

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

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



Our first term is done and dusted and we are all heading off for a well-deserved break. The children and staff have worked extremely hard this term, and we would like to thank you for all the support you continue to give. Remember, if you have any feedback, either positive or an idea for improvement, please do get in touch through the school office.

A big thank you to all who walked with Santa on the Winslow Rotary float this week. Paul Gillet has been into school to share that we will be receiving a donation of £1100 which we plan on putting towards a reading shed for the playground, as requested by the children through

their School Council so look out for further news on this in the New Year!

Staff would like to say thank you for the cards, gifts and Christmas goodies we have been flooded with this week. We hope you all have a peaceful Christmas and wish you all the best for a Happy New Year.

Sarah x

**Food bank donations**

Thank you to everyone who brought donations for the food bank on Wednesday. We had a great mix of essentials and treats to pass on, and would like to extend our gratitude to Rachel Tomlinson who collected the food from school and delivered it to Aylesbury Vineyard on our behalf. Your contributions really will make a difference to local families who are struggling this Christmas.

**Celebration Assembly**

A reminder that from January, our weekly celebration assembly will take place at 9:00am. We will continue to send invites by email to parents and carers of children who will be receiving a certificate – both the class Star of the Week as well as the PE star which is an initiative introduced by Mr Lambert to raise the profile of PE and the associated values. Remember to let us know of any achievements from outside of school, which we can celebrate as well.

**Waddesdon Manor**

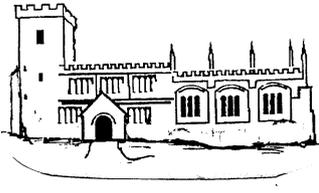
We have had some very positive feedback about our part of the display at the Waddesdon Manor Christmas exhibition. I know many families made use of the vouchers to visit Waddesdon and see the display in person. Layla very kindly shared some photos of her visit for those who weren't able to get there. We have been contacted by Waddesdon Manor to thank us for our involvement and offering further opportunities for collaborative work in the future.



**Headteacher: Miss Sarah Brew**

**Telephone: 01296 670 286**

**Email: [office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk)**



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

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

**Attendance**

Our whole school attendance for the Autumn Term is just below our target of 96%, which is disappointing. I would like to thank the parents and carers who have made sure their children are in school on all the days they are well enough to be.

While we appreciate that children will get ill sometimes, the 96% target allows for these occasions. However, unauthorised holidays have had an impact on our attendance figures this term. Therefore, while I understand and applaud the benefits of travel for children, I would urge parents to consider the wider impact this has when holidays are taken during term time.

Please find attached the updated attendance policy for your reference. This is in line with new guidance released by the DfE, which came into force in August 2024. Please do get in touch if you have any questions or comments once you have read the policy.

**A visit from Santa**



I'm sure you have all heard the exciting news that we had a very special visitor in school on Wednesday! Santa enjoyed the Christmas Bazaar so much that he made a return visit to school to read the children the story of 'The Christmas Pine'. The children showed Santa their wonderful manners by listening beautifully and even sang a song for him!

Santa left a gift for all of the children, which they brought home on Wednesday, and you should have received care instructions via email.

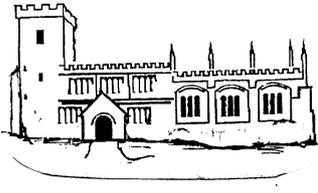
**PTA Thank you**

In all my years of teaching and working in schools, I have never come across a group of volunteers who are so dedicated, hard-working and determined as The North Marston C of E School PTA. This group of volunteers go above and beyond what is required to ensure that their events are well organised, appropriately resourced and fantastic experiences for the whole community. I cannot thank Liz and her team enough for all of their help and support so far this term.

If you would like to be involved in this fabulous group, please chat to one of the members or drop a message to the office.

**Headteacher: Miss Sarah Brew**

**Telephone: 01296 670 286**  
**Email: [office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk)**



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

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

**Behaviour updates**

The majority of our North Marston gems behave in line with our expectations the majority of the time. Sometimes an individual child needs to be reminded to restore their behaviour to where we want it to be and occasionally children will act in a way that is either disrespectful or hurtful either emotionally or physically to another child or adult. When this happens, the adults in school will step in to support the children to understand why they behaved like this in the first place and how we can restore both their behaviour and any relationship they may have damaged through their words or actions.

