

## **North Marston Church of England School**

***Shining our Light to be our Best Selves!***

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The Spring Term is in full swing, and we have had a very busy few weeks, including lots of additional activities for the children in addition to the learning that is happening in the classrooms.

It is nearly time for Parents' Evenings so, if you haven't made your appointment yet, please contact the office to let us know your availability. It is so important that we meet regularly to discuss how your child is progressing so we can continue to work together. The calendar has been updated with some dates for the rest of this term and the summer term so, please do take some time to have a look.

Have a great weekend,

Sarah

### **Community Clean-Up Project**

Now the roof works are complete and the scaffolding is down, we have access to our perimeter again which is looking in a bit of a sorry state. As we move into Spring and hopefully spending more time outside, we want to give the outside areas a bit of a spruce up and would love the whole community to get involved.

If you have some free time on the afternoon of Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February, please come up to school and we will happily put you to work!

There will be cleaning, painting, weeding and planting to name but a few tasks from the list but thankfully, our new Student 'Grounds Coordinator', Henry, will be making sure that everyone is busy and working hard to help get the jobs done.

### **Water Works**

Please see correspondence received from Anglian Water regarding work taking place near the school.

*Good Afternoon,*

*I'm writing to make you aware of some planned Anglian Water works taking place in the North Marston area from late January through to the start of March.*

*While we don't expect these works to have a direct impact on the school, we wanted to ensure you are informed in advance and know how to get in touch should you have any questions or concerns.*

*Information on the project:*

*Some of the water pipes in the area are reaching the end of their useful life, which has led to several bursts in recent years. To reduce the risk of future issues and help keep water supplies reliable, we'll be investing almost £500,000 to replace around 1.2 kilometres of pipework along Marstonfields Road.*

*Most of our activity will take place along the bridleway and across fields from North Marston up to Hideaway Farm, Pulpit Lane, Oving. However, some work will be required on local roads. This will include:*

- A closure of the bridleway between North Marston and Pulpit Lane, Oving (with a pedestrian diversion in place, though this will unfortunately be unsuitable for horses).*
- A temporary closure of School Hill for approximately six days, scheduled during the February half term (16–21 February) to minimise any impact on the school.*

**Headteacher: Miss Sarah Brew**

**Safeguarding Leads: Sarah Brew, Chris Armstead, Tom Onan-Read**

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While the work shouldn't directly impact the school, I would urge you to be mindful of the road closures and the potential work vehicles in the area, which could make the roads trickier to navigate and impact on parking around the school.

Please continue to be mindful of where you park, ensuring that you don't cause any inconvenience to our neighbours or anyone trying to access local properties, including the church.

### **Athlete Visit**

The children should have brought home their sponsor form in preparation for our visit next week from Commonwealth medalist Steve Frew. The children are excited for the event and I know lots of them have been practising their 'spotty dogs' in readiness!

Please get any sponsor money into school as soon as possible after the children have completed their activities so we can start the exciting task of choosing some new sporting equipment.

### **Doodle Bug**

This event was a great success and we would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for paying for this exciting opportunity for the children. Each class had a workshop with Ian who, through a fun art activity, taught lessons about determination and the power of resilience. Thank you to all the parents who attended the assembly on Friday afternoon when Ian gave a brief introduction to The Growth Mind Set and how important it is to harness the Power of Yet!

### **Young Voices**

It seems like only a moment ago that we launched Young Voices 2026 and yet, suddenly, it is happening next week! The children have worked so hard under the direction of Rachel Wilson, to prepare for the concert and I know that they (and the staff) are very excited for the trip. If your child is attending this year's concert, please make sure you have read all the communication from Rachel. There is a lot of information due to the nature of the trip and it is important that everyone knows what is happening to ensure that things run smoothly.

### **Keeping our Children Safe**

In order to keep our children safe and happy, it is vital that school and parents or carers work as a team, which I'm delighted to say the vast majority of parents do. As a school, we aim to be transparent with parents and carers and we welcome your input and feedback. However, it is inevitable that sometimes we might get things wrong, and there might be an issue or incident which raises cause for concern from parents and carers. In this instance, I would always urge you to address issues as early as possible, in a calm, respectful way – please don't worry that it is too small or insignificant, or that you will be taking up our time; we want to work together to ensure the best for our children.

While I would hope we can work together to solve any issues, there may be occasions when you don't feel you have got the outcome you desire and you would like to explore a more formal avenue. If this is the case, your next step should be the Complaints Procedure, which you will find on our school website. In addition to the procedure, I have attached to this letter a 'Parent's Guide to Making a Complaint', which provides a useful summary of the process, as well as some tips for dealing with these situations.

As outlined in the guidance, we would request that concerns or complaints are brought directly to the school and not aired on Social Media, including class WhatsApp group. I have had several staff and parents approach me recently to share their disappointment with some comments which have been made on these groups.

