful to see the progress they start to make and their enjoyment of their success. This would not be possible without the regular additional practice that they do at home. So thank you from them too!

Ready for the new year we will be welcoming new staff. Ms Carson is joining Juniper as class teacher, with Miss Hedge moving to Aspen. We are pleased also to have Mr Shirkey and Miss Mahoney joining us as permanent staff members after longer periods with us on a temporary basis. Mrs Garland will be returning to us after her maternity leave. I'm sure children will be pleased to see her back in school once more.

Of course, it's with sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Mr Gibney after his many years working across the Trust schools in various roles. We will hold out a secret hope that he may return one day! Children in the school will also know Mr Evans, who works in mainstream schools with our North Star Outreach team and helps us out when able to. As he moves on to a new role elsewhere we want to recognise the work he has done across the city and thank him for his support within NS82°.

It just remains for me to wish you all an enjoyable break, hoping that you manage to stay free of the many viruses that seem to be doing the rounds. Just as a reminder, we do not have an Inset day at the start of Term 3 so will see children back in school on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

**Wendy Yeo – Headteacher**



## Dates for your Diary

**14 December**

Christmas Lunch

**16 December**

Christmas Presentation

**2 January**

Bank Holiday

**3 January**

Start of Term

**9 February**

INSET DAY

**10 February**

INSET DAY

**13 February - 17 February**

Half Term

**31 March**

Easter Presentation

**3 April –14 April**

Easter Holidays



## Hazel class

Term 1 and 2 have been very busy in Hazel class. In term 1 we learnt all about the Romans; what they ate, where they lived, the inventions they brought to Britain and the battles they fought. We used all of our knowledge to create artefacts to exhibit in our class museum. The children then shared their knowledge with adults and children across the school.

Our English was also based on the Romans, we innovated a story about life in Ancient Rome and then learnt a poem about Roman inventions.

In Term 2 our topic was 'Mighty Metal' where we learnt all about forces and materials. This meant we had to carry out lots of experiments, including one at the park!

In English we learnt about an astronaut called Tim Peake and wrote a biography of an adult in school.

In our Maths lessons we have been learning about adding and subtracting using the column method. This was tricky to start with, but we persevered. We have also been learning about multiplication and division, and bar charts.

We have also been practising our African drumming skills and learning how to play a song that we will perform to the school at the end of term.

A big thank you to you all for taking time to read with your child at home, completing the reading records and signing the home school books. Enjoy the break.

Mrs Richardson



# Forest School and gardening at North Star 82°

Forest School offers our learners regular sessions to help them achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands on learning in the natural environment. The children are given the time and space to explore and initiate their own experiences. We are lucky to have a fantastic walled kitchen garden which we help to care for in our class teams. The garden has a series of raised beds and a large greenhouse. We are looking forward to growing vegetables, fruit and flowers throughout the seasons.

Last term we enjoyed a variety of experiences at Forest School while we were learning how to keep ourselves safe outdoors and how to look after our lovely school grounds. Building mini shelters and larger dens proved to be more challenging than initially thought and the children showed great perseverance and team work to produce some great results. Fire lighting is always a favourite activity! Class teams learned how to safely light small fires using a fire steel and natural materials. Patience and persistence are key and all of the children showed great resilience on their way to success. This term, as the weather gets colder, we will be looking forward to lighting a larger camp fire and cooking some treats. Already this term we are enjoying successful Forest School sessions. The children have been creating Autumnal art, filled with colours found in and around our woods. Oak class were rightly proud of the beautiful mandala they made. Top team work!

We returned from the summer holiday to find the garden looking parched and a bit overgrown. Class groups have worked really hard to get the garden looking ship shape again. The raised beds have been cleared of weeds, dug over and topped up with topsoil – that's a lot of heavy work! The children have shown great enthusiasm and can feel rightly proud of how the garden is looking now. The apple and pear trees they planted earlier in the year are all established and looking healthy - we shall look forward to wassailing them in January!

Miss Carr.



## Oak Class



In Oak class we have been learning about the digestive system in science. We have learned how food travels down the oesophagus, into the stomach and through the small intestines and the large intestines. In one science lesson, we made a digestive system by crushing biscuits and bananas, shaking them together with vinegar (stomach) and squeezing the mixture through a pair of tights (intestines) to make our own poo!

