



North Marston Church of England School
School Hill
North Marston
Bucks
MK18 3PE

Challenging each other to love learning and truly care.



Welcome back to the summer term which is, as usual, packed full of learning activities both in and out of the classroom. There is lots going on between now and the summer break, including statutory assessments for Reception (ELG), Y1 (phonics), Y2 (SATs), Y4 (MTC) and Y6 (SATs). The staff are busy making sure the children are as ready as they can be but ensuring there's no extra pressure because assessments are just a tool we use to find out what we need to teach next.

Please take some time to read the newsletter carefully as it is a great way to keep up with all that has happened and what is coming up in the very busy life of our school.

Have a great extended weekend, Sarah x

New and Improved

We are delighted to share some photos of our new and improved Reception classroom. Karen Avery and the team have worked hard to approve the design and ensure the project stayed within budget and all the children had a fabulous time playing with the empty boxes on Wednesday lunchtime!!

We will be opening the classroom after school on Wednesday 7th May when you are welcome to come in and see it in person.



Sun Safety

I hope you have all been enjoying the recent warm weather! Although this period of summer sun is due to end in the next few days, we are very much hoping that our summer hasn't been and gone for this year. As it is getting warmer, I am sharing a few reminders for us all to help keep the children safe and comfortable:

- Send in a named water bottle each day
- Children should wear a hat (please make sure their name is on it)
- Apply sun cream before school and send in a named bottle if they would like to reapply during the day (each child needs their own as they cannot share)
- We will encourage the children to play in the shade and take a break from strenuous activities at lunch time
- We will be mindful of the weather when planning outdoor activities and ensure children are not in the

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sun for long periods

Please follow this link for further guidance from the NHS:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/>

Cheaper Broadband opportunity

As the cost of living gets more expensive, some families are struggling to afford the essential bills. In recognition of this, Ofcom is encouraging some broadband and mobile phone providers to offer cheaper tariffs to those who might otherwise not be able to afford to get online. These are being called social tariffs and you can find out more information here:

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-and-broadband/saving-money/social-tariffs?es_c=76BE0416F53D83F90EF008BC8B394459&es_cl=202F7B5EBE3B7110EEB121F1F5B0B7C1&es_id=ph7%2a3o1

Food Waste

I am delighted to report that since having our new food provider, the amount of food in the waste bin has been reduced. However, there are meals being wasted as some children are being sent with a packed lunch, despite having a meal ordered for them. Fresh Start cook meals to order so if you order for your child, there will be a meal prepared for them. If you then send them with a packed lunch, the prepared meal will be wasted. While this might be tempting, particularly if they are entitled to a Free School Meal, this has a negative impact on the environment (wasted resources) and on the school budget as we still have to pay for the meal.

Please discuss the menus with your child and order the food they will eat, sending a packed lunch on days when there is nothing they would choose on the menu.

Thank you for your support with this.

PTA

Many thanks to our PTA who work tirelessly to plan and carry out events primarily to raise money for things that the school budget just won't stretch to. However, I think it is important to note that not all events run by the PTA are done to raise money as the team appreciate that family budgets only stretch so far as well! The spring term events were well attended and very successful, including the bake sale, the Mother's Day presents and the Bingo event. Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA by helping or attending. Look out for the flyers advertising upcoming events including treat Fridays (first one today!), the summer term disco and they have somehow convinced me to agree to a 'Break the Rules' day (I think the PTA are more excited than the children!!).

Anyone for PIE?

We will be running a series of Parent Information Evenings (PIE) when staff will share with you how things are done at North Marston and why we do things the way we do. There will be an opportunity for you to see some resources we use in school and to ask questions and offer comments.

Our first session will be all about Reading and will take place at 6pm on Thursday 8th May – we hope to see you all there.

Congratulations to Camilla!

On Sunday, despite ongoing tendon issues and on what was an incredibly hot day for running a marathon, I completed the London Marathon in a time of 5:46:03. The first 6 miles went well, but by mile 10 the pain in my

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tendons forced me to walk. I took some codeine (which I had taken with me - just in case!), and managed a painful mix of walking and hobble jogging for the remaining 16 miles. The crowds were incredible - constant encouragement from strangers and passing fellow armed forces charity runners kept me going. I was also inspired and humbled by many of the other participants, including a record-attempting barefoot runner and those overcoming significant physical challenges. Despite fears of not finishing, I pushed for a sub-6-hour time and made it. However, sadly it was not the 4 1/2 hour marathon I had been hoping for.