In order to set clear expectations and support transparent communication, I have attached guidance for parents for when using the class WhatsApp groups.

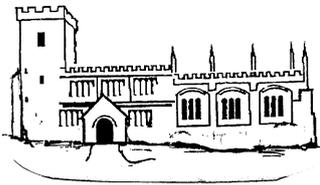
Again, thank you to everyone who continues to work with us in a way that reflects our school values and sets a good example for our children.

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### **News from the Vaults**

#### **Rubies**

Our topic this term is Wonderful World. We are using our weekly Drawing Club book to help explore the planet. We have eaten mango and pineapple from Trinidad and will be trying Chinese Food in a few weeks. This week we have read and acted out the story of The Three Little Pigs. Our focus has been on different materials and their properties. Please ask the children the actions they have learnt for flexible, precarious and construct.



#### **Opals**

This term in English, Opal class have been reading the book, 'The Cat who Walked Across France' and the children have used the illustrations in this book to help inspire them to produce some excellent descriptive writing. We have also had a very creative time looking at the work of Cezanne and Van Gogh and trying to reproduce some of that style of brushwork. Next is still life abstract paintings using acrylic paint – it's going to get messy! We will be having a French afternoon towards the end of this half term so we hope you will join us for some jus d'orange and maybe the odd croissant – date and time to be confirmed.

#### **Diamonds**

This term our topic is Italy and we have been learning about famous landmarks and cities. We have also found out about the physical geography of Italy. In science, we have been learning about the different types of rocks, their properties and how they are formed. Rocks are different to each other and some contain fossils. We have been reading twisted fairytales, which are funny and we have really enjoyed reading all the different versions. In DT we have been designing biscuit packages and thinking about how to protect the biscuits and stop them being broken. It has been very exciting learning about our play and getting our parts.

Musa, Henry D and Oliver

#### **Sapphires**

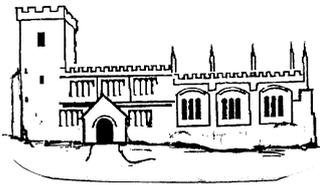
This term has been a busy one! We have enjoyed getting back into the swing of things after Christmas. In science, we have been preparing for investigating which paper aeroplane flies most effectively, using our knowledge of air resistance. Our maths work has been focused on number work including decimals. The children have enjoyed beginning our new class text (Black Powder, by Ally Sherrick) which we are using to enhance our English and History work. We have also been analysing poetry, including The Highwayman, in our reading lessons which also links well with our topic work. Our PSHE and Computing work have tied in nicely together with some internet and online safety work.

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# Spring Term 2026 Calendar

| Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> February</b><br><br>7:30pm Governors Meeting                            | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>                                     | <b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>Young Voices  | <b>5<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>Steve Frew visit and sponsored event | <b>6<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>Y5 Fire Safety<br><br>3.10 – Parents Freshstart Taster Session   |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK<br><br>Parent's Evening | <b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK | <b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK<br><br>Parent's Evening  | <b>12<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>PTA Valentine Disco                 | <b>13<sup>th</sup> February</b><br><br><b><u>INSET DAY – children do not attend</u></b>            |
| <b>Half Term</b>  |  |   |  |  |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup> February</b><br>School opens @ 8:40<br><br>Clubs back on               | <b>24<sup>th</sup> February</b>                                    | <b>25<sup>th</sup> February</b>   | <b>26<sup>th</sup> February</b><br><br>Community Clean-up Project      | <b>27<sup>th</sup> February</b>  |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>   | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>  | <b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>   | <b>5<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><br>World Book Day                      | <b>6<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><br>Young Voices mini concert                                       |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> March</b>   | <b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>                                       | <b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | <b>12<sup>th</sup> March</b>   | <b>13<sup>th</sup> March</b>   |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | <b>17<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><br>Diamonds production            | <b>18<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><br>Diamonds Production                                     | <b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b>   | <b>20<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><br>M & M production of Treasure Island in school                  |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>  | <b>24<sup>th</sup> March</b>                                       | <b>25<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><br>2:15pm Rock Steady concert for whole school and parents | <b>26<sup>th</sup> March</b>   | <b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><br>2pm Easter Service<br><br>End of Term<br><br>PTA Bingo evening |

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### Easter Holidays

#### Summer Term dates for your diary

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Back to School  
 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May – PTA Disco  
 Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Half Term  
 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Day and Summer Fair  
 Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July afternoon – Sapphire production  
 Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July evening – Sapphire production  
 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July – PTA treat Friday  
 Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July am – Y6 leaver’s assembly  
 Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July evening - Y6 Leaver’s Fest  
 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Leaver’s Service

### Term Dates 2025/2026

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

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

### Term Dates 2026/2027

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

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

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