

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure many of you will be concerned about the announcement I released this week on behalf of the directors of Northern House School Academy Trust. As stated in the letter written by William Powlett Smith, the chair of directors, they feel the current level of governmental funding available to the Trust means it is not in a position to continue running the school.

I appreciate this step appears alarming and may cause you some anxiety. However, the school will continue to remain open. Your child will continue to have a place at the school. The transport arrangements in place will remain. The staff will continue to have jobs and work hard to support your child. The demand for places at Northern House School, Oxford is such that its future is not in doubt.

Northern House School, Oxford is not the only setting where this decision will have an impact. The Trust's schools in Solihull, Wokingham and Wolverhampton are all being 're-brokered,' i.e. other Trusts will be approached by the Department for Education to take on the management of the schools. My successor, Alison Priddle, is fully aware of the situation and is not fazed by the decisions that will need to be taken in the coming weeks.

I would also like to stress that the decision to dissolve the Trust is not based on the skills or competences of the staff working at the school, or the current performance of the other schools in the Trust. If anything, it reinforces how hard they have been working to support your child. Having a limited budget has restricted my want to employ additional teachers and support staff, and the school has been unable to purchase extra services and resources that would be of benefit to the pupils. Like most schools across the country, the staff are under increasing pressures to deliver the same quality of education with less spending power than was previously available to them. For example, the Institute for Fiscal Studies has calculated the government would need to reinvest 3.8 billion pounds to restore the level and reach of school funding eroded over the last ten years. I would urge you to write to your local MPs and to express your concerns around this vitally important issue.

Some of you may have already contacted or seen reports in the local media about this issue. However, I hope my reassurances will put your mind at ease and that you appreciate these changes will have a limited impact on your child.

On a more positive note, school life goes on and we are happy to invite you into school for a number of events between now and the end of term. Sports Day will be held on the morning of Thursday 18th July, parents evening takes place after school on Monday 15th July and our annual leavers assembly for parents and carers of pupils in Year 6 will be held at 11.30am on the last day of term: Wednesday 24th July. Starting at 12.30pm, the assembly will be followed by the third of our celebratory end of year BBQs.

With my very best wishes,



Jonathan Willis
Headteacher

Red Kite Class (Miss Morgan):

Red Kite have started to look at narrative poetry this week. We have read some Charles Causley poems and responded to them by writing about what we like and dislike - some children then went on to write their own poems inspired by 'Miller's End'. In maths we have been looking at multiplication and division. We went on a trip to the North Wall to watch 'Horrible Histories', which was fantastic!

Falcon Class (Mrs Rolfe):

Falcon Class had a lovely time visiting the Cotswolds Wild Life Park. We were extremely lucky with the weather, and the children really enjoyed seeing and finding out about the different animals. Also, this week the children have been working on fractions and how they can identify halves and quarters within shapes.

Kingfisher Class (Mrs Burns):

In Kingfisher class we have continued our topic on Pharaohs. We have been learning about the process of mummification. Last week we had lots of fun using toilet paper to turn each other into mummies and to make pictures of mummies. We also enjoyed making 'sausage roll mummies' in our cooking lesson this week. In literacy, we have been learning about the features of newspaper articles and in maths we have been doing lots of times table practice.

Osprey Class (Mr Moar):

In Osprey we have been looking at decimals in relation to money and have been working on adding totals using column addition. In literacy we have been studying the features of newspapers as well as creating our own headlines for different stories. We have learned about Egyptian gods in our topic work this week with our class looking at each god and their roll in ancient Egyptian society.

Chaffinch Class (Mrs McClimont):

In Chaffinch we are starting to work on our new topic linked the Black Death. We have started to explore the use of personification in poetry in readiness to write our own poems. In Maths we completed a survey, inputted the data into excel and created different types of graphs. We have also been using a website that shows how locations have changed over time. We looked at the use of the land around the school from the 1940s up to 2018.

Wren Class: (Miss Davies):

Wren class really enjoyed their trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park last week. We worked hard as a team to walk around the park together and identify facts about the animals we could see. Wren class have continued to explore their topic of Memory Box, they have looked at and Wren loved to share their photographs of themselves when they were younger and enjoyed guessing which photograph belonged to whom. In English, Wren have continued to explore a range of poems, and have unpicked meanings and responded well to what they have heard. In Maths, Wren have started to look at time and confirm their clock reading knowledge.

The Nest (Miss Youngman):

In the Nest we have been working on our new topic 'our world' we made a new display which we are very excited about and are keen to get it filled with our learning. In numeracy we have been learning about fractions, we have been calculating fractions of numbers, adding and subtracting fractions, and ordering fractions. We are all fractioned out now and are moving on to shape next week.

Eagle Class (Mrs Bishop):

Eagle Class have been looking at the use of decimal numbers in maths. We also enjoyed visiting the Northwall Arts Centre to watch a Horrible Histories production linked to sound and deafness. The classroom is full of displays with our completed work on planets. Despite the bad weather of late we have been trying to complete learning outside the classroom as much as possible.

Robin Class (Miss Ferrer):

Pupils from Robin class have been interviewing each other in order to create biographies about their classmates' lives. That was very interesting! We have also been working on fractions and students from year 5 have been doing Maths and reading assessments. Because we have lots of imagination, we drew mind-blowing invented planets using oil pastels and we discussed the importance of healthy relationships in PSHE. We enjoyed the Horrible Histories play at Northwall.

The Bridge: (Mrs Lee)

We have been very busy learning about The Aztecs and about Fair Trade this week. We have cooked beetroot brownies which is a healthier recipe because it uses less fat. We have been problem solving using addition and subtraction.

Woodpecker Class (Mr Jeffries):

We have had a fun filled last week of exciting Maths investigations and opportunities to watch two fantastic stage productions, which begged the question; 'would any of us like to be actors?' The children have begun to really demonstrate their understanding of fractions and how they apply in the real world. We now look forward to our new topic area and all the cross curricular opportunities it will bring! Watch this space!