There have been a few incidents this term which have led to children labelling others as a 'bully' and so I thought it worth sharing the link the [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) to help us have a shared understanding of what bullying is. This is important so that, should any issues of bullying arise, we can tackle them head on and ensure support for all the children involved.

While we encourage children to share their worries with the adults in school, there may be occasions when they choose to save them until they get home and share with you instead. Please do make us aware of anything that is of concern so that we can address issues as soon as they arise.

**Class Learning Updates**

**Ruby:**

Our focus over the last few weeks has been on Christmas. They enjoyed learning all of their lines and the songs for the nativity, Baarmy Bethlehem, and would like to thank all the friends and relatives who came to watch – it means so much to the children to have you there. In RE we have looked at the gifts given to the baby Jesus and wondered what gifts Christians would give to Him, if he were to come to North Marston today. We have read many different Christmas stories in class and shared these with our parents at our reading event this week so again, thank you for joining us.

Alongside all of the seasonal activities, we have completed our D&T unit on dips and dippers, learning how to use knives, graters and peelers safely. In Maths, we have been focusing on instant recall of our number bonds and different methods to solve subtraction questions. In writing, we have been working hard to write longer pieces of work and find our own mistakes. Reception children have been introduced to the concept of finger spaces and are starting to recognise capital letters.

Rubies would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

**Opal:**

This term, Opal Class have explored a wide range of exciting topics and skills. In English, we wrote book reviews, letters, and narratives inspired by Roald Dahl's stories. In Maths, we deepened our understanding of 2D and 3D shapes and worked with money, learning to recognise coins and make the same amount of money using different coins. Our topic lessons focused on Local Legends, where we delved into local history and geography. In DT, we developed our design skills by creating sliders and levers, which we showcased in our festive Christmas cards. We enjoyed our school trip to the Bucks museum and Roald Dahl story centre and it was a great way to immerse ourselves in our learning.

**Headteacher: Miss Sarah Brew**

**Telephone: 01296 670 286**

**Email: [office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk)**



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

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

**Diamond:**

This half term we have been learning how to sew seams and different stitches such as back stitch, running stitch, over stitch and blanket stitch. We have also been using the book 'Window' to inspire our own poetry. We have enjoyed using descriptive sentences and similes within our poems.

In science, we have been learning about sound, in particular, how sounds are made; sound waves and vibrations. We investigated volume and how to change the pitch of a sound. We became sound engineers and scientists to solve Miss Giggins' headphone challenge, when we had to investigate which materials best insulated against sound.

We have been learning our multiplication tables and how to multiply by 1 and 0 and how to divide by 1 and itself. We will need to keep practising our times tables over the holidays ready for our Multiplication Check next year!

**Sapphire:**

This half term, Sapphire Class have applied our DT learned-skills to make hummus and Greek salads, which we thoroughly enjoyed. We read 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens and learned about the features of the novella and applied these when writing our own interpretation. Our maths focus has been largely on learning about fractions - including finding equivalents, simplifying, and adding and subtracting fractions. We have continued with our Ancient Greek learning in history and enjoyed applying our learning when we explored the Ashmolean museum last week. In PSHE, we have been continuing our theme of celebrating our differences and we have been learning all about blogging in our computing lessons.

**Headteacher: Miss Sarah Brew**

**Telephone: 01296 670 286**  
**Email: [office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk)**



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

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

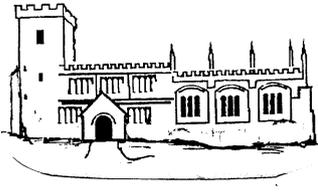
---

# Autumn Term 2024 Calendar

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> January</b> INSET day – no children in school	<b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b> Children return to school	<b>8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> January</b> Diamonds Bikeability	<b>10<sup>th</sup> January</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> January</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> January</b> After School clubs start this week	<b>21<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> January</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> January</b> Reception – height and weight checks	<b>28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> January</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February</b> Break up for half term

Headteacher: Miss Sarah Brew

Telephone: 01296 670 286  
 Email: [office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk)



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

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

---

**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

**Headteacher: Miss Sarah Brew**

**Telephone: 01296 670 286**  
**Email: [office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk)**