

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

Challenging each other to love learning and truly care.



And just like that, another half term is done! What a fabulous half term it has been: a whole school trip; a dog show and even a couple of days of sunshine (let's hope that wasn't the extent of our summer!).

The children have continued to work hard this half term, particularly the year 6 children who completed their SATs tests with courage, amazingly supported by the Year 5 children who made no fuss at all about being banished from their classroom every morning. Thank you to all the staff who supported them throughout the week. As we move into Summer 2, we will be thinking about the transition to the next step on our learning journey, whether that be a new year group, new classroom and teacher or a new school.

I have very much enjoyed my first half term as part of the North Marston community and I'm delighted to be able to share some of the fabulous things which have happened with you all here. This Newsletter is also a great place to let you know of all the upcoming events so please take some time to read it and keep the calendar handy for future reference.

Have a fabulous half term everyone,

Sarah x

School Council

This year, our school council have been having meetings to discuss the issues that interest the children in school. These have included:

- Learning equipment in our classrooms
- Behaviour on the playground at both lunchtimes and playtimes
- Reading corners
- What we should do to support Children In Need?
- Organising a toy sale to fundraise
- We raised £180 from our toy sale - How we should spend the money we raised?
- What we should put in the reading corners and library?
- How do we want to use the library?

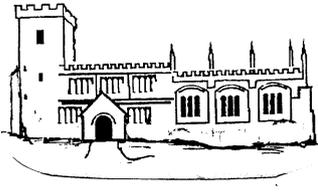
At the moment we are discussing what we like and dislike about our school uniform. We are also discussing our PE kit and whether we like to wear it to school on PE days.

Our future discussions will be about Forest School and whether Key Stage 2 children should have opportunities to be engaged in these activities.

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Photographs

Class photos will be taken on **Monday 17th June**.

As that will be a Forest School day for Y1 & 2 and a PE day for Y 3/4, please send the children to school in their school uniform and then they can change into the appropriate clothes for their activity after their photo has been taken.

Class photos will then be available for you to purchase in the usual way. Unfortunately, if your child is absent on that day, there will not be an opportunity to retake the photo. We look forward to seeing everyone looking smart in their school uniform ready for their close up!

Eco-Council

The Eco Council have been busy checking and exploring the wild garden to see how much the area is growing, we were even worried we might find giant creatures dwelling down there! It turned out there were no giant creatures but lots of over-sized plants. We have been learning all about the importance of bees so we are clearing a small area that will allow the wild flower seeds to grow more productively which will then make a safe place for bees to visit. The giant buttercups (meadow buttercups) are looking particularly beautiful right now.

Trip to Science Oxford

I would like to thank all the parents and carers who supported this trip despite the quick turnaround. Thanks also to Helen, and to Katie and Laura in the office, who made sure that all the paperwork and groupings etc. were in place to enable the trip to go ahead successfully. I hope your children have told you what a wonderful time they had but if not, here is some feedback from across the children:

I enjoyed the 'Science Surprises Show' as it showed many experiments like raisins bobbing up and down. They explained the science behind it which was really interesting.

Edward Y4

I liked doing the puzzles in the 'Exploration Zone' because they really challenged my mind and I had to think outside the box as they were really tricky.

Freddie Y3

We are already planning our trips and experiences for next academic year so look out for details of the exciting adventures we have planned.

Attendance

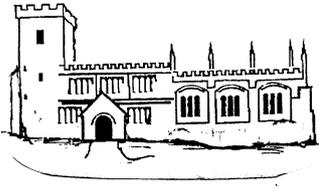
Research shows that over time, there is a direct link between good attendance and good outcomes for children. At North Marston we will be relentless in our desire to ensure every child attends school every day. Our target for attendance is 96% which makes allowance for the childhood illnesses which children suffer with from time to time.

This term we have had several requests for term time holiday so it is important for parents and carers to note that holidays in term time will be recorded as unauthorised absences and may lead to the Local Authority

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issuing a penalty notice which will incur a fine.

