



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

Challenging each other to love learning and truly care.



Have a great weekend, Sarah x

Topaz Group Recognition



It was a pleasure to present our Topaz group with their certificate of recognition and trophy from Bucks Young Carers. Carla Duggan and Marian Smedley lead the group who meet fortnightly to share their unique stories and support each other with strategies for managing the big feelings that we all experience from time to time. We are so proud of Topaz group and the work they do and it is fabulous to see them recognised in this way.

Young Carers is an organisation that supports children who have a family member with some kind of additional need. The child doesn't need to have a 'carer's role' but the group is to acknowledge that there are times when their lives can be more challenging than for some other children. If you think that your child would benefit from being part of our Topaz group in school, then please speak to their class teacher in the first instance.

Pre-Loved Uniform

Firstly, a big thank you to all who have donated to our pre-loved uniform shop; we are very lucky to have such a big stock of good quality, pre-loved school uniform and PE kit to ensure that there is a cheaper alternative to buying new every time one of your little gems has a growth spurt!

However, another big benefit of our pre-loved shop is sustainability: this is a perfect opportunity for us to model to our children how we can all work together to look after our planet. Unfortunately, while we are inundated with donations to the shop, the demand is very low. This would indicate that parents and carers are donating the uniform their child has grown out of and then buying new uniform to replace it! The result is that we have an ever expanding shop...with very few customers, which defeats the object!

As we joyfully anticipate the summer term and wait hopefully for the warmer weather, I would urge you all to do your bit for the environment and kit out your kids with summer uniform from the pre-loved shop. Not only does it cost you less but it will also save you a trip to the shops which is another bonus for the planet!

Please contact Emily Betts at dremilybetts@gmail.com or the school office with your order.

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Fresh Start

Thank you to all those who supported our taster session after school last Wednesday. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and there are lots of children (and staff!) who are excited to try the meals from our new food provider, Fresh Start.

Fresh Start have informed us that there are still a significant number of children who are not registered so please remember to **register your child** using the unique code which was sent home last week and complete the allergy information if necessary. If you are unsure about anything, or can't find your child's letter, please contact Katie in the office and she will be able to help.

A reminder that on 1st – 4th April, Fresh Start are helping us out by providing a limited hot box service as our contract with Edwards and Ward finishes on 31st March. Fresh Start will go live with their full menu after the Easter holidays.

Scouts

I'm sure the children shared with you that we were lucky enough to have some scouts to join our celebration assembly a few weeks ago. They spoke to the children about all the fun things that they could do if they were to join the scouts (beavers and cubs for the younger children). Lots of the children expressed an interest and commented that a lot of the activities looked like things they love from Forest School! Please see further information about the benefits below:

The 1st Granborough Scout group offers a range of activities and experiences that can complement your child's learning and support their growth in a variety of important areas.

We all know that education goes beyond the classroom, and it's important to foster the holistic development of children. The Scout programme offers an excellent chance for children to build leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, all of which can contribute to their academic success. These qualities are not only valuable in school but also vital in life beyond education.

Scouting teaches children about responsibility, resilience, and collaboration—skills that will serve them well as they grow and prepare for future academic challenges. Many of the activities Scouts engage in also align with subjects such as science, nature, and social studies, making learning more dynamic and engaging. Furthermore, the sense of achievement that comes from completing Scout badges and challenges helps build self-esteem and confidence, which are essential for continued success in their education.

In addition to academic benefits, Scouting offers children the opportunity to develop strong friendships, learn to communicate effectively, and become active members of their community. These experiences can significantly enrich their social development and help them thrive in a variety of environments.

If you would like more information or have any questions about the Scout group, please don't hesitate to reach out to us or contact the local Scout leader directly.

bobbowerman@hotmail.com 07710 477 910

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PTA

The ever-popular disco before half term raised an amazing £348.41. Thank you so much to everyone who supported the disco by dropping off and picking up your children, and to all of our volunteer helpers, both staff and parents and carers – these much-loved events couldn't happen without everyone's support. Please see the posters which have been sent out, promoting up-coming PTA events. If you are available to help at any events, or with the preparation work, please contact Liz Hale or drop a message to the school office and someone will be in touch. The PTA is always happy to have new members join, or volunteers who would just like to help on a casual basis.

Cross-Country

Well done to all of the children who turned out for the county cross-country event last Saturday morning. Everyone completed the course which is an achievement in itself but special mention to Ryan who came an impressive 12th place and to Poppy who came 10th!

Thanks to the parents and carers who brought their children over to Wing to take part and to Chris for organising our participation. As always, these events would not be possible without the background work being done and they are so worthwhile and enjoyable for the children.

Easter Bonnet Parade

Back by popular demand, the Easter Bonnet parade will take place on **Wednesday 2nd April at 9am**. If children would like to take part, they will need to create an Easter Bonnet at home and bring it to school on or before Wednesday 2nd April. Children should come to school at the usual time and go into their class where they will be registered while parents and carers wait eagerly on the playground for the parade to begin. At 9am, the children will come out to the playground and parade their Easter Bonnets for all to see while our judges will be carefully observing, looking out for creativity and originality. I look forward to seeing all of your creations!

Fire Safety

We had a very successful fire drill in which all children and staff were safe and accounted for within 2 minutes and 14 seconds. The children left the building in a calm, safe and orderly fashion and the staff were able to register them quickly, meaning that, in the case of a real emergency, we can be confident that we would get everyone out safely. The teachers then had a de-brief with their class to answer any worries the children might have which prompted a very real concern about what if the children weren't in their classroom (for example in the toilet!)? The children were reassured that as soon as they hear the fire alarm, they should make their way to the safety meeting point which is at the bottom of the playground.

