



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

Shining our Light to be our Best Selves!



What a fabulous day we had yesterday at sports day and the summer fete. A big thank you to all who contributed but a special mention to Mr A for organising the day, and to our amazing PTA for their continued hard work and dedication. I appreciate sports day was a little different due to the weather-enforced changes, and I know it was disappointing for some to not be able to watch the round robin part of the event. I would like to thank those who took time to feedback their views on the changes and thank you all for continuing to support the school with all of our events.

Please take extra care while enjoying the sunshine this weekend, Sarah x

Looking Forward

As we move swiftly towards the end of another school year, we are of course also busy planning for the new one!

With this in mind, I am sad to tell you that we will be saying farewell to both Esther Marsland and Georgia Simms at the end of this term. I am sure you will join me in wishing both of them well in their new adventures at new schools.

Therefore, the classes for September will be as follows:

Ruby Class (Reception) will be taught by Mrs Karen Avery

Opal Class (Year 1 & 2) will be taught by Mr Chris Armstead & Mrs Emma Tebbutt

Diamond Class (Year 3 & 4) will be taught by Miss Helen Giggins

Sapphire Class (Year 5 & 6) will be taught by Mr Tom Onan-Read and Mrs Rachel Wilson

Parent's Evening

Please look out for the letters next week so you can book your appointments. Please ensure you allow plenty of time for your visit so that you have a chance to look at your child's books and give yourself time for a browse at the book fair. We will also be asking you to complete a parent survey which is really important as it is your opportunity to have vital input into our school evaluation form and, looking forward, into the school development plan.

Sponsorship

We would like to once again thank Brett and Nadia for their kind donation towards the school fund and to Pendragon and RIMD (Research Innovation Manufacture Development) who answered our plea for sponsorship. We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support of our local businesses.

Headteacher: Miss Sarah Brew

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Attendance

Parents have responded well to requests to only keep children at home when they are too unwell to be in school and punctuality is improving in the mornings, so thank you for your support in these areas.

While discussing the reasons for absence at a recent Governor's meeting, it was identified that term-time holidays remain the main cause for our attendance data not being above National Average, which it should be for a school in our context.

While the data does tell a story, Governors have asked me to share with you the real-life impact caused by a child being absent.

When a child is absent, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that they have the chance to catch-up on their missed learning. This is vital as our curriculum is based on new knowledge building on prior knowledge and providing opportunities to practise skills in order to embed them. This means that if a child misses even a couple of days, a member of staff will need to support them individually to catch up on the learning they have missed.

This might not sound like much for one individual child but when we consider the bigger picture, it adds up.

For example, if child A misses Friday and Monday then on Tuesday an adult needs to be taken away from the class and the children they were planning to support, in order to help child A catch up on the work they missed.

This will obviously not be in as much detail as when it was taught initially in class, putting child A at a disadvantage. If child B is then absent for 2 days, then, upon their return, that is another morning when an adult will be away from the class to do catch-up with another child.

If children are too unwell to be in school then this can't be helped and we will of course help them to catch up on their learning when they are well enough to return. However, while we appreciate that holidays are a lovely way for families to spend time together, when they are taken during term-time, it has a negative impact on the whole class.

I would also discourage parents from reporting their child as poorly when you are actually going away. This goes against our value of integrity and forces your child to lie to their friends and adults, causing them distress. Term-time holidays will not be authorised because of the negative impact they have on the rest of the class as outlined above however, it is important that parents are transparent with the school about where their child is and the true reason for their absence.

PE next week

Just a reminder that PE will be on Tuesday next week rather than Monday due to Mr Lambert changing his day.

Children should come to school in their normal uniform on Monday and their PE kit on Tuesday.

Athletics club will go ahead as usual after school on Monday.

Wider Curriculum

Please take some time to browse through the attached flyers as there is a lot of information which we feel will be of interest to you.

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Summer Term 2025 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<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
<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

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Summer 2	Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	Wednesday 23 rd July 2025
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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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