With new statutory guidance coming into effect in August, I will share our updated attendance policy with you all before the end of the summer term but in preparation for the changes, I will continue to **close the gates in the morning at 8:50am** so please endeavour to get children in before this time so they can have a smooth start to their day.

Please do come and speak to me if you think we can offer any support with improving or supporting your child's attendance – this is definitely an area where we need to work together to get the best outcomes for our children.

School Lunches

Please be reminded that the cut off time for ordering school lunches is the end of the school day on a Wednesday each week. This means that you will need to order by **Wednesday 29th May** ready for the week after half term. If children do not have a lunch ordered, they will need to bring a packed lunch as we do not order spare lunches and only get sent enough for those who have pre-ordered. If you experience any difficulties when ordering lunches, please speak to Katie in the office who can support you with this.

Site Safety

Thank you to all who have supported the changes put in place regarding not using the car park as an access point for pedestrians. In order to tighten these procedures further, we have some further tweaks which will be in place from after half term:

- Before School Club children should enter school through the office – there will be a member of staff to welcome them in and send them to the hall.
- Year 5/6 will enter the school via the playground along with the rest of the children – this will ensure they do not have to walk around cars or go into the car park.
- Children can continue to bring bikes and scooters to the bottom of the steps and from there a member of staff will take their bike/scooter to the bike shed for them.
- At the end of the day, a member of staff will bring bikes and scooters from the bike shed to the end of the path to ensure children and parents do not have to cross the car park.

We thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Forest School



Forest school is a child-led approach to learning, which allows children to benefit from free play and decision making in a natural woodland setting. Opportunities are provided for children to take supported risks, appropriate to the environment and themselves. In order to carry out some of the more adventurous activities, **we are in need of a bow saw** and would be grateful if anyone had one which they would be prepared to donate to the school.

As you are all aware, the children are very lucky to be able to access Forest School weekly throughout Reception and KS1. This doesn't happen without a lot of hard work and dedication from many people who we would like to thank. Firstly, to the staff who plan and prepare to ensure the learning is well thought-through and adequately resourced and also our wonderful band of volunteers who give up their time to make sure the

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children get the most from every visit. We would also like to thank 'Men in Sheds' who were commissioned by the Parish Council and built a new mud kitchen for the children to use in Forest School which they are thoroughly enjoying!
I am currently in discussion with School Council who have made a bid for children to continue using Forest School to extend their learning throughout KS2...watch this space for updates!

Online Safety

There has been a national increase in children being groomed through online gaming exploitation. While we continue to raise awareness in school, we encourage you to be vigilant at home and monitor your children while on their devices.

OpenView Education
TRAINING THROUGH THEATRE

APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

Age Rating	Apps
13+	Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Kik, YouNow, Yubo, House Party, Monkey
16+	WhatsApp
17+	Sarahah
18+	MeetMe, YOLO, LiveMe

This visual shows that none of our children at North Marston C of E are old enough to have access to any of the apps shown but we are aware that some children do, so it is even more important to be aware of what they are using the app for and who they are talking to.

TWO LEVELS OF INFORMATION AS A GUIDE : THE PEGI AGE LABELS

3 7 12 16 18
www.pegi.info www.pegi.info www.pegi.info www.pegi.info www.pegi.info

THE CONTENT DESCRIPTORS

Violence, Drugs, Discrimination, Blood, Fears, Gambling, Sex, Nudity, Alcohol & Drugs

will find on

Please also take note of this information which you games they might play online.

PSHE

I'm sure you would have heard in the news recently about the revised draft version of the statutory RSHE guidance which is now out for consultation. The consultation and draft guidance can be viewed here <https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/>
The consultation seeks the views from as many people as possible so parents are encouraged to share theirs by following the link.
A final version of the guidance will be published after the consultation has taken place, and there will be time allowed to implement any necessary changes. At this stage, there is no definite date for the release of the final version and the advice to schools is to continue following the current statutory guidance and supporting our children through quality, age-appropriate PSHE education which, as you know, we deliver through the Jigsaw programme.

On the subject of RSHE, I would like to invite year 5 & 6 parents into school on **Wednesday 5th June at 3:15** to view the resources which will be used to deliver the sex education element of the Jigsaw programme in Summer

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2. Please speak to Bob or Rachel if you need more details.

