



North Marston Church of England School

Shining our Light to be our Best Selves!



Firstly, I would like to say Happy Diwali to all those who celebrated this week: May this Diwali be full of love, light and everything bright!

The first half term of the new school year has flown by – probably because of everything that has been packed into it! It was great to see so many of you in school this week to meet with the teachers and browse the book fair.

We are definitely seeing some autumnal weather so please make sure the children bring their coats every day and pack their hat, gloves and scarf if they might need them – we will get them outside whenever possible so it's important they are dressed appropriately.

Have a safe and relaxing half term break. We look forward to seeing you all back when the gates open at **8:40am on Monday 3rd November**.

Sarah x

Keeping Our Children Safe

This is a double-whammy plea to you all as parents and drivers.

Please be mindful of where you park when dropping off and picking up. It is important not only to check that you are not blocking drive-ways or obstructing traffic but also that you are not making things more difficult for those who are walking. I appreciate that it is more tricky than usual with staff parking on the roads as well due to our car park being out of action, but please leave yourself enough time to ensure that you can park safely rather than being in a rush and having to leave the car somewhere inappropriate in order to get through the gate on time. Please also observe the informal clockwise one-way system (keeping the church on your left, school on your right) as you travel up Church Street and down School Hill.

When you are walking, please make sure you are stressing to your children that School Hill is still a road and the rules we would apply on a busier road should still be observed, even though it is generally quieter. This is a particularly important conversation given that there are no pathways on School Hill and therefore it is necessary for the children to walk on the road.

Head bumps

In line with NHS advice, we have updated our head bump email to offer advice on symptoms to look out for if your child has sustained a bump to the head. Please remember to acknowledge receipt of the email so we are confident that you are aware of the bump as the wrist bands we put on the child's arm don't always make it home!

Attendance

Our new attendance display is now up at the back of the hall. This shows each class' attendance for the previous week and records a gem for every class who achieved above 96% attendance. Once a class achieves 5 Gems, they will receive a reward. Congratulations to both Rubies and Sapphires, who have earned 5 Gems this half term so will receive their reward after half term.

As a reminder, if you are signing your child in late, please put a reason for their late rather than just stating 'late'. This helps with our monitoring and ensures we can offer support targeted in the right places.

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Parents' Evening

Thank you to all who attended their appointments this week, and for your positive feedback. If you took away forms to complete at home, please ensure these are returned straight after half term so that we can update our records as necessary. If you would like to provide any other feedback, please email the office or chat to me on the gate. If you were unable to make your appointment, the class teachers will be in contact to arrange an alternative appointment for after half term.

Forest School

Our Year 1 children have done a great job of supporting our new Reception children in their first experiences of Forest School. Ruby children are now settled into their routines and so Year 1 will now join Year 2 at Forest School from after half term. This means that all of Opal class will attend FS on Monday afternoons and Ruby class will continue with their Friday morning visits.

We have also booked in dates for KS2 FS visits. Diamonds will go on 27th November and Sapphires on 11th December.

Awesome Artwork

We have been lucky enough to have had two amazing creative experiences so far this term, both organised by our wonderful art lead, Emma Tebbutt.

We had a fabulous time during our two day felt making workshop. The children were fascinated by the felt making process described and demonstrated so well by Heidi. It was a very hands on experience for the children and I am sure those of you who have been into school over the past two weeks will agree that the two banners that they have created are a total success and a credit to their enthusiasm! A huge thank you to the adult helpers who came in. Heidi has asked us to pass on her thanks for your invaluable support. We hope you enjoyed yourselves as well! We are very grateful to the PTA for funding this opportunity, which the children all got to have an active part in and really enjoyed.

Last week, we were visited by an artist from the Waddesdon Manor's 'Winter Light Display – Sounds of the Season' project and the children all took part in an activity to produce some artwork, which will be used in their display. As a thank you, your child has received a code which you can use to get a free ticket for them and discount for anyone else who wants to visit once the display is open.

PTA

Congratulations to all those who have already bought their tickets for the PTA disco on Friday 7th November. Remember the 'Early Bird' discount applies until Tuesday 4th November so get those ticket orders in quickly. Please also check the calendar below and make a note of the other PTA events coming up this term and look out for the flyers which will be hitting your inbox soon after half term.

Roofing Update

The roofing work is well underway now. The first section of insulation is installed and they have begun some of the timber work. There will be extra labour on site next week to ensure that the most disruptive section of work gets completed during half term. As part of the works, all of the skylights are also being replaced but this will take place when the children are not on site - either before or after school, or at weekends. Currently, we are still on track to have all works completed and scaffolding down by December. I would like to thank staff and parents for their cooperation regarding parking during this time.

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Football Results



It has been an exciting start to our football season. The boys' team won their first game 4 – 0 against Quainton but were unfortunately beaten by Whitchurch.

