

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

Challenging each other to love learning and truly care.



And, that's a wrap!

It's always a mixed blessing to get to the Summer Holidays: on the one hand, we're all looking forward to a nice, relaxing break but, on the other, it means saying goodbye to some well-loved friends. So, as we all go on our merry way, we say a final farewell to Mr Kellam as well as our fabulous Year 6 cohort. They have had an amazing final week together (although they were gutted to miss out on their Wednesday activities due to our early closure!) and made memories they will all cherish for a long time to come.

The rest of the school have been busy finishing off this year and making plans for September and we were delighted to see many parents sharing in their work and meeting their new teachers at our open afternoon on Tuesday.

I hope you enjoyed reading the children's reports which came home last week. If you didn't manage to return the feedback slip and you still have something you would like to share, please complete the parent survey online via the link sent out last week. We are always happy to receive feedback from parents to either share what you feel is working well, or comments and suggestions about things we could do better. The Governors will analyse the results and a summary will be shared with you all in the Autumn.

Have a fabulous summer; fingers crossed for some sunshine! I look forward to welcoming the children (and parents!) back on **Thursday 5th September at 8:40am.**

Sarah x

Our Precious Stones

After consultation with school council, the staff have chosen new names for the classes! We opted for precious stones (one of school council's suggestions) to reflect how much we value each class and that our children are all gems:

Reception/Year 1: Rubies

Year 2: Opals

Year 3/4: Diamonds

Year 5/6: Sapphires

We know it will take a little getting used to but hope it will give the classes a sense of belonging and identity – maybe the children could find out something about their precious stone to share with their class when we return.

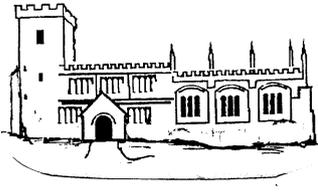
Meet the Teachers

These events will take place soon after we return in September. This will be an opportunity for parents to come in, just before the end of the day (2:50pm) and find out a little more about the adults in your child's class, and their plans for the coming year. They will also share information such as PE days, homework expectations etc. If you are unable to join us, the information will be sent home to you instead but it would be lovely to see as many parents and carers as possible at each class event.

Headteacher: Miss Sarah Brew

Telephone: 01296 670 286

Email: office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk



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Tuesday 10th September @ 2:50pm – Opals

Wednesday 11th September @ 2:50pm – Rubies

Thursday 12th September @ 2:50pm – Diamonds

Friday 13th September @ 2:50pm – Sapphires

In the meantime, the teachers request that children **do not bring** pencil cases to school as they take up a lot of room on their desks; all the equipment and stationery the children need will be provided by school.

Parental Engagement

From September, we will be offering parents an opportunity each half term to come into school and join in with the learning in the classroom. This might take the form of watching the children present something they have learned, supporting them in a piece of work they are completing or taking part in a more creative activity. Specific details for each class will be sent out in September so watch this space for more information about this exciting opportunity to get involved in the children's learning.

These sessions will replace the 'sharing assemblies' which currently take a considerable amount of time out of lessons to prepare.

The 'Celebration' element of Friday's collective worship will continue and will take place on a Friday morning, so please continue to send in any certificates, medals or other accolades the children receive outside of school as I love the chance to celebrate these achievements with the children in school. We will continue to invite Parents of "The Star of the Week" from each class to join us for this collective worship.

Mobile Phones

Please pass this very important message to anyone else who may collect your child as there have still been adults using their mobiles at pick up time.

We respectfully ask all adults attending the school not to use their mobile phone **within the school grounds:**

Greet your child with a smile, not a screen!

This also supports our work in safeguarding our children, and we thank you for your cooperation. Please do not be offended if a member of staff asks you to finish your call, or put your phone away while on our school site.

Online Safety

It is not unusual for children to spend more time on devices during the holidays; playing games, chatting with friends or researching things to do (maybe even some extra school work!!). Therefore it is even more important that we are vigilant about what they are doing, who they are talking to and what sites or apps they are accessing.

The following link opens up a wealth of information for parents and carers to support you in keeping your children safe while they are online: <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/>

Attendance

From September, our updated attendance policy will be in place:

Children should not be on site before the gates open as there are no adults to supervise them.

