



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

Challenging each other to love learning and truly care.



I hope you have all been able to enjoy some of the sunshine we have been blessed with recently - it finally feels like spring is on the way!

We have another half-term packed with learning opportunities and we look forward to sharing information about your child's progress and attainment at our Parents' Evenings next week. On that note, please remember there are NO CLUBS next week due to teachers preparing for and carrying out their appointments.

We also have some very exciting news about school lunches after Easter so please read all the communication regarding this both on this newsletter and in the separate communication your child will bring home.

Have a great weekend, Sarah x

Young Voices

What a resounding success the whole experience has been. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the delightful mini-concert that the Young Voices group put on for us last Friday. I was blown away by the singing and dancing and the videos of the live event were breath-taking. Many congratulations to all those who took part and my thanks go to all the staff who made this unforgettable experience a reality for the children. Particular thanks go to Rachel Wilson who led the trip and made sure all the paperwork was done in the background so that everyone knew what they were meant to be doing. The whole process is very complex but Rachel made sure it all ran smoothly and that everyone was safe while having a fabulous time. I have had many children (and adults) already ask if they can be part of next year's event so look out for details in the summer term.

Fresh Start

After some negative feedback from parents and children about our school lunches, we took the decision to source a new provider. Laura and Katie have worked tirelessly in the background to get everything organised with our new company Fresh Start and I am delighted to share with you that, after Easter, we will have meals cooked freshly on site each day. The kitchen will be getting a refit over the holidays to ensure it is fit for purpose.

This means there will be a new system for ordering and paying for your meals, directly with Fresh Start. Please carefully read the letter, which your child will bring home today and ensure that you register your account in plenty of time. Once you are registered, you will receive a notification when the summer term menus are live and ready for you to order.

Our current provider will end their service on 31st March and so Fresh Start have graciously agreed to provide us with a 'hot box' service for the last 4 days of this term before our new cook starts after Easter. We will email details for how to book for these 4 days in due course.

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Meals will need to be ordered by 9am on a Thursday ready for the following week's lunches so please get into the habit of doing this routinely, or order for the half term in advance, as it will no longer be possible for Katie to order late meals on your behalf.

We are very excited to be working with Fresh Start and they are looking forward to sharing a taster of their menu with you all after school next Wednesday, 12th March.

World Book Day

WBD was a fun-filled day with books at the heart of it. We read books, explored books, discussed books, acted out books, recommended books, listened to books...in fact, I think the only thing we didn't do with a book was eat one!

The children looked fabulous in their costumes and enjoyed all the different activities which their adults had planned to immerse them in books and promote that love for reading.

Thank you to those who were able to join us at the end of the day to share in the learning that the children had done.

Poorly Children

Unfortunately, we have had a few different bugs going around the school over the last few weeks. It is a fact of life that children will get sick occasionally and so we need to remind them of good hygiene tips to help keep them and their friends safe and healthy. We will be pro-active in school at teaching children these strategies for stopping the spread of bugs and have included the UK health security agency's poster at the end of this newsletter for your reference. As a reminder please do not send children to school if they have a temperature (even if it is controlled with medication) or for 48 hours after they have had sickness or diarrhoea. This will help us to stop the spread of infectious illnesses. We thank you for your support with this.

Benchball Success!

On Monday 24th February, Mr Lambert took 12 Diamonds to Winslow School to play a Benchball event. There was nervous energy among many of the children as it was their first time representing the school in a sporting event. They played amazingly, showing excellent teamwork, determination, passion and respect for their opponents. The team won 4 games, drew 3 and lost 1, meaning we left Winslow School as the ultimate winners and the children met their parents with great positivity and excitement.

We look forward to many more opportunities to play different sports against local schools in the summer term. Mr Lambert and the other staff will be looking out for children to represent the school who are showing our PE values during their lessons and on the playground.

Migration to Arbor

We are currently going through a process to migrate all of our financial and administration processes to a new company called Arbor. While this doesn't currently affect parents and carers directly, it may require your patience with our wonderful office team while they get things organised and learn the new procedures. So, please bear with Laura and Katie while they undertake this process and remember what a great job they do for us all.

School Vision and Values

Thank you to the parents who took the time to respond with their views on the School Vision and our Values. I am now reviewing the input from all stakeholders and will share the outcomes with you shortly.

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Spring Term 2025 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>10th March</u> No clubs this week	<u>11th March</u> 3:30 – 6pm Learning Progress Meetings	<u>12th March</u> Fresh Start taster session after school	<u>13th March</u> 3:30 – 7pm Learning Progress Meetings	<u>14th March</u> KS2 Cinderella trip
<u>17th March</u> Clubs back on	<u>18th March</u>	<u>19th March</u>	<u>20th March</u>	<u>21st March</u> 3:10 PTA Bake Sale
<u>24th March</u> PTA Mother's Day Gifts (see separate flyer)	<u>25th March</u>	<u>26th March</u> Sapphire Residential	<u>27th March</u> Sapphire Residential	<u>28th March</u> Sapphire Residential Clubs finish today
<u>31st March</u> No clubs this week	<u>1st April</u> 2pm Diamonds Production	<u>2nd April</u> 6:30pm Diamonds Production	<u>3rd April</u>	<u>4th April</u> 2pm Easter Church Service Break up

Other dates for your diary

12th – 15th May KS2 SATS week

Tuesday 20th May – Learning Showcase afternoon

Monday 2nd June – Friday 13th June – Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) window

Monday 9th June – Friday 13th June – Year 1 Phonics screening (and Y2 retakes)

Thursday 19th June – Sports Day and Summer Fete

Tuesday 1st July – Whole School 'Move-up Day'

Tuesday 8th & Thursday 10th July – Summer Term Learning Progress Meetings (Parent's evening)

Wednesday 16th July 2pm – Sapphire Production

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Thursday 17th July 6:30pm – Sapphire Production

Wednesday 23rd July 2pm – Leavers' Church Service

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

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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UK Health
Security
Agency

Stop norovirus spreading

Norovirus, also known as the 'winter vomiting bug', is the most common stomach bug in the UK. It can spread easily through close contact, or by contaminated surfaces, food or water.

The main symptoms of norovirus include a sudden onset of nausea, followed by projectile vomiting and diarrhoea, usually 1 to 2 days after becoming infected. Other common symptoms include a high fever, a headache and aching arms and legs.

Good hand hygiene is important to stop norovirus spreading.

To stop norovirus spreading, you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly using soap and warm water after using the toilet or contact with a sick individual and before preparing and eating food.
- stay off school or work until you have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least two days
- not rely on alcohol gels instead of washing your hands, as these do not kill the virus
- wash any contaminated clothing or bedding using detergent at 60°C using disposable gloves to handle any items
- use bleach-based cleaners to disinfect surfaces

If you catch it, stay home for 48 hours after your symptoms clear

DO



Wash clothes
and bedding
at 60°C



Wash hands with
soap, clean surfaces
with bleach-based
disinfectants



DON'T



Go to work or
school, visit care
homes or hospitals



Prepare food
for others



Most people will make a full recovery in 2-3 days without needing any medicine. It is important to keep hydrated – especially children and the elderly.

Try not to visit A&E or GP surgeries if you have symptoms of norovirus unless advised to do so by a healthcare professional, as this may spread the bug to others. Call ahead to a GP or ring NHS 111 if you are worried about your symptoms.

Further information is available at NHS 111 or NHS.uk (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/norovirus/>)

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