This marks the end of my marathon journey for Blesma. Thank you for your incredible generosity, kindness and support. Together, we have raised over £7.5k (and over £9k with Gift Aid) for a truly special cause. I am also pleased to have raised awareness of Blesma, their incredible work, and inspirational members.

It has certainly been an unforgettable 50-week running journey (from couch to marathon)!

There is still time to donate, should you wish to. Below is my Just Giving fundraising link:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/camilla-coleman-1719572896802>

Many thanks,
Camilla



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PICNIC IN THE PARK! VE DAY CELEBRATION

VE Day Celebration – Picnic in the Park! 🎉

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May | 12–3pm - North Marston Play area.

Come and join us for a fun-filled afternoon as we celebrate VE Day together! Pack up your picnic basket, grab your favourite teddy bear or cuddle toy, and head over to the park for a brilliant village get-together!

★ What's happening:

- * Bouncy castle fun
- * Face painting for the kids
- * Family games and activities
- * Family photoshoots with Clare
- * Special History Club VE Day Exhibition
- * Cakes and refreshment served in the village hall

❖ Teddy Bear Competition:

Bring your best bear or cuddle toy — prizes to be won! (And don't worry, every child will be going home with a little something!)

Let's make it a day to remember — see you there!

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Spring Term 2025 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5th May	6th May	7th May 3:10pm come and visit our new and improved Reception classroom	8th May 6pm Parent Information Evening – Reading (all parents and carers are welcome to attend)	9th May
12th May KS2 SATS	13th May KS2 SATS	14th May KS2 SATS	15th May KS2 SATS	16th May
19th May	20th May Learning Showcase: 1pm Sapphire 1:30pm Diamond 2:00pm Opal 2:30pm Ruby	21st May	22nd May PTA Disco	23rd May PTA Break the Rules Day Break up for Half Term
Half Term				
2nd June INSET day (children do not attend)	3rd June Y4 MTC Window (2 weeks)	4th June	5th June PTA Father's Day event 7:30 PTA meeting	6th June
9th June Y1 phonics screening (and Y2 retakes)	10th June Diamond Class Forest School visit	11th June Year 6 transition workshop	12th June Opal and Sapphire NSPCC workshops Ruby and Diamond Rabbi visit	13th June
16th June	17th June Sapphire Class Forest School visit	18th June 6pm Meeting for Parents of Sept 2025 Reception intake	19th June Sports Day PTA Summer Fete	20th June

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<u>23rd June</u>	<u>24th June</u>	<u>25th June</u>	<u>26th June</u>	<u>27th June</u>
		2pm Reception 2025 Stay & Play session	Read with Rubies	Opal class trip (details to follow)
<u>30th June</u>	<u>1st July</u> Y6 transition (school dependant) Whole School move-up day	<u>2nd July</u> Y6 transition (school dependent)	<u>3rd July</u>	<u>4th July</u> Class photos and whole school photo
<u>7th July</u> 4pm – 8pm District Athletics	<u>8th July</u> Parent progress meetings	<u>9th July</u>	<u>10th July</u> Parent progress meetings	<u>11th July</u>
<u>14th July</u>	<u>15th July</u>	<u>16th July</u> 2pm Sapphire production	<u>17th July</u> 6:30pm Sapphire production	<u>18th July</u>
<u>21st July</u>	<u>22nd July</u>	<u>23rd July</u> 2pm Leavers' Church Service END OF TERM		

Term Dates 2024/2025

Term	Start at 8:40 on:	Finish at 3:10 on:
Autumn 1	Thursday 5 th September	Friday 25 th October
Autumn 2	Tuesday 5 th November	Friday 20 th December
Spring 1	Tuesday 7 th January 2025	Friday 14 th February 2025
Spring 2	Monday 24 th February 2025	Friday 4 th April 2025
Summer 1	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Friday 23 rd May 2025
Summer 2	Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	Wednesday 23 rd July 2025

INSET days (for staff only): Tuesday 3rd September; Wednesday 4th September; Monday 4th November; Monday 6th January; Monday 2nd June

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Term Dates 2025/2026

Term	Start at 8:40 on:	Finish at 3:10 on:
Autumn 1	Thursday 4 th September	Friday 24 th October
Autumn 2	Monday 3 rd November	Thursday 18 th December
Spring 1	Monday 5 th January 2026	Thursday 12 th February 2026
Spring 2	Monday 23 rd February 2026	Friday 27 th March 2026
Summer 1	Tuesday 13 th April 2026	Friday 22 nd May 2026
Summer 2	Tuesday 2 nd June 2026	Tuesday 21 st July 2026

INSET days (for staff only): Wednesday 3rd September; Friday 19th December; Friday 13th February; Monday 1st June; Wednesday 22nd July

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