

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

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

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As we come to the end of what can only be described as a jam-packed Spring one, I would like to reflect on the resilience of children, staff and parents this half term. It has been so busy with extra-curricular events: Doodle bug workshop, Bikeability, Young Voices, RockSteady, Fire Engine visit and after school clubs to name a selection and yet still lessons have continued to be delivered, homework has been completed and most children have turned up every day, on time with whatever they need to support them through the day. Well done everyone – it is by working together and supporting each other that we will continue to strengthen our community.

As you will see from the calendar, and the letters coming out to each class today, we have some more exciting events coming up in Spring 2 with class trips for Ruby, Opal and Sapphire and Diamonds upcoming production!

Have a great half term everyone,

Sarah

### **World Book Day**

To continue to promote a love of reading, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This year's theme is Reading for Pleasure, to align with the National Year of Reading 2026, doing everything we can to help children to find the fun in reading because research tells us that is the biggest indicator for a happier and more successful future. Therefore, children (and adults) are invited to dress up as a character from their favourite book or, to simply wear something comfortable that they would wear when enjoying reading time: there is no need to buy an expensive costume!

We would encourage children to bring in a favourite book to either reflect their costume choice, or simply to share with their friends; please make sure it is labelled with their name.

We will of course start the day with a character parade around the playground at 9am so that any children who choose to dress up can show off their costumes, and all the children can show off the books they have brought in. You are all invited to stay and watch the parade.

Throughout the day, the children will take part in different book-inspired activities. In the afternoon, the children will gather in their houses and we would love you to join us from 2:30pm with YOUR favourite children's book to share with the children either through reading with them or explaining why this is your favourite book.

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

A reminder that we would love as many of you as possible to join us on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February to help tidy up the school grounds. This was a very successful afternoon last year and really helps to develop the children's sense of community and enhance the pride we have in our school environment.

Some of the jobs that need doing are cleaning fences, painting steps and fences, weeding and planting. If you have any tools which might be helpful, then please bring them along. Otherwise, just bring yourself and plenty of enthusiasm.

**Headteacher: Miss Sarah Brew**

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

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### **World Down Syndrome Day**

This is celebrated on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March across the world so we will be continuing the celebration in school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. To raise awareness, we are celebrating with 'Lots of Socks'! We are asking the whole school community to wear their boldest, brightest socks and show them off proudly – even better if they don't match; just another example of the uniqueness of each and every one of us!

During the day, the children will learn more about Down Syndrome, they will learn some Makaton and will find out about some of the charities who support people with Down Syndrome and their families. After school, we will be holding a cake sale on the playground to raise money for Sparkles, which is one of the charities that supports children in Buckinghamshire to reach their full potential.

We thank you in advance for your support of this fabulous event.

### **Water Works**

Please be reminded of the proposed works taking place on School Hill over half term.

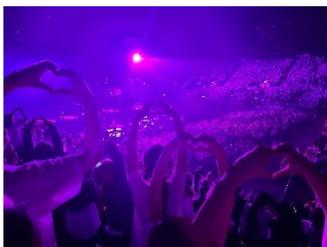
### **Athlete Visit**

The children had a great afternoon joining in some circuit training with Commonwealth medalist Steve Frew and our own in-house enthusiast, Laura Wragg. Steve then presented an assembly to the children which was engaging, inspiring and exciting!

Thanks to those who have collected and handed in their sponsorship money. This will be banked over half term and then we can start the exciting task of choosing some new sporting equipment.



### **Young Voices**



What a truly amazing experience: the atmosphere was magical, the children were phenomenal and we are already looking forward to doing it all over again next year! Thank you so much to all the parents and staff who supported this event and well done to all the children who made it into school the day after Young Voices, putting as much effort into their classwork as they had into the concert – we are very proud of each and every one of you!

We are now preparing for our mini-concert which will take place in school on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2:00pm. We will be sharing a selection of the songs that we sang, along with some photos and videos from the concert. We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

### **Keeping our Children Safe**

Sapphires were lucky enough to have a visit from Aylesbury Fire Station who came to speak to the children about Fire Safety. The children were attentive during the information session and asked some very sensible questions. The officers were keen to ensure that all children know their home address, or the address of where they are staying should you be on holiday, and spoke about preparing an escape route at home, and practising this with the whole family to help protect everyone should the worst happen. They also asked the children to encourage their parents to test their smoke detectors at least once a month by pressing the test button (not by burning the dinner as a couple of children reported was how it is done in their house!!). This is great advice and a timely reminder to us all – not just those children who took part in the session.

The children also got to look around the Fire Engine and ask questions about how the equipment works, and they got to try holding some of the equipment to give them an idea of the fitness levels required by fire fighters. We are very grateful to the fire service for sparing the time to come and visit us.



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# Spring Term 2026 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Half Term</b>				
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> February</b> School opens @ 8:40  Clubs back on	<b>24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> February</b>  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>  World Book Day	<b>6<sup>th</sup> March</b>  2pm Young Voices mini concert
<b>9<sup>th</sup> March</b>  Sapphires Trip to The Tower of London	<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>  Ruby and Opal classes trip to Whipsnade Zoo	<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> March</b> AM: Diamonds to Forest School  School Disco	<b>13<sup>th</sup> March</b>  <b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b> KS2 Cross-country at Ascott Hosue
<b>16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March</b>  6:30pm Diamonds production	<b>18<sup>th</sup> March</b>  1:45pm Diamonds Production	<b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> March</b> M & M production of Treasure Island in school for all children followed by a workshop for Sapphires
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> School celebration of World Down Syndrome Day	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March</b> Emma Tebbutt's last day at North Marston School	<b>25<sup>th</sup> March</b>  2:15pm Rock Steady concert for whole school and parents	<b>26<sup>th</sup> March</b>  AM: Sapphire to Forest School	<b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b>  2pm Easter Service  End of Term

## **Easter Holidays**

### **Summer Term dates for your diary**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Back to School  
 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Break the Rules Day  
 Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATS  
 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Diamonds SLN visit (TBC)  
 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May – PTA Disco  
 Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Half Term

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Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June – Science Week  
 Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4 MTC window  
 Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check (and Y2 retakes)  
 Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Diamonds SLN partner school to visit NMS (TBC)  
 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  
 Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Term parents’ evening  
 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
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<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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