



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

Shining our Light to be our Best Selves!



It seems we've only just come back from Easter and we're already looking forward to half term. However, when I look in the children's books, I can see that the short half term has not hampered learning in any way, which will be clear when you visit for our Learning Showcase next Tuesday. Summer 2 will be here before we know it and the focus for all classes will be on making sure they are ready for the next steps in their learning journey and supporting everyone with whatever their transition looks like. As well as all the exciting things going on in school, you will find leaflets attached to this email regarding events and activities within the community so please do have a look.

Have a great weekend, Sarah x

Vision for North Marston

Having gathered input from all stakeholders, including the diocese, parents, children, staff and the church, I am delighted to share with you our new vision which was shared with the children on Tuesday this week.

Shining our light to be our best selves!

At North Marston C of E School, our vision is for our children - and everyone in our school community - to understand what it means to be kind, respectful members of an inclusive society.

We endeavour to be the best version of ourselves by taking responsibility for our own learning and behaviour, and by caring for others and our environment.

"Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing our focus values to the children so please discuss them to support their understanding of what each value means in their life in a variety of contexts.

At North Marston School we value:

Kindness

We treat others, and ourselves, with kindness and are thoughtful in all our interactions, being mindful that we don't know the struggles others are facing. We are considerate to others and their feelings. We make a conscious effort not to retaliate, trying to bring others out of the darkness and into the light. We are aware that there are people less fortunate than us and we try to help in whatever way we can.

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Determination

Even when we find it tricky, we will stay determined and show our resilience to do our best work, following the high expectations set for us. We strive to keep the light inside us shining bright.

Respect

We show respect for everyone in our school community and for our environment, both local and global. We make an effort to ensure that everyone feels welcome and included within our school so that we can work and grow together. We celebrate the different ways in which people shine their light and we work hard to support those who struggle to shine.

Integrity

We make good choices and do the right thing, even when no one is looking. We work hard to improve ourselves and make a positive contribution to our school community, not because of the rewards we might get but because we aim to be the best version of ourselves. We are fair and honest. We know that our opportunities to shine are limitless.

Curiosity

We make the most of the opportunities presented to us and engage in all learning activities, developing our desire to know and understand more. We ask questions if we don't understand and we share our knowledge selflessly to support the growth of our school community, shining our light on those around us. We are keen to find out more about the world we live in and how we can have a positive impact on it.

Our Vision and Values will be the driver for all we do at North Marston C of E as we believe they will prepare our children to take their place in society and reach their full potential – living their best lives!

Online Safety

Thames Valley Cyber Protect team are inviting Parents and carers to join engaging and informative Cyber Security training presentations. These sessions will share easy-to-implement tips for parents/carers regarding theirs and their family's online behaviours and internet-enabled device usage.

This session covers key topics, including:

1. **Emails and mobile phones:** The art of spotting a scam – lots of hints and tips to share with your children around phishing and other scams.
2. **Social media safety:** The risks around social engineering, disinformation, AI, privacy and hacked accounts.
3. **Gaming:** Understand what the risks are to young people when gaming, particularly online, and discover ways to monitor and restrict usage.
4. **Password mastery and Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** Helping you and your family to secure your accounts following best practice.

[Online Safety for Parents by Police - South East Cyber Crime Unit | Eventbrite](#)

Model **curiosity** to your children by joining in with these new learning experiences.

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Fresh Start

The children are continuing to enjoy the fresh food being prepared for them daily, evidenced by less waste in the food bin and the children coming back for seconds on the days when there is a little extra! The 'seconds' are not necessarily what the children had for their main course that day, for example, there might be extra pasta but the child had ordered a roast dinner. We are happy for the children to enjoy a little extra lunch – we don't want to throw good food in the bin, so please email the office with any up-to-date dietary requirements so we can ensure the children are not given anything they should not have. To promote a healthy lifestyle, we only allow the children to have one 'sweet dessert', although they are welcome to have extra fruit if there is any left.

If your child is having school dinners, please check you have ordered by the deadline as there have been mornings that Katie has spent up to an hour chasing parents and completing orders for children who don't have a packed lunch or a school dinner ordered, and this is not an effective use of her time so please show **respect** for Katie's time and get your orders in on time. **If your child does not have a school dinner ordered or a packed lunch from home on the day, the only option available is the Deli option.**

PTA

Treasurer's Report:

PTA total profit for Spring term was: **£1,186**

£97 on uniform sales; Bucks Lottery - £27.50; Parentkind - £65.38; March bake sale - £94; Mother's Day - £1; Y3/4 Production Refreshments - £93; Bingo - £808.85

Expenses:

storage boxes for uniform - £20

Sum Up card readers: £45.60

Total: £65.50

Profit: £1,121.13

A big thank you to Anneka Boyt for all her hard work on the Bingo and to all parents and carers for their **kind** donations and support for all of our events.

The PTA is looking for a new Treasurer to start in September 2025. The role would be strongly supported by other committee members and there would be no expectation that the new Treasurer will have to organise or help at events (although if they'd like to, they'd be welcome!). Anyone interested can contact their PTA class rep or committee member or contact the school office.

Lastly, we recently sent out a communication via WhatsApp groups about Easy Fundraising. Please do take a moment to read it and support - and thanks to those who already have!

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Creative Opportunities for your children

Young Creative Bucks is a Cultural Education Partnership that works collaboratively with organisations, including local government, schools, youth organisations, higher education, health and social care, trusts and foundations, arts, heritage, and the creative industries.

