

North Marston Church of England School

Shining our Light to be our Best Selves!



Wow! What a whirlwind of an Autumn term: Trips, experiences, experiments and a whole host of exciting events on top of the fantastic amount of learning which has taken place in every classroom. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to say a massive thank you for all the cards, gifts and Christmas greetings we have received. We shall certainly eat, drink and be merry over the holidays!

The excitement continues after the holidays as we already have a packed diary for the spring term, full of lots more wonderful opportunities for our amazing Gems. There is a lot of information in this newsletter so please take some time to read it and keep it safe for future reference. I have also included term dates for next academic year for those who like to plan ahead!

Have a fabulous Christmas and a Happy New Year, Sarah x

PTA

This Autumn term, through our fundraising events and contracts, we have raised a massive **£6,129.94**. 63% of this was from 'Grandmarstonbury', so a big thank you to everyone involved.

The Christmas Bazaar raised £1.6k - our biggest ever, so thank you to everyone who made it happen and supported it. A special thank you to Rhubarb and Ginger for the delicious cakes which they kindly donated and which were a big hit as always.

We also received grants totalling £1900 from North Marston and Granborough Parish Councils, Winslow Lions Club and Winslow Show: £1500 came directly to the school to fund our new PTA shed and £400 to the PTA.

So far this term, we have been able to support our school with £3.7k towards several projects, including: The Outdoor Art project and the Felt Banners, The School trip to the Ashmolean Museum and part funding towards the training of our very own Therapy Dog.

We have also placed a deposit on a Zactiv experience day, more on this to come!

Please see attached our PTA Newsletter.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Athlete Visit

I am so excited to tell you that we will be having a visit from a World Class Athlete on Thursday 5th February to inspire the children to be more active and promote resilience. The children will take part in a sponsored event which will raise some money for new sports equipment. Please look out for more information in the new year.

Doodle Bug

On Friday the 23rd January 2026, Ian Brealey from The Doodle Bug will be visiting school to work with the children, delivering workshop sessions which are Maths & Art Cross-Curricular and also linked to Mental Health, Well-Being & The Growth Mindset.

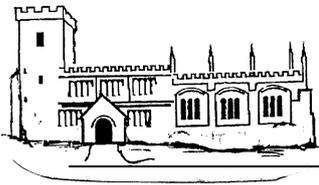
The sessions are ideal for boosting confidence & self-esteem but also promote resilience-building & Growth Mindset principles, both of which are hugely beneficial for children.

Ian builds on this further by delivering motivational assemblies after he has delivered the workshop sessions when he talks about the importance of having a Growth Mindset. If you are able to attend the assembly from 2.40pm to 3.05pm on that day, it will give you an insight into what the children had to do in their respective

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workshop sessions.

Fresh Start

Fresh Start will be visiting on Tuesday 6th January at the end of school, to offer children and parents some tasters from their new menu. There is also an 'International Theme Day' on Thursday 15th January (please see the poster attached).

Menus are now live for ordering for next term and, as a reminder, the deadline for booking your meals is at 9am each Thursday for all options of meals required for the following week.

Royal British Legion

Thank you to everyone who supported our school's fundraising for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We are proud to share that we raised **£111.19**.

Your generosity helps the Royal British Legion continue its vital work supporting veterans, serving personnel, and their families. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a real difference.

Thank you once again for your kindness and support.

Keeping Our Children Safe and Happy

It is normal for all of us to experience feelings of sadness and upset at times and everyone has anxious thoughts on occasion, especially in new situations or when there is some kind of change happening. Even changes that, as adults, we might perceive as minor, can feel significant to our children. Please follow the link below to a range of books that might be useful in supporting you and your family if you have a child who is struggling with their emotions or well-being.

<https://readingagency.org.uk/get-reading/our-programmes-and-campaigns/reading-well/reading-well-for-children/>

Remember, we are here to support with your child's well-being so please do let us know if you think your child is struggling with anything and please also keep us informed about any changes, however minor, within the family so we can best support your child.

You might also find some useful resources here [Exciting December Updates for BBC CBeebies Parenting!](#) , particularly to support you over the festive period.

Coming soon 'Rock and Pop' Music Lessons!

Exciting news! From January, we will be welcoming Rocksteady Music School to North Marston who will offer parents the chance to sign up their child to be in their own band! This is an incredible opportunity, at a reasonable cost, for the children to learn to play their favourite songs in their very own band with a choice of drums, keyboards, electric guitar, bass guitar or vocals.

As well as learning new musical skills, lessons also boost children's confidence, well-being, social skills, and teamwork. Lessons take place every week during school time.

These fun and inclusive lessons are taught by highly trained professional musicians who know how to inspire a life-long love of music. At the end of each term, the bands perform a concert for the school and their families, so you can see how far they have come!

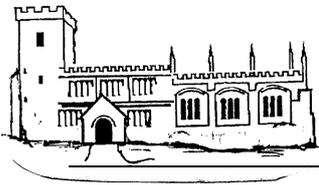
Here's what you need to know:

- All instruments are provided.
- No musical experience necessary.
- Suitable for all ages.

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- Lessons take place in school.
- All involved work towards an Ofqual qualification in Music.
- Your child will learn a range of new instrument, band, and performance skills.
- You'll receive regular online parent timeline updates.
- There's a money-back guarantee for the first month.
- You can cancel at any time.

Rock Steady Music will be coming to school to run a launch assembly on 9th January and we would love to invite parents to join us at 9am so you can see what it's all about and decide if this might be something you want to

Email Update

In the new year, we will be using our MIS system, Arbor, to send group emails. Unfortunately, the first of these might go to your junk folder so please keep an eye out for this and let us know if it continues to be an issue.