Recycle and Raise Money!

Did you know that you can help us raise funds simply by recycling your ink cartridges via our Recycle4Charity programme?

For each ink cartridge recycled via the programme we will receive up to £2 donation.

To send your cartridges or start collecting click here - <https://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/register/C124070>

School Linking Network (SLN)

This year, year 2, 3 and 4 have taken part in the Schools Linking Network Project which helps schools and communities to develop a positive, cohesive ethos by helping children and adults to explore, identify and celebrate diversity; promote community and champion equality.

SLN offers a powerful and positive programme which addresses important issues with children through a carefully structured approach to help them understand their identity and the way they are connected to others in their community, district, country and the wider world.

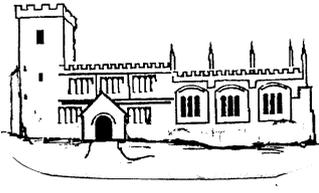
So far, our children have met their link classes both virtually and face-to-face. Our next step in our linking journey, is to contribute to the wider community through social action. In previous years, our children have raised funds towards a national scheme to plant trees and organised and participated in our Great North Marston Spring Clean. This year they have voted to work towards improving our school environment to support well-being. The children would like to tidy and 'spruce up' the school site, and particularly like to improve the quiet garden area so that it can be enjoyed by the local wildlife - both human and non!

We would therefore like to invite you to join our **GROUNDFORCE AFTERNOON** on Wednesday 12th June from 1pm – 3pm. This will be a chance for adults to come into school to work alongside the children and help them to clear, sort, tidy, weed etc. Please bring any appropriate tools and utensils such as yard brushes, gardening gloves, rakes, etc. Also, if anyone has a jet wash we could use, it would be much appreciated! We are very excited to see what we can accomplish in the afternoon when we all work together on a joint project.

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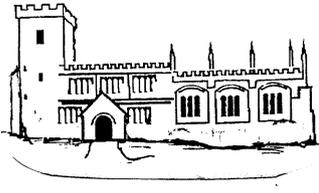
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Summer Term 2024 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27 th May	28 th May	29 th May	30 th May	31 st May	1 st June	2 nd June
School is closed for half term						
3rd June Back to School KS1 Forest School	4th June KS2 NSPCC assembly (children only)	5th June 3:15 Y5/6 parents to view PSHE resources	6th June 80 th anniversary of D-Day	7th June Year 1 Celebration Worship	8th June	9th June
10th June KS1 Forest School	11th June	12th June	13th June	14th June Mufti Day for summer fete donations Reception Forest School 2:40 Reception Celebration Worship	15th June	16th June
17th June KS1 Forest School Class photos	18th June Y2 & Y6 NSPCC workshops	19th June	20th June 6pm Meeting for New Reception parents September 2024	21st June Reception Forest School 1pm Sports Day 3:15 – 5pm Summer Fete	22nd June	23rd June
24th June Gerogia Simms starts teaching year 2	25th June	26th June Cricket activities for Y1 – 6 (more details to follow)	27th June KS1 Forest School	28th June Reception Forest School 2:40pm Y5 & 6 Celebration Worship	29th June	30th June
1st July	2nd July Y6 transition day (secondary school dependant) Whole school move-up afternoon	3rd July Y6 transition day (secondary school dependant)	4th July KS1 Forest School	5th July Reception Forest School 2:40pm Y3 & 4 Celebration Worship	6th July	7th July
8th July	9th July	10th July 6:30pm Y5/6 Production	11th July KS1 Forest School 6:30pm Y5/6	12th July Reception Forest School 2:40pm Y2	13th July	14th July

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			Production	Celebration Worship	
				End of year reports sent home	
<u>15th July</u>	<u>16th July</u> Open afternoon for parents (details to follow)	<u>17th July</u>	<u>18th July</u> KS1 Forest School	<u>19th July</u> Reception Forest School 2pm Leavers service in Church 3:15 End of Term	Children return to school on Thursday 5th September 2024

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