We have also been learning about geography. The children can name the 5 oceans of the world, the countries that make the United Kingdom and even some of the seas surrounding Great Britain!



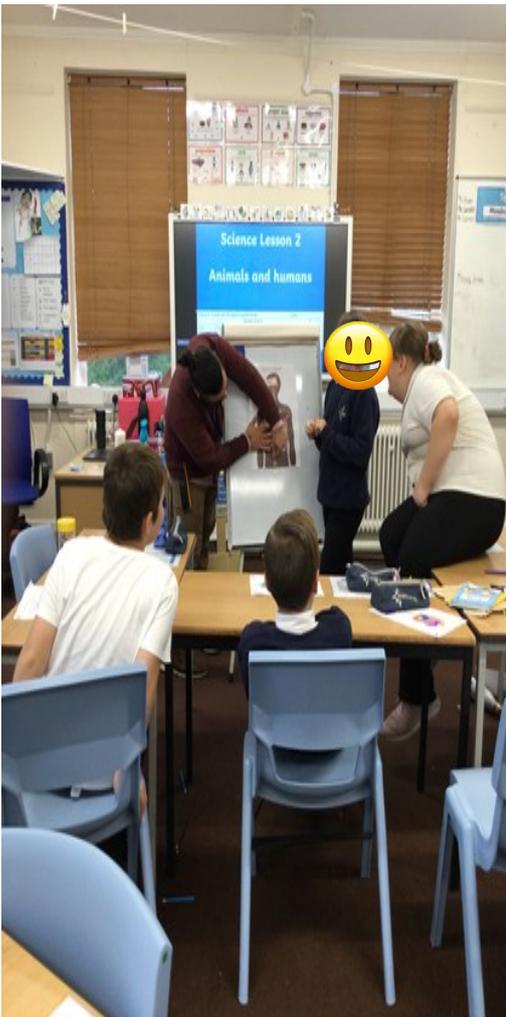
# Chestnut Class



*It has been a very busy Term in Chestnut! We have written a fantastic pirate story, where our main characters went to different places searching for a treasure; and also written some poetry based on the famous Moana song "How far I'll go". The topic for this term was also pirate related, learning about sketching pirate ships, reading maps and learning shanties! In Science, we learnt about how our digestive system works, including our teeth, and how to properly take care of the latter by using appropriate brushing. In Maths, we have been learning about subtracting and adding numbers using bar models to solve word problems and we have also been measuring different objects in metres and centimetres. Children have also made amazing progress during their second Term at swimming, showing great confidence and improved skills! We also enjoyed practising for the Nativity performance during the last weeks of the term.*

*We look forward to another great term in the new year!*

*Mr Chavez*



# Ash Class

Its been a fabulous first two term for Ash class at Northstar 82 making new friends and learning together in our new class. In English we have been learning about the planets we have in our solar system which we continued in science were we have been conducted experiments using ice and water. The children put their scientific language to good use to predict would happen, who knew you could pick up an ice cube with a piece of string! In Maths we have been building on our knowledge of number by using our number bonds to 5, 10 and 20 to answer questions. We have learnt all about animals in our topic and had a visit from a wonderful local vet who told us all about how to look after different species of animals. We have spent lots of time outside in our forest school and gardening sessions culminating with marshmallows by the fire and then taking part in the whole school trip to Noahs ark.



Ash class started the term on a spooky theme, learning and writing about Halloween and of course carving our own pumpkins! We are now space explorers travelling through the galaxy linking our learning to our journey. From the heat of Mercury to the frozen outer planets we have been inspired to look at the properties of Ice in science and create our own experiments including how to stick it to a piece of string using only salt!



## Juniper Class

### Merry Christmas from Juniper!

We have had another packed term in Juniper class. We started off the term celebrating and learning all about Halloween and Bonfire Night. We have spent another couple of weeks learning all about Outer Space – we made our own planets, learnt about the phases of the moon and even made our own rockets that we launched in the playground. We have recently been learning about all things Christmas, including how Christmas is celebrated in other countries, and have been busy making lots of Christmas inspired crafts.