We were also delighted to be able to field a girls' football team this season for the first time. They were unlucky to lose to Buckingham Park 1 – 0 after extra time but showed amazing determination and spirit throughout the match and we are looking forward to seeing their success throughout the year.



Fresh Start

There is a new menu in place for after half term so please visit the Fresh Start website with your child and look through the menu and get your lunch orders in by 9am on Thursday 30th October.

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

Please make sure that your application is complete and submitted by the deadline of 31st October and that you have uploaded any supporting evidence.

Pre-loved uniform

We now keep pre-loved uniform in school so if you need anything, please speak to Katie or Laura who will sort out whatever you need. There is no charge for our pre-loved uniform but if you would like to make a donation then it would be gratefully received!

News from the Vaults

Rubies:



Rubies have been working very hard on learning their phonemes and are beginning to realise that when letters are put next to each other they make words. In Drawing Club, they have confidently been using the words delicious, scalding and petrified to help explain the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. In Maths we have been comparing amounts stating which toy has more than or fewer than. Over the last week we have been learning about how Hindus celebrate Diwali by making rangoli patterns, diva lamps, dressing up in saris and acting out the story of Rama and Sita. We are all very tired but looking forward to learning more about the world around us next half term.



Opals:

Opals have been studying Traditional Tales over the last couple of weeks. Not only have we retold them in a fairly traditional way but we have also thought about the tales from different points of view such as the wolf's or the giant's. We have also enjoyed thinking about the village in terms of how it could be improved but whether the council agree with our plan for a new outdoor swimming pool or not remains to be seen. Happy half term one and all from Opal class.

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Diamonds:



This half term has been amazing because we have been so busy learning about the Romans in Britain and visiting Milton Keynes Discovery Centre for our Roman day. When we were there, we had a Boudicca Battle, met a Roman soldier and had a Roman banquet. We could have different jobs like kitchen slave, entertainer or a guest.

In art we have learnt about the work of David Hockney and been on an art walk, taking photographs of our local landscape. We then painted our landscape onto fabric in the style of David Hockney. We are in the middle of sewing the details on to our work.

We have really enjoyed this half term and we are looking forward to learning about volcanoes next half term.

Harriet, Hunter and Theo.

Sapphires:

It's been a wonderful half term in Sapphire Class! We have all been enjoying our learning, particularly our WW2 topic, which is very much linked with our English work using the brilliant book, "Letters from the Lighthouse". In history, we have learned about the persecution of Jewish people, Kindertransport and the process of evacuation. To support this, the children have written newspaper reports and letters as well as descriptive writing covering some of these aspects of the war.

In science, we have been finding out about properties and changes of materials including studying reversible and irreversible changes and soluble and insoluble substances.

In music, the children have been exploring improvisation and composition using Pharrell Williams' 'Happy' as a stimulus while our French lessons have included days of the week, months of the year and numbers to 31. Our PSHE lessons have included learning more about children's rights, stereotyping and discrimination (which we were also able to link to our understanding of WW2). The children have enjoyed their art lessons that have been all about Typography and have produced some fantastic pieces. Our computing lessons this term have focused on understanding different types of networks and how the internet works.

One of the things the children always look forward to is our book talk sessions. It is so lovely to see the children sharing their book recommendations, choosing new books and enjoying hearing others' suggestions for books they might enjoy. We have been so impressed with the range of homework we have seen this term so far - the creativity and hard work is evident in so many pieces! We are looking forward to a brilliant term after the break; particularly our trip to Holdenby House!

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Autumn Term 2025 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Half Term				
3rd November 8:40am gates open for return to school CLUBS RESUME	4th November Individual photos Y6 Height & Weight check	5th November Pete York – Visit School Remembrance Assembly	6th November 6pm Open Event for Reception September 2026 7:30 pm PTA meeting	7th November 9am celebration assembly PTA DISCO
10th November	11th November	12th November	13th November Prayer Space – Vision & Values (details to follow) Postponed to January!	14th November 9am celebration assembly
17th November	18th November	19th November 2pm Open Event for Reception September 2026	20th November	21st November 9am celebration assembly
24th November 10am Open Event for Reception September 2026	25th November Flu Vaccination YR-YR6	26th November 7:30 PTA Wreath Making	27th November AM – Diamonds Forest School	28th November 9am celebration assembly
1st December Mufti Day for tombola donations	2nd December	3rd December	4th December PTA CHRISTMAS BAZAAR	5th December 9am celebration assembly
8th December	9th December	10th December 2pm Ruby and Opal Nativity	11th December AM – Sapphire Forest School 9:30am Ruby and Opal Nativity	12th December 9am celebration assembly
15th December	16th December	17th December Christmas Jumper Day Children's Christmas Lunch	18th December 2pm Christmas Church Service Break Up for Christmas Holidays	19th December <u>INSET DAY – children do not attend</u>

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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	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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