



What a fabulous summer term we are having! School trips have happened and more are planned, new topics are producing some great work, and we still have so much more to come before we wrap up the school year.

Transition plans are underway for all the children as we recognise that this can be a tricky time for them, and we are excited to have secured 2 new teachers for September: Lisa Forsythe and Marianna Joseph. I will bring you news of who will be teaching each class after half term, along with more details of the transition plans in place and when you can meet your child's new teacher.

Have a lovely weekend everyone,

Sarah

#### **Staffing Update**

Well, it would appear that retirement is catching!

The wonderful Helen Giggins has decided that, after 33 years of teaching, it is time for her to dedicate time to her other interests, and to spend more time with her family and loved ones. Helen has been a devoted member of the North Marston team for 12 years, sharing her passion for science to inspire staff and children alike. More recently, she has been an ambassador for The School Linking network and has received national recognition for the work that this project has produced, meaning she will be missed both within school but also by the wider education community as well.

#### **Midday Supervisors**

Do you have a few hours to spare in the middle of the day?

Do you enjoy working with children?

If the answer is YES to both questions, then why not apply to be a midday supervisor?

We are looking for people who can support our children and staff to make sure that lunchtimes are safe, happy and fun. The role will involve working in the lunch hall, setting up tables, serving food (after training), and making sure the children have everything they need for a calm, pleasant lunchtime, as well as clearing up afterwards so that afternoon learning can start promptly.

If this is of interest to you, please speak to Laura who will provide you with an application pack.

#### **Fostering Independence**

It has been lovely to see parents and carers encouraging their children to carry their own bags both to and from school. Please continue to build on this fabulous start.

In order to develop independence further for our year 6 children as we support their preparation for secondary school, we have a few other steps we will be putting in place, **just for Y6**.

- Year 6 will come to school in their uniform on PE days and get changed before their lesson
- Year 6 will no longer have access to a locker and will carry their bags with them into class
- Year 6 will take part in some transition sessions both before and after their secondary transition day to support them with this significant change

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

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### **Meeting for Year 4 & 5 Parents**

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, we will be holding our **residential 2027 launch meeting**. This is for parents and children in Year 4 & 5 (who will be Sapphire children from September) and will be an opportunity for us to share all the important details, as well as the exciting opportunities.

### **Secondary School Applications for 2027 Entry**

We will then invite Year 5 parents and carers to stay (Year 4 parents and carers may stay if you wish!), and will share the Local Authority PowerPoint which has very important information about the secondary transfer test (11+) and applying for a secondary school place for your child for September 2027 (it will be here before you know it!).

The second half of the meeting is not suitable for children so, if you bring them for the residential meeting and don't have anyone to take them home, we are happy for them to move into Diamond classroom to read, draw or colour quietly while we continue the meeting.

You will all by now have received a letter from the Admissions Team asking families of Year 5 children to complete the new online form. This form is required either to confirm your email address (so you can receive the test results in October) or to withdraw your child from testing.

We have been informed by the Admissions Team this week that there are still a small number of parents who have not yet completed the form. If you have not yet done so, please complete it as soon as possible using the link below:

<https://qrco.de/transfertest>

### **Keeping our Children Safe**

I'm sure we've all had fun with image-altering filters on our phones and tablets: aging filters, rosy cheeks or animal features. While these may seem light-