This term also saw the school take part in raising money for Children in Need. Juniper designed and painted mugs for the Make and Bake sale, which they then bought back, along with a lot of cakes! They also took part in a sponsored fun run.



We're teaching every child to read with



### We have a new phonics scheme!

If your child is learning phonics at school then they will be following our new scheme –

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revisited.

This scheme was introduced this term, and we are excited to launch it properly after the Christmas holidays. Little Wandle comes with a parents' page which can be found here –

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to ask your Child's tutor team or myself.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Miss Hedge 😊



# Top Tips for E-Safety at Home

This term's top tip: how to talk to your child about upsetting content

Advice from National Online Safety- a platform for schools and parents.



**1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS**  
There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they have seen.

**2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE**  
Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

**3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE**  
With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what is happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

**4 EMPHASISE HOPE**  
Upsetting content can make us feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

**5 MONITOR REACTIONS**  
All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

**6 CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS**  
It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

**7 SET LIMITS**  
Managing screentime and content can be difficult at the best of times, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try and at least limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screentime limits.

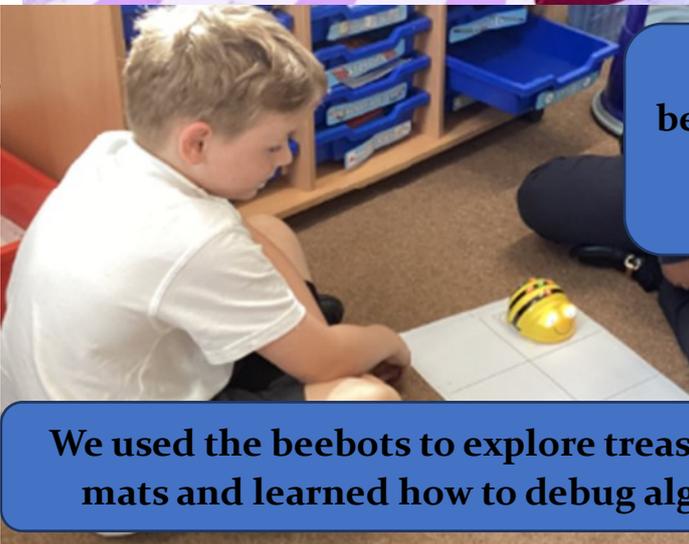
**8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY**  
Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once; instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

**9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS**  
Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

**10 FIND A BALANCE**  
There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

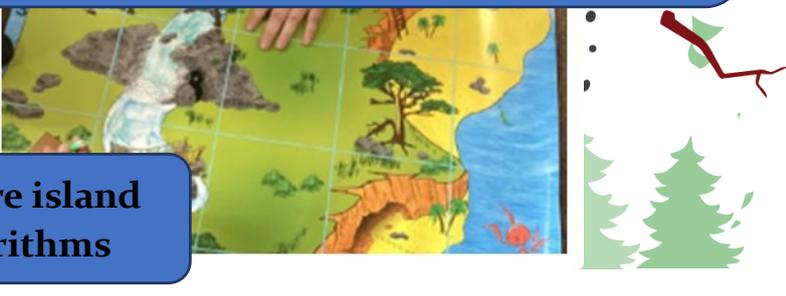
**11 BUILD RESILIENCE**  
News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

**12 IDENTIFY HELP**  
It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.



Children have been using our brand new beebots to learn about giving instructions to robots and making algorithms.

We used the beebots to explore treasure island mats and learned how to debug algorithms



# Beech Class



We have been very busy in Beech class with lots of new faces! In fact, we have been working very hard throughout Term 1 and 2 with many new things to discuss.

In Maths, we have been mastering using our number bonds to help us answer more challenging addition and subtraction calculations. Also, we have been creating our own bar graphs and pictograms!

In English, we have been learning to adapt our very own biographies about famous footballers and boxers! We have completed our own research so we can write life events in chronological order. In term one, we looked at a story and a poem about the Ancient Romans. We concentrated on improving our use of capital letters and full stops in our full sentences. We tried our best to create as many rhyming couplets as possible!

