

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

Challenging each other to love learning and truly care.



The first half-term has whizzed by and the children have been working so hard on their learning which was celebrated in style at our first 'Learning Showcase' yesterday. It was great to have so many parents joining us for the variety of activities that took place. If you have any feedback about the event please do drop an email to the office as this will assist us in planning for next term's event.

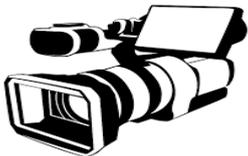
I hope you have enjoyed hearing about the children's progress at Parent's Evenings this week. It was lovely to have some positive feedback from parents regarding the new format of the evenings and I would like to thank staff and the PTA for their hard work in ensuring they ran so smoothly.

The book fair has been very successful so far and there is still a last chance to buy online; using this link will benefit the school as we will be able to get some new books for the library with the commission we receive.

Have a fabulous half term holiday and we look forward to seeing all the children back in school on **Tuesday 5th November** ready for an exciting and packed Autumn 2.

Sarah x

Photos

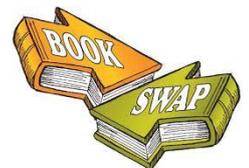


The photographer is coming to school on our first day back after half term (Tuesday 5th November) to take individual and sibling photos so please make sure that all children come to school in their full school uniform. Instructions on how to purchase photos will be sent out after they have been done.

Book Swap

As part of our campaign to encourage Reading for Pleasure and develop our reading community, we are planning to set up a 'book swap' area at the front of school. This will have books for both children and adults and you will be able to help yourself to a book to take home. We ask that if you have any books that you think others might enjoy, that you consider donating them to our Book Swap Box!

Please take some time over half term to see if you have any reading materials that you no longer want and send these into school so we can start book swapping next half term.



Parties in the Park

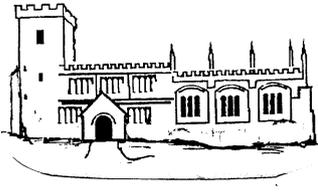
The Parish Council have asked us to pass on a message to say they are delighted to see so many families using the park for birthday parties however, they would kindly request that you take all your rubbish home to dispose of rather than using the bins in the park as these get full too quickly and this is causing an issue with overflowing.



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Harvest

We were delighted to receive a certificate from Aylesbury Vineyard in recognition of the donation we made from our Harvest celebration. It is proudly displayed in our front entrance on our Harvest display.



Packed Lunches



As we teach the children about healthy lifestyles, and try to promote a healthy diet, we appreciate parents and carers packing a varied and healthy packed lunch for their child. However, we also appreciate how difficult it can be to come up with a variety of ideas that children will be keen on so there is a wealth of tips and advice for making this more manageable by following this link <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Please remember that lunch boxes should not contain any glass containers. We thank you for your continued support with this.

Colder Weather

When we return in Autumn 2 we expect to see much more wintry weather so half term is the perfect opportunity to make sure that children have a warm coat and all the winter accessories such as gloves, hat and scarf. Please make sure everything is labelled and teach your child how to store their accessories safely in the pockets of their coat to avoid them getting lost. If children would like to walk to school in their wellies, please make sure they have their school shoes to change into when they arrive.



Bike Safety



It is lovely to see so many children riding bikes and scooters to school and most of them wear their helmets proudly (some of them are very fancy!). Please ensure your child has a helmet which fits them and make sure they wear it when they are out riding their bike or scooter so they are safe in case of an accident.

Calling all Authors

"Write a story you would love to read"

We wanted to bring an amazing opportunity to your attention – maybe something to keep the children busy during half term!



BBC's 500 Words, the UK's largest children's writing competition, for children aged 5-11, is open for entries now!

50 finalists will be invited to go to a grand final at Buckingham Palace in February next year, where the bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read out by celebrities.

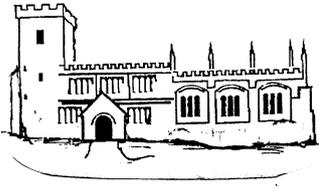
There are also lots of other prizes to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners also win 500 books for their school library.

So, be as creative as you can and write a story in 500 words or less; **spelling, punctuation and grammar** are not marked - **it's all about creativity!**

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Children can only submit one story each and the story must:

- Be 500 words or less (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child's own original idea
- Be prose, not rap or poem

Stories must not:

- Give any personal details of the child, including their name
- Recount an historical event (but they can use a real person or historical character as a source of inspiration)
- Be created, written or developed by AI

All stories will be judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

Submit before **the competition closes at 9pm on Friday 8 November 2024**. You can do this via the BBC website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/500wordscompetition/submissions-fe/index.html#/profile> and uploading the document.