Their vision is for every young person in Bucks to have an equal opportunity to access arts and culture, to fulfil their creative curiosity, develop their talent and to discover, explore and pursue career opportunities into the creative industries.

Visit their website to discover loads of creative and cultural events, including after school clubs, brilliant holiday activities, art centres and museums to visit: www.youngcreativebucks.org

Such a great opportunity to develop those **curious** minds.

News from the Vaults



Ruby class have been learning about farming, both in the past and present. We had a very successful visit to Milton Keynes Museum where we were able to have a go planting seeds with the seed drill, scaring away the birds using a wooden rattle and cutting the corn with a scythe. In school we have had a go at turning milk into butter and spinning wool. It was very hard work in the past without machinery. Year One have been learning about Kenya and a women called Wangari who worked bravely to ensure that more trees were planted. We have also been learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s and how to double and halve numbers and shapes.

Opal Class have had a “whale” of a time immersing themselves into our Summer Term Topic ‘Coasts, crabs and Cornettos’! We have been reading a range of books in English, including ‘The Proudest Blue’ and ‘The Snail and The Whale’ and in our Topic, we have studied some important historical figures such as Mary Anning and Grace Darling.

Diamond Class have been learning about the history of our village and John Schorne. We have been on two history walks around the village and Mr Spargo showed us where shops used to be and what they used to look like. We went to the well and the church and looked at where John Schorne was buried. Did you know there used to be a school called Schorne College built opposite the school that was for boys only? John Camden Neild is buried in the church and Queen Victoria used his money to help repair St Mary’s and had a stained-glass window put in. Did you know John Schorne’s remains were moved to Windsor Castle to St George’s Chapel?

This term we have started our swimming lessons and we are really enjoying them and making great progress.

In English we have been having debates and writing balanced arguments.

By Trixie and Charlotte

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This half term, **Sapphire Class** have been working our socks-off! Whilst there has been lots of preparation for the Year 6 SATs, we have ensured that there have been lots of other engaging and interesting lessons happening across the curriculum. For example, we've been enjoying kick-rounders in the sun for PE, finding out about humanism in RE and, in our PSHE lessons, we have been learning more about gangs and exploitation so that they can keep themselves safe.

Our Science unit is all about living things and so the children have been revisiting how animals and plants are grouped by studying classification systems and the importance of taxonomist Carl Linnaeus. The children particularly enjoyed their lesson about micro-organisms and we have just begun some observations to determine the best conditions to grow mould!

In History and Geography, our focus has been on where and when the ancient Maya civilisation thrived. The children have learnt about longitudinal and latitudinal lines, the tropics and the equator and have learnt about time-zones across the globe. The class enjoyed discovering what the Maya people invented and their impact on today's world, as well as playing the Maya game 'pok-a-tok'.

We would like to add that we are so proud of the Year 6 children for their hard work during SATs this week - we know that all the children really challenged themselves, persevered and showed determination and resilience. They have been amazing! We would also like to say well done and thank you to Year 5 for being so patient with the changes of rooms and disruptions to their timetable too.

Keeping our Children Safe

At the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, it was noted that since the main road through North Marston has been repaired, the speeding issue has got worse. If you are driving through the village, please keep within the 30 MPH limit and be mindful that this should be drastically reduced if you need to drive up (or down) School Hill. If you do drive up to the gates to drop off or pick up, please observe the voluntary one-way system as this helps to keep the children safe.

When walking with your children through the village, take every opportunity to reinforce safety messages for walking near busy roads and crossing appropriately.

I have received reports of parents using mobile phones while driving and of children not being appropriately restrained, either in car seats or using seat belts. We cannot be complacent about these things as they jeopardise the safety of our children and therefore my advice, should you witness such incidents, is to report it to the authorities.

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Summer Term 2025 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<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
<u>Half Term</u>				
<u>2nd June</u> INSET day (children do not attend)	<u>3rd June</u> Y4 MTC Window (2 weeks)	<u>4th June</u> Year 5 parents meeting re secondary transition	<u>5th June</u> PTA Father's Day event 2:45pm Opal parent's meeting about Southend trip 7:30 PTA meeting	<u>6th June</u>
<u>9th June</u> Y1 phonics screening (and Y2 retakes)	<u>10th June</u> Diamond Class Forest School visit Y6 whole class transition workshop	<u>11th June</u>	<u>12th June</u> Opal and Sapphire NSPCC workshops Ruby and Diamond Rabbi visit	<u>13th June</u>
<u>16th June</u>	<u>17th June</u> Sapphire Class Forest School visit Selected group to Science Share in Oxford	<u>18th June</u> 6pm Meeting for Parents of Sept 2025 Reception intake	<u>19th June</u> Sports Day PTA Summer Fete	<u>20th June</u>
<u>23rd June</u>	<u>24th June</u>	<u>25th June</u> 2pm Reception September 2025 Stay & Play session	<u>26th June</u> 2:45pm Read with Rubies	<u>27th June</u> Opal class trip to Southend
<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) 2:30pm Opal parents invited to take part in book talk session	<u>3rd July</u>	<u>4th July</u> Class photos and whole school photo

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<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> 2:45pm Read with Rubies 6:30pm Sapphire production	<u>18th July</u> 3:10pm PTA treat Friday
<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:
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	Monday 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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