In Topic, we have been looking at Mighty Metals and Ancient Romans. We learnt about different political systems the Romans followed, made our own ancient coins and learnt all about Boudicca. In Mighty Metals, we have been creating our own experiments by focusing on the different forces that act on objects.

In Science, our first focus was on Light. We did various experiments changing the shapes of shadows and looked at how the human eye worked. Then, we have been focusing on Forces. We have been doing experiments about gravity and recently completed an experiment where we measured craters made by different falling objects.

We have also been very busy baking and running for Children in Need, having fun in Forest School, taking the time to get to know each other well and generally being superstars in school!



# Aspen Class

What a fantastic start to the school year we have had in Aspen class. We are lucky enough to have had new students join Aspen class since September. They have been very welcomed and already developed strong friendships within the class and around the school.

In English, we have had some very exciting WOW lessons including discussing Autumn and rhyming words outside with hot chocolate, we have been on a treasure hunt searching for London landmarks and even decorating our Christmas tree (in November). These exciting lessons have allowed the children to become very engaged with the four different English units we have covered. Using talk 4 write has allowed the students to learn and memorise a variety of texts and then use their fantastic imaginations to innovate them.

Maths has been particularly enjoyable this term, with students using their amazing partitioning skills to complete very challenging addition and subtraction equations. Whilst looking at our graphs unit we had an exciting and enjoyable lesson on bar charts with chocolate bars.

Afternoon lessons have allowed us to explore a variety of topics. In term 1 we had a chance to study the UK with a focus on London and its fantastic landmarks. They also thoroughly enjoyed our science unit learning about animals and how to take care of them. This also included a visit from a local Vet to speak to our children about animals.

## PE

This term throughout PE we have braved the cold and improved some key fundamentals of physical movement over a wide variety of sports activities

Our UKS2 have been taking part in football and looking at some of the basic skills which make the beautiful game what it is. We have focused on our dribbling, defending and shooting. Our classes have made massive improvement which most have shown during our break and lunch time football sessions.

Our LKS2 classes have been working on our throwing movements. The what seems common skill has been broken down and looked at in depth about the muscle groups, methods of accuracy and technique used in; long, short, accurate and power throws. We have used a multitude of equipment to explore how different object can be thrown such a tennis balls, rugby balls and javelins.

Our KS1 classes have been working on our dribbling (bounce) and the ball control that surrounds bouncing (dribbling). We've worked on the hand eye coordination skills by exploring our control when bouncing the ball and including passes to team mates. We've also been looking at throwing a ball accurately towards targets which includes skills such as our focus and concentration on the ball and engagement of muscles to contain/ generate the correct amount of power needed to support the accuracy.

It's been a chilly term but we've loved being outside when we can. The children have grown into the responsibility of leading their own warm ups, made fantastic social improvement working in pairs/ small groups and widened our knowledge on new skills that help within our every day life.

## PSHE

During terms 1 and 2 most of the classes have been looking at relationships through our topic TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) and Living in the Wider World looking at Britain.

### TEAM

Through this topic, as a school we have focused on how to communicate kindly, how to work as part of a group and what to do when things go wrong. The children have listed groups they belong to and responsibilities they have. The children started to build the skills necessary to work alongside classmates and we will continue to build on these through the rest of the school year.

