

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

***Challenging each other to love learning and truly care.***

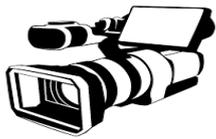


Autumn 2 is whizzing by and December will be with us before we know it...along with all the excitement that brings. Please read the class learning updates below to get a flavour of what the children have been learning in each class and check the calendar for the dates of the end of term learning celebrations when parents will be invited to come and share what the children have been learning.

Have a lovely weekend,

Sarah x

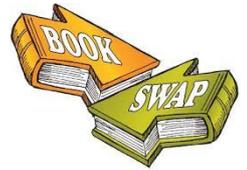
### **Photos**



The children will be bringing home the photos that have been ordered but if you missed the deadline, there is still time to order – please see the slip the children have in their bag. Feedback on the photos has been mixed so please do get in touch if you have any comments so we can make a decision about booking for next year.

### **Book Swap**

We have had many donations from staff and families for the book swap boxes. Please do help yourself to anything from the boxes – you don't have to have made a donation in order to take a book and there is no limit on how many books you borrow or how long you can keep them. We just ask that when you have finished with any books, you pop them in the box for someone else to enjoy.



### **Church Activities**

Please see below a poster from St John the Baptist Church, Granborough asking for volunteers to take part in their Nativity Play. If your child would be interested in this, there are contact details on the flyer so please do think about joining in.

### **Young Carers**

We were delighted to welcome Laura from Bucks Young Carers to deliver an assembly to the children this week. The children listened carefully and thoughtfully to what Laura had to say and had time to reflect on what being a Young Carer might mean for them or their friends.

In school, we run Topaz Club every fortnight to support our children, some of who are Young Carers, and give them a safe space to discuss any worries or concerns. If you think your child might be a Young Carer – that means there is a member of the household who needs additional care and support (it doesn't mean the child has to actually do the caring!) or might benefit from joining Topaz Club, please do get in touch so we can have a chat about their needs and how we can best support them.

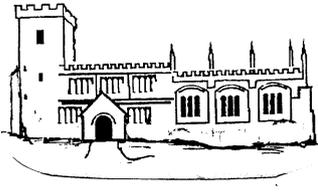
### **Safety Message from Parish Council**

At this month's Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council were concerned about a box of "sharps" (diabetic

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needles etc.) that had been thrown onto the verge and accidentally mown over by a tractor mower, causing the needles to be scattered.

This is obviously very dangerous and the Parish Council asked me to let you know, as you may wish to warn the children about the dangers of picking up any discarded needles or other medical paraphernalia which has been discarded on the grass verges (or anything/anywhere for that matter!).

**PTA News**

There are still a few spaces for our Wreath making events on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Please contact Liz Hale if you would like to attend. Special thanks to Kelly for donating cakes and mince pies for both nights.

Please see the attached parent guide for everything you need to know for the **Christmas Bazaar** coming up on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Special thanks to: Loren Radwell from JR Plumbing & Heating for donating card readers and organising the raffle; Laura Allum from Rhubarb & Ginger Catering for donating cakes; Pendragon Scientific for donating crafting materials and Pete York for donating his time.

There is still time to offer your help and support either through donations or volunteering.

**Class Learning Updates**

**Ruby:**

Ruby class has been learning about cold climates and contrasting them with the hot climates they learnt about last half term. As a way of introducing this topic, the children were challenged to design and make an igloo for a teddy bear from either marshmallows, sugar cubes or ice cubes. We were very impressed with the perseverance and problem-solving skills shown by many of the children. They have learnt that Inuits use igloos as a form of shelter. The children have read a range of fiction and non-fiction books to support their learning on the differences between the Arctic and Antarctic.

In phonics Reception children have been learning about digraphs and becoming more confident with segmenting and blending cvc words while Year 1 children have been learning that there are many GPCs for the digraphs and trigraphs they learnt last year. They have all been working hard to apply their phonics in their writing. In Maths, both year groups have been learning about mass, using the terms heavier than and lighter than and comparing objects using non- standard units. In number work, Year 1 have been developing their place value skills while Reception have been discovering different ways to make 4 and 5, leading to improved subitising skills.

**Opal:**

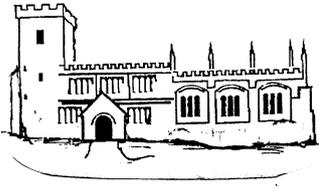
This term Opal class have been brushing up on their knowledge of Roald Dahl and his books in preparation for our class trip! We have learnt a lot about Roald Dahl himself as a Local Legend. We have also read James and the Giant Peach and started George's Marvellous Medicine, both of which have been popular with the children! When we had our very snowy day we investigated microhabitats and recorded our observations so we are ready to compare our findings in the warmer weather, looking for bugs and insects just like in James and the Giant Peach!

In maths, we have started learning about shapes so please reinforce this through spotting shapes in the environment and talking to your child about how many sides and vertices (corners) a shape has – it took us a

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while to establish a circle is a 1-sided shape! We have also explored 3-D shapes and investigated the 2-D shapes that are the faces of the 3-D shapes.