Obviously, the risk of fire is not just present at school, but at home too so it prompts the question: Would your family know what to do in case of fire in your home?

Please see the attached poster which has top tips to share with your children regarding fire safety and follow the link below to the Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue site which offers more advice and 'Home Fire Safety Services' <https://bucksfire.gov.uk/about-us/services/home-fire-safety-services/>

All Change!

The children have been walking the track every day in support of RNOH nurses and their 'Move 100 miles in March' campaign.

We would like to further our support by raising some money for this cause. To do this, we are asking children to

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bring in any small change you might have to see if we can cover a lap of the track with coins. Any coins will be gratefully received by Monday 31st March so that on Tuesday 1st April we can attempt to cover the track in coins! The money will then be collected, counted and donated.

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.

News from the Vaults

Ruby



This half term, Ruby Class have been learning about toys around the world and learning about the different continents. Year 1s have been reading the book, 'The Robot and the Bluebird' by David Lucas and we have all been designing and making hand puppets. World Book Day was brilliant and we enjoyed dressing up as book characters and creating an extra part to the book 'Oi! Get off our Train'.



Reception have been learning about how to look after their teeth. We have focused on oral hygiene and healthy eating. The books that helped us with this topic were, 'Alan's Big Scary Teeth' and 'The Runaway Pea'. You may have seen the posters around school. On World Book Day we read and followed clues to find the Runaway Pea who was located in the book corner. Reception have also been using the woodwork bench in order to help the woodcutter (Little Red Riding Hood's dad).

Our focus for Mathematics has been capacity. We have estimated the number of cups of sand or water needed to fill jugs and other containers.

Ruby class are looking forward to sharing their puppets in our puppet shows at the end of term.



Opal



Opal Class have been working so hard this term!

We have been looking at the book, 'Martha Maps it Out' in English and become experts on map making. We have been brushing up on our knowledge of Christopher Columbus and other explorers in Topic and in Maths, Opal Class have been whizzes at Fractions.



On Ash Wednesday we learnt about all things pancake! Recipe writing in English, Lent and Shrove Tuesday in RE, and pancake fractions in Maths!

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Diamond

This term we have been carrying out a science investigation to find out if all plants need the same things to survive. We have also been learning about fractions in maths, expanding our knowledge from year 2 and year 3. In English, we have been focusing on writing a newspaper article about the Iron Man escaping from the hillock. Miss Giggins has also been teaching us all about the Alps; it has been really interesting learning about the different sports and finding out about a dead body that had been preserved for hundreds of thousands of years. We are excited to see what we are learning about in the summer term.

Amirah, Yvie and Abigail on behalf of Diamonds.

Sapphire



Sapphire Class are having yet another brilliant term and we are so proud of the children for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Through our text, 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty, as well as in our history lessons, we have been learning about the Victorians. One of the highlights was our Victorian morning, where the children learned more about Victorian school-life by experiencing it! The children, dressed up in their Victorian outfits, used chalk and dip-pens to write with, learned by reciting and experienced how the children were treated in those



days.

In our geography lessons, we have been learning about the features and locations of rivers, identifying the six major biomes and studying and creating topography maps. In RE, the children have been exploring and discussing the question: 'How significant is it for Christians to believe that God intended Jesus to die?' to further their understanding about Christianity. In science, we have recently been learning about the scientific symbols for electrical components and learning about how simple circuits work. This has included adding bulbs and buzzers to our own electrical circuits.

We really enjoyed being dressed up for World Book Day and had a great day doing all sorts of activities related to books. Reading is so important to us in Sapphire Class and it is wonderful to hear the children sharing book recommendations in class and choosing new books and authors. We have just started a new class novel that links with our Geography work, 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgwick - and we are now using this to inspire our writing in our English lessons. We are very excited about our residential next week and can't wait to share our adventures with you!

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Spring Term 2025 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
24th March PTA Mother's Day Gifts (see separate flyer)	25th March Easter Experience – see separate letter	26th March Sapphire Residential	27th March Sapphire Residential 2:45 Read with Rubies	28th March Sapphire Residential Clubs finish today
31st March No clubs this week 3:30pm Netball v Winslow	1st April 2pm Diamonds Production	2nd April 9am Easter Bonnet Parade 6:30pm Diamonds Production	3rd April	4th April 2pm Easter Church Service No Forest School Break up PTA Easter Bingo event
Easter Holidays				
21st April Easter Monday Bank Holiday	22nd April 8:40 Return to school	23rd April	24th April	25th April
28th April	29th April	30th April	1st May	2nd May
5th May	6th May	7th May	8th May 6pm Parent Information Evening – Reading	9th May

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<u>12th May</u> KS2 SATS	<u>13th May</u> KS2 SATS	<u>14th May</u> KS2 SATS	<u>15th May</u> KS2 SATS	<u>16th May</u>
<u>19th May</u>	<u>20th May</u> Learning Showcase: 1pm Sapphire 1:30pm Diamond 2:00pm Opal 2:30pm Ruby	<u>21st May</u>	<u>22nd May</u> PTA Disco	<u>23rd May</u> PTA Break the Rules Day Break up for Half Term

Other dates for your diary

Monday 2nd June – INSET day (children do not attend)

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’

Friday 4th July – Class photos & Whole School Photo

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

Wednesday 16th July 2pm – Sapphire Production

Thursday 17th July 6:30pm – Sapphire Production

Wednesday 23rd July 2pm – Leavers’ Church Service followed by 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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