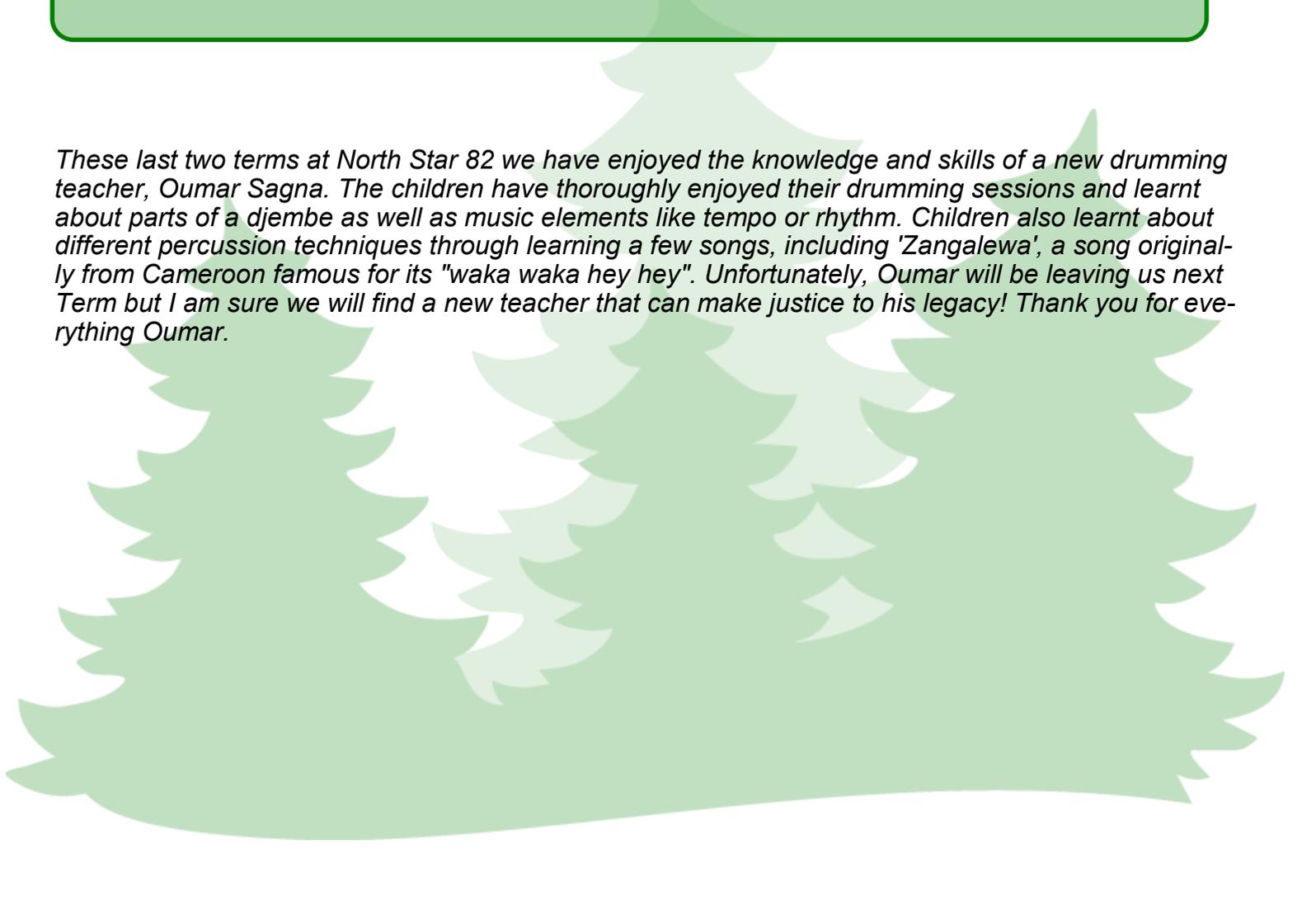
### Britain

Through this topic the children looked at what it meant to be British, including our rules and laws. They then looked at different religions and discussed why we need to show tolerance and what this looks like. Through the school we modelled democracy when voting for our School Council members and Anti Bullying Ambassadors.

The children put the skills from these lessons to the test when we went for trip to Noah's Ark where they were all very tolerant and accepting of the other children they met, and modelled excellent team work.

## Music

*These last two terms at North Star 82 we have enjoyed the knowledge and skills of a new drumming teacher, Oumar Sagna. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their drumming sessions and learnt about parts of a djembe as well as music elements like tempo or rhythm. Children also learnt about different percussion techniques through learning a few songs, including 'Zangalewa', a song originally from Cameroon famous for its "waka waka hey hey". Unfortunately, Oumar will be leaving us next Term but I am sure we will find a new teacher that can make justice to his legacy! Thank you for everything Oumar.*



## Information for Parents and Guardians



We would like to thank The Greggs Foundation again for their generous support of our Breakfast Club and in providing electrical appliances, beds and bedding and food and uniform vouchers to some of our parents / carers.