Good Luck to anyone who chooses to enter!

Class updates:

We are extremely proud of how well the children in **Ruby Class** have settled into their new class. The children enjoyed taking part in our adventure to Costa Rica, as well as watching their houses burn to the ground while re-enacting 'The Great Fire of London'. Other highlights have been hammering golf tees into pumpkins and making potions from apples, damsons and other resources found in the school grounds. The children are making good progress in their phonics and are all making excellent use of the outside space available to us. Forest School continues to be a highlight of our week and we thank all the parent helpers for your support to make this happen.

Opal Class have learnt all about North Marston this half-term and proudly shared their work at their exhibition this week. They have made models and maps and enjoyed writing to King Charles to share their new knowledge. They continue with their daily phonics and are making good progress with their reading. In maths, the children have secured their understanding of place value and have been using this to help them with addition and subtraction. Have a happy half-term and get some rest ready for all our Opal Adventures in Autumn 2.

In **Diamond Class** we are really enjoying our class novel 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' and the children eagerly await the next instalment during our daily reading session at the end of the day. In maths, the children have been developing their understanding of place value and on Mondays, with Miss Brew, they have been

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learning to tell the time and solve time related problems. The children wore their tie-dye t-shirts proudly for their fashion show and were excited to be able to bring them home to wear again. Keep up the good work Diamonds!

We have had a brilliant first term in **Sapphire Class**. It has been so wonderful to get to know all the children and we have been so impressed with their attitudes, considering they are now the oldest class in the school. We have loved seeing the improvements they are making too - from developing their handwriting, improving written pieces, adding more to their mathematical answers and generally improving their learning across the curriculum. We have also had lots of fun in our lessons and enjoyed creating things, working as a team and developing our personal skills too. We were pleased to meet so many parents this week, both at parents' evenings and in our quiz morning. We are very grateful to you all for your support which enables us to help your child be the best they can be! We can't wait for next half term and all the fun, exciting things that will happen in Sapphire Class. Have a fantastic half term break!

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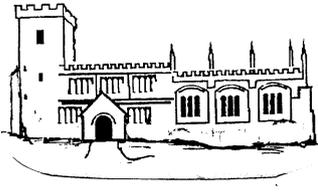
Autumn Term 2024 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><u>4th November</u> INSET day for staff – children do not attend</p>	<p><u>5th November</u> Children return to school @ 8:40am</p> <p>Individual & Sibling photos</p> <p>10am Open Morning for Reception 2025</p> <p>Football match V Swanbourne @ Sports Field</p> <p>Clubs resume</p>	<p><u>6th November</u></p>	<p><u>7th November</u></p>	<p><u>8th November</u> PTA cake sale after school</p> <p><u>Sunday 10th</u> Remembrance Service in the village – all welcome to attend</p>
<p><u>11th November</u></p>	<p><u>12th November</u> Year 6 height and weight check</p>	<p><u>13th November</u></p>	<p><u>14th November</u> Reading with Rubies (poetry)</p>	<p><u>15th November</u> Children in Need – Mufti day £1 donation</p>
<p><u>18th November</u> Sapphire L2 Bikeability</p>	<p><u>19th November</u> Sapphire L2 Bikeability</p>	<p><u>20th November</u></p>	<p><u>21st November</u> Sapphire L2 Bikeability</p>	<p><u>22nd November</u> Opal class trip – details to follow</p> <p>Sapphire L2 Bikeability</p>
<p><u>25th November</u> Whole School flu immunisations</p>	<p><u>26th November</u></p>	<p><u>27th November</u> PTA Wreath Making</p>	<p><u>28th November</u> Mufti Day – Christmas Bazaar donations (chocolates & bottles)</p> <p>PTA Wreath Making</p>	<p><u>29th November</u> Forest School for Diamond (am)</p>
<p><u>2nd December</u> Forest School for Sapphire (am)</p>	<p><u>3rd December</u></p>	<p><u>4th December</u></p>	<p><u>5th December</u> Last day of Autumn Term Clubs</p>	<p><u>6th December</u> PTA Christmas Bazaar after school</p> <p>Last day for clubs</p>

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<u>9th December</u> No Clubs this week	<u>10th December</u> 	<u>11th December</u> 2pm Ruby and Opal Christmas Production	<u>12th December</u> 2pm Ruby and Opal Christmas Production	<u>13th December</u> KS2 trip – details to follow
<u>16th December</u> No Forest School No Clubs this week	<u>17th December</u> Reading with Rubies (Christmas)	<u>18th December</u> Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day 2pm Thank you celebration for our volunteers (invites to follow)	<u>19th December</u>	<u>20th December</u> 2pm Christmas Service in the church No Forest School Break up for Christmas Holidays @ 3:10pm

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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