

## **North Marston Church of England School**

***Shining our Light to be our Best Selves!***



The autumn term is whizzing by and the children continue to work hard. We have our first trips booked in and plans for Christmas are being put together. So much has already happened this year and we have plenty more coming up so please take some time to read the newsletter and have a look at the calendar. A big thanks to all who donated to the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Together we raised £226.30 for this very worthy cause.

Have a great weekend everyone, Sarah x

### **Attendance Update**

A big thank you to all those who have taken on board our messages regarding the importance of children being in school every day that they are well enough to be here.

Through our joint efforts, we managed to improve whole school attendance last year to 96.7%, up from 93.2% in the previous year. There is still more work to do in our endeavour to ensure that children and families understand that every second counts and the negative impact of missing school on our children.

Please find below links to some important documents which might be of interest to you.

[Is my child too ill for School?](#)

[Everything you need to know about School Attendance](#)

[School Attendance and Absence](#)

### **Greet your Child with a Smile – Not a Screen**

Another plea to all parents and carers to please not use mobile phones out on the playground – no texting, calling or gaming!

This is primarily so we can continue to work together in keeping our children safe but, it is also much more pleasant for the children to see you looking for them at the end of the day and ready to engage in a conversation, rather than looking at your screen.

Please share this important message with anyone else who collects your child.

### **Kindness Week**

During the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> October, our School Council are inviting everyone at North Marston C of E School to take part in a Kindness Challenge. The week will begin with a special whole-school assembly, led by the School Council, to explain what the challenge is all about.

Over the past few days, the children have been thinking about different ways they can show kindness – to

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others, to themselves, and to the environment and nature. They have come up with lots of exciting ideas, and some acts of kindness will even be carried out in secret!

As this is one of our School Values, we are really excited to see how our school community spreads kindness in lots of different ways and we would love for you to join us in supporting the children during this challenge. Please encourage your child to take part at home as well as in school, and help us to make kindness something we all share and celebrate together. We would love to hear about anything the children do at home. A small act of kindness can make a big difference!

### **Reception 2026 Intake**

It only seems like 5 minutes since we welcomed our current Reception children and yet it is time to start thinking about next year's cohort already!

We are running 4 Open Events to give prospective parents the opportunity to have a look around and find out what is so special about North Marston C of E School.

Please share the attached flyer with friends and family and on your social media to promote these events.

### **PTA**

Another big thank you to our fabulous PTA and to all of you who have supported them in their events over the past year.

#### **PTA fundraising has already contributed to:**

A school trip for every class

The whole school Felt Workshop

New equipment for Reception outdoor area

Furniture for the Reading Shed

Training for Amy and support staff

#### **The PTA have also agreed to fund:**

New curtains for the school hall

A mural for the wall in the playground

A contribution towards a theatre company to perform Treasure Island to the whole school (March 2026)

A Whole School dance workshop (date TBC)

A whole School wellbeing and resilience workshop (January 2026)

These amazing opportunities which benefit all our North Marston Gems just wouldn't be possible without the outstanding efforts of our PTA and the wonderful support you all offer. Please continue to do what you can to make the PTA events coming up this year just as successful.

Following the PTA AGM last week, I am delighted to announce our committee for the coming year:

Chair: Liz Hale

Vice Chair: Anneka Boyt

Treasurer: Hayley Henderson

Secretary: Saskia Miklas

**Hot of the press!** Please see the leaflet attached with details of the fabulous **Wreath Making Workshop** taking place in November. Book your place with your class PTA rep ASAP as spaces are limited!

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### **Parent Information Evening**

Thank you to all those who came to the meeting last night when Karen shared the school's approach to teaching RE and why Collective Worship is such an important part of the school day.

The PowerPoint will be available on the School website early next week and if you have any further questions, please email the office who will pass it on to Karen or me.

Our Autumn 2 Parent Information Evening will focus on our approach to Maths – please look out for the questionnaire at Parent's Evening so we can get feedback on the most appropriate times to run parent sessions in the future.

### **BBC 500 Words**

"Write a story you would love to read."

The BBC's 500 Words competition is now open and we have been encouraging the children to plan and write their own stories. 50 finalists will be invited to go to a grand final at Buckingham Palace next year, where the bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read out by celebrities. There are also lots of other prizes to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners also win 500 books for their school library.

Children can only submit one story each and the story must:

- Be 500 words or less (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child's own original idea
- Be prose, not rap or poem

Stories must not:

- Give any personal details of the child, including their name
- Recount an historical event (but they can use a real person or historical character as a source of inspiration)
- Be created, written or developed by AI

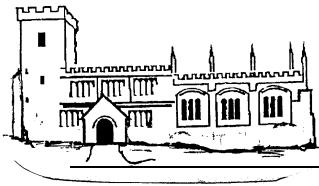
All stories will be judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

Submit before the competition closes at 9pm on Friday 7th November 2025. You can do this via the BBC website.

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## **Autumn Term 2025 Calendar**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>6<sup>th</sup> October</b>  <b>NO CLUBS THIS WEEK</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> October</b> Ruby class phonics for parents	<b>8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> October</b> Diamonds Trip to Milton Keynes Discovery Centre	<b>10<sup>th</sup> October</b> 9am celebration assembly
<b>13<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> October</b> 10am Open Event for Reception September 2026	<b>15<sup>th</sup> October</b> 2pm Harvest Festival	<b>16<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> October</b> 9am celebration assembly
<b>20<sup>th</sup> October</b> <b>NO CLUBS THIS WEEK</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> October</b> Parents' Evening	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> Parents' Evening	<b>24<sup>th</sup> October</b> 9am celebration assembly  3:10pm finish for half term
<b>Half Term</b>				
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> November</b> 8:40am gates open for return to school  CLUBS RESUME	<b>4<sup>th</sup> November</b> Individual photos  Y6 Height & Weight check	<b>5<sup>th</sup> November</b> Pete York – Visit School Remembrance Assembly	<b>6<sup>th</sup> November</b> 6pm Open Event for Reception September 2026	<b>7<sup>th</sup> November</b> 9am celebration assembly  PTA DISCO
<b>10<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> November</b> Prayer Space – Values (details to follow)	<b>14<sup>th</sup> November</b> 9am celebration assembly
<b>17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> November</b> 2pm Open Event for Reception September 2026	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> November</b> 9am celebration assembly

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<b>24<sup>th</sup> November</b> 10am Open Event for Reception September 2026	<b>25<sup>th</sup> November</b> Flu Vaccination YR-YR6	<b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b> 7:30 PTA Wreath Making	<b>27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> November</b> 9am celebration assembly
<b>1<sup>st</sup> December</b> Mufti Day for tombola donations	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> December</b> 9am celebration assembly
<b>8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> December</b> 9am celebration assembly
<b>15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b> Christmas Jumper Day Children's Christmas Lunch	<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b> 2pm Christmas Church Service Break Up for Christmas Holidays	<b>19<sup>th</sup> December</b> <u>INSET DAY – children do not attend</u>

### **Term Dates 2025/2026**

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

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

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