Not only do they make great cakes and other baked products, but they are generous and supportive in what has been a very difficult year for many people! Their support has been heart-warming.

### SEND Advice and support



#### SEND and You

SEND and You was originally set up as a charity in Avon in 1989 by local parents and professionals. They'd realised that better outcomes could be achieved for **children and young people with SEND** by working together.

Today we make sure that children, young people and their parents or carers get the help they need. SEND and You was formerly named Supportive Parents.

SEND and You now delivers the 'SENDIAS' (Special Educational Needs & Disability Information Advice & Support) service for three local authorities; **Bristol**, **North Somerset** and **South Gloucestershire**. Our office is in Bristol

#### Food Banks and Food Clubs:

School have information about these.

Please contact SENDCO Lucas Wellington for details.

## Benefits and Financial advice

### Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service

#### WRAMAS' Services

- Don't know what you may be entitled to?
- Need some help or advice on a benefit related issue?
- Not sure how to fill in a claim form? Having difficulty writing about your problems?
- Want to know how your other benefits may be affected?
- Would like some advice on a new or existing claim for a disability benefit?

Claiming the right benefits or finding information can be hard work and very confusing, but don't give up! WE CAN HELP.

If you need help or advice there is a confidential helpline available:

**T: (0117) 352 1888 E: [welfare-rights@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:welfare-rights@bristol.gov.uk)**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8.30 am – 1.00 pm (Wednesday closed all day)

If you prefer not to make a call or email us yourself, you can ask a professional working with you, a friend or relative, to contact us on your behalf.

You can also find advice and information, some of it specific to the coronavirus pandemic, on our website: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/benefits-financial-help>



**Free and independent advice and support**  
For North Bristol and South Gloucestershire

- ▶ Welfare Benefits
- ▶ Universal Credit
- ▶ Debt Advice
- ▶ Appeals and representation
- ▶ Help to Get Online

**Enquire using our Advice Tool at [www.northbristoladvice.org.uk](http://www.northbristoladvice.org.uk)**  
Or call 0117 951 5751



Registered Charity number: 1066921

#### Key Numbers:

**Childline:** 08001111

**NSPCC:** 0800 800 5000

**Samaritans:** 116 123

**Next Link Domestic Abuse Telephone Help Line:** 08004700280

Mon – Fri 8.30-5.30 and 1pm Saturday.

#### Social services:

South Gloucestershire – Access and Response Team – 01454 866000

North Somerset- Single Point of Access – 01275 888808

Bath and North East Somerset – BANES – 01225396312 or 01225 396313

# Important Reminders



## School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is £2.45 per day and needs to be paid promptly to the office.

## Uniform

A quick reminder that the uniform consists of

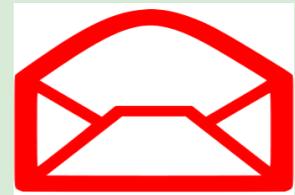
- Plain white long sleeved shirt or plain white polo shirt or White NS82° Polo Shirt
- Blue NS82° Jumper
- Black Trousers or Black Skirt
- Black shoes.
- Jewellery – a wristwatch and a single stud in each ear are permitted.
- Facial piercings are not permitted.
- Hair must be of standard school style with no extremes in colour, cut or styling.

## Trainers are not permitted as part of school uniform

Uniform can be purchased from the office at the cost of £10 for a Jumper and £7 for a Polo Shirt.

PE T-shirts are available from the office at the cost of £7

## School Communications



Our main way of communicating with you will now be via **email**. This will ensure that you get information quickly and means we reduce our carbon foot-print as a school.

If we do not yet have your email address please email the school with your Child's full name.

If you need support creating a free email address please contact the school office.

## Office information

### Phone number:

0117 377 2175

### Email:

northstar82@northstar-academyco.uk

**A reminder of the importance of any forms that are sent home to be filled in and returned to school as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the office, who will be more than happy to help.**

## Safeguarding

In order to keep your children safe at all times we must be able to reach you so we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of keeping your details up to date with the school office. Please inform us of any changes as soon as they occur so that we can update our contact systems. We are especially in need of your email address' as we will now be sending more communications electronically.

All contact details are stored confidentially and will not be shared.