News from the Vaults

Ruby Class:

Rubies have had a very busy few weeks. We have been working hard on blending our phonemes, so that we can now read and write cvc words and are beginning to attempt longer words. We are becoming more secure in subitising numbers to five by recognising patterns and relating them to the correct numeral. We have been exploring our locality. We posted our letters to Father Christmas and visited Schorne Pre-school to invite them to watch our dress rehearsal. It was lovely seeing our old teachers and they were pleased to see us. One icy morning we walked to the pond, learning about keeping safe near water as well as becoming excited about the changes the ice had made to our surroundings. We enjoyed performing our first school nativity play to our friends and family. Rubies would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Opal Class:

Opal class would like to thank all our friends and family who came to watch our Nativity. We had so much fun preparing for it but it was hard work to learn all the songs and all the words.

We have been making Christmas cards with moving parts in Design Technology and in maths we have been learning about bar charts and collecting data to create our own. We have been lucky enough to get down to Forest School every week and continue our learning through exploring our natural environment.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

Diamond Class:

This term we have been learning about volcanos and we made planet earth from plasticine to show the different layers. We practised an earthquake drill and made buildings from spaghetti and marshmallows to see which shapes made the strongest structures.

In DT, we used our scientific knowledge of circuits to help us make a bedside light. In food technology we designed and made healthy flatbreads. This term has been good fun!

Annabella, Lily-Rose and Isaac.

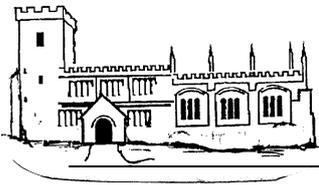
Sapphire Class:

Sapphire have had an awesome term and the children have thoroughly enjoyed our World War 2 topic, especially our immersive trip to Holdenby House and when preparing vegetables for our trip to Forest School,

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where the class cooked up wartime soup. The children have worked so hard and produced some excellent in-class writing as well as some outstanding and inspiring homework! We know the children will continue to show this enthusiasm and determination in the Spring Term, when we begin our topic on Crime and Punishment.

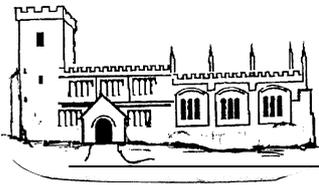
Spring Term 2026 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>Christmas Holidays</u>				
<u>Christmas Holidays</u>				
5th January 2026 Back to School – gates open at 8:40am Opal class Forest School starts	6th January Y5 Fire safety After School – Fresh Start taster on the playground	7th January	8th January	9th January 9am Rock Steady Launch assembly – parents welcome Ruby class Forest School starts
12th January 9:30 Callum Anderson (MP) visiting school	13th January	14th January	15th January Prayer Space activities International Theme Day Lunch – Order through Freshstart	16th January
19th January 7:30pm Governor’s meeting	20th January	21st January	22nd January	23rd January Whole School Doodle Bug Workshop 2:30 Parents invited to join Doodle Bug assembly
26th January	27th January Bikeability L2 Group 1	28th January Bikeability L2 Group 1	29th January Bikeability L2 Group 2 7:30 Parent Information Evening – Maths in school	30th January Bikeability L2 Group 2
2nd February 7:30pm Governors Meeting	3rd February	4th February Young Voices	5th February Athlete visit and sponsored event	6th February Bikeability Level 1

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9th February NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK Parent's Evening	10th February	11th February Parent's Evening	12th February PTA Valentine Disco	13th February <u>INSET DAY – children do not attend</u>
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Term Dates 2025/2026

Term	Start at 8:40 on:	Finish at 3:10 on:
Autumn 1	Thursday 4 th September	Friday 24 th October
Autumn 2	Monday 3 rd November	Thursday 18 th December
Spring 1	Monday 5 th January 2026	Thursday 12 th February 2026
Spring 2	Monday 23 rd February 2026	Friday 27 th March 2026
Summer 1	Monday 13 th April 2026	Friday 22 nd May 2026
Summer 2	Tuesday 2 nd June 2026	Tuesday 21 st July 2026

INSET days (for staff only): Wednesday 3rd September; Friday 19th December; Friday 13th February; Monday 1st June; Wednesday 22nd July

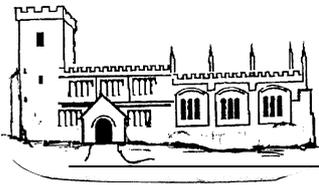
Term Dates 2026/2027

Term	Start at 8:40 on:	Finish at 3:10 on:
Autumn 1	Thursday 3 rd September	Friday 23 rd October
Autumn 2	Tuesday 3 rd November	Friday 18 th December
Spring 1	Tuesday 5 th January 2027	Friday 12 th February 2027
Spring 2	Monday 22 nd February 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027
Summer 1	Monday 12 th April 2027	Friday 28 th May 2027
Summer 2	Tuesday 8 th June 2027	Wednesday 21 st July 2027

INSET days (for staff only): Tuesday 1st September & Wednesday 2nd September; Monday 2nd November; Monday 4th January; Monday 7th June

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Fresh Start

International Theme Day

Thursday 15th January 2026

American Hot Dog, wedges & winter slaw
Order deadline for this meal is by 9am Thursday 8th January

Jamaican Vegetable Curry with rice (VG)
Order deadline for this meal is by 9am Thursday 8th January

English Jacket Potato with cheese & beans (V)
Order deadline for this meal is by 9.00am, Thursday 15th January

Italian Pizza Sub with mixed salad (V)
Order deadline for this meal is by 9.00am, Thursday 15th January

DESSERT

Australian Anzac biscuit (VG)

Simply log into Meal Manager to book your meal