**Diamond:**

This half term we have begun learning all about modern Egypt, including its flag and borders. We have researched the White Desert; how it is covered in white crystals and fossilised sea creatures from when it was under an ocean and how it has strange looking columns and pillars that have been eroded over millions of years. We have also researched the Black Desert with its towering black volcanic 'pyramids' and volcanic rocks. We have learnt about how the Nile is used today compared to ancient Egyptian times and how modes of transport are very different too. We all agreed we would not like to drive in Cairo!

In science, we have been using musical instruments to investigate how sounds are made, feeling the vibrations and comparing the strength of vibrations to the volume created.

In DT, we have evaluated different money containers and we are now creating our design criteria before making a money container of our own. Any support from parents, grandparents, family or friends who would be willing to help thread needles and sew would be greatly appreciated! Please get in touch if you can help.

**Sapphire:**

This half term, Sapphire Class have continued learning about Greece by comparing ancient and modern-day geography, festivals, food and culture. We have begun writing persuasive texts using the Battle of Marathon as a stimulus and learnt about the invention of democracy and its impact on our way of life. In Science, the children have investigated how light travels, how we see objects and light's impact on the size and shape of shadows. Sapphire have been discussing and learning about internet safety in Computing and celebrating our differences in PSHE. We also finished out first class read: The Explorer by Katherine Rundell, which the children (and adults!) thoroughly enjoyed.

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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, GRANBOROUGH



**NATIVITY**

**Celebration**

**Sunday 15th December**

**11.00am**

We are looking for young people  
to take part in our Nativity Play.

If you would like to join in,  
please, contact Peter Evans  
on [petergranborough@gmail.com](mailto:petergranborough@gmail.com)

HELP US TO MAKE THIS  
SERVICE SPECIAL!

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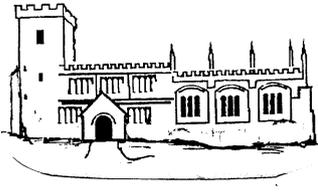
# Autumn Term 2024 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> November</b> INSET day for staff – children do not attend</p>	<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> November</b> Children return to school @ 8:40am</p> <p>Individual &amp; Sibling photos</p> <p>10am Open Morning for Reception 2025</p> <p>Football match V Swanbourne @ Sports Field</p> <p>Clubs resume</p>	<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> November</b></p>	<p><b>7<sup>th</sup> November</b></p>	<p><b>8<sup>th</sup> November</b> PTA cake sale after school</p> <p><b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b> Remembrance Service in the village – all welcome to attend</p>
<p><b>11<sup>th</sup> November</b></p>	<p><b>12<sup>th</sup> November</b> Year 6 height and weight check</p>	<p><b>13<sup>th</sup> November</b></p>	<p><b>14<sup>th</sup> November</b> 2:45pm Reading with Rubies (poetry)</p>	<p><b>15<sup>th</sup> November</b> Children in Need – Mufti day £1 donation</p>
<p><b>18<sup>th</sup> November</b> Sapphire L2 Bikeability</p>	<p><b>19<sup>th</sup> November</b> Sapphire L2 Bikeability</p>	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November</b></p>	<p><b>21<sup>st</sup> November</b> Sapphire L2 Bikeability</p>	<p><b>22<sup>nd</sup> November</b> Opal class trip – details to follow</p> <p>Sapphire L2 Bikeability</p>
<p><b>25<sup>th</sup> November</b> Whole School flu immunisations</p>	<p><b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b></p>	<p><b>27<sup>th</sup> November</b> PTA Wreath Making</p>	<p><b>28<sup>th</sup> November</b> Mufti Day – Christmas Bazaar donations (chocolates &amp; bottles)</p> <p>PTA Wreath Making</p>	<p><b>29<sup>th</sup> November</b> Forest School for Diamond (am)</p>
<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> December</b> Forest School for Sapphire (am)</p>	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> December</b></p>	<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> December</b></p>	<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> December</b> Last day of Autumn Term Clubs</p>	<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> December</b> PTA Christmas Bazaar after school</p> <p>Last day for clubs</p>

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<b><u>9<sup>th</sup> December</u></b>  No Clubs this week	<b><u>10<sup>th</sup> December</u></b>	<b><u>11<sup>th</sup> December</u></b> 2pm Ruby and Opal Christmas Production	<b><u>12<sup>th</sup> December</u></b> 2pm Ruby and Opal Christmas Production	<b><u>13<sup>th</sup> December</u></b> KS2 trip – details to follow
<b><u>16<sup>th</sup> December</u></b> No Forest School  No Clubs this week  2pm Diamond Parent finale 2:30pm Sapphire Parent finale	<b><u>17<sup>th</sup> December</u></b> 2:45 Reading with Rubies (Christmas)	<b><u>18<sup>th</sup> December</u></b> Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day  2pm Thank you celebration for our volunteers (invites to follow)	<b><u>19<sup>th</sup> December</u></b>	<b><u>20<sup>th</sup> December</u></b> 2pm Christmas Service in the church  No Forest School  Break up for Christmas Holidays @ 3:10pm

**Term Dates 2024/2025**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Start at 8:40 on:</b>	<b>Finish at 3:10 on:</b>
<b>Autumn 1</b>	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Autumn 2</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring 1</b>	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Spring 2</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<b>Summer 1</b>	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
<b>Summer 2</b>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025

**INSET days** (for staff only): Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September; Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September; Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November; Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January; Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

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