Gates open at 8:40am – teachers have activities ready to engage the children and get them set up for the day

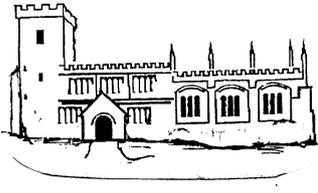
Gates close at 8:50am – children should arrive before the gates are closed

Registers are taken at 8:50am so if your child arrives after the gates are closed, please bring them to the office to sign them in late.

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If your child arrives after 9:10am, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

In line with the DfE's new attendance guidance, and with county procedures, we will monitor attendance closely and will offer support to families if attendance drops below 1 am unable to agree term time holidays.

After School Clubs

The teachers will be busy over the holidays planning the afterschool clubs which they will be offering for the Autumn Term. A list will be sent out when we return in September so children can choose which clubs they would like to attend and clubs will start the week beginning 16th September.

Uniform

I can't wait to see all the children returning in September, smartly dressed in their school uniform, including school shoes (not trainers). Please follow the link for a reminder of our uniform expectations:

<https://www.northmarstonceschool.co.uk/uniform-information/>

For Health and Safety reasons, we would ask that all long hair is fully tied back neatly for school and that only one pair of plain studs is worn in the ears. No other jewellery is to be worn at school. Children may wear a watch, but no smartwatches please. Children should not wear make-up or nail varnish to school.

We are grateful to parents and carers for their support in ensuring our gems are appropriately dressed for school so they can focus on their learning.

Please make sure all of your child's uniform and belongings are labelled so we can reunite them if they become parted. If you have bought pre-loved uniform, please remove the name of the previous owner and put your child's name clearly.

Site Safety

A reminder that the car park should not be used by pedestrians at any time during the day. There are now procedures in place for dropping off and picking up, including bikes and scooters, at normal school times and for before school club and after school clubs. The children have taken on board the message and are no longer using the car park but there are still some parents who are using it as an entrance or exit point.

If you need help with a push chair, please ask a member of staff to help you up the steps as this is safer than walking across the car park.

Forest School

Reception and KS1 will continue to have Forest School sessions next year. These will take place on a Monday afternoon for Opals (Y2) and a Friday afternoon for Rubies (R/Y1).

KS2 will also have opportunities to attend Forest School again next year as we develop our Outdoor Learning curriculum so look out for details of when Diamonds and Sapphires will get their turn!

Please also remember that the Forest School space is open to the public all year round so why not make use of it over the summer holidays with friends and family?

PTA

The PTA have had a busy half term with the Summer Fete, Friday Treats, Father's Day and a School Disco! We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and teachers who support with these events in any way. The PTA are always looking for more volunteers to help organise events or to help run them so if you want to get involved (in a big or small way), please send an email to the office and we will pass on your details. Look out for details regarding the annual AGM which will take place in the Autumn Term.

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Autumn Term 2024 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>2nd September</u> Summer Holidays	<u>3rd September</u> INSET day	<u>4th September</u> INSET day	<u>5th September</u> Children return at 8:40am	<u>6th September</u>
<u>9th September</u>	<u>10th September</u> 11+ Practice Test (Y6) 2:50pm Opal class 'Meet the Teacher'	<u>11th September</u> 2:50pm Ruby class 'Meet the Teacher'	<u>12th September</u> 11+ Test (Y6) 2:50pm Diamond class 'Meet the Teacher'	<u>13th September</u> 2:50pm Sapphire class 'Meet the Teacher'
<u>16th September</u> After School clubs start this week	<u>17th September</u>	<u>18th September</u>	<u>19th September</u>	<u>20th September</u>
<u>23rd September</u>	<u>24th September</u>	<u>25th September</u>	<u>26th September</u>	<u>27th September</u> MacMillan Coffee Morning – details to follow
<u>30th September</u>	<u>1st October</u>	<u>2nd October</u>	<u>3rd October</u>	<u>4th October</u> 2pm Harvest Service – details to follow
<u>7th October</u>	<u>8th October</u>	<u>9th October</u>	<u>10th October</u>	<u>11th October</u>
<u>14th October</u>	<u>15th October</u>	<u>16th October</u>	<u>17th October</u>	<u>18th October</u>
<u>21st October</u>	<u>22nd October</u>	<u>23rd October</u>	<u>24th October</u> Parent Engagement Morning – details to follow	<u>25th October</u> Break up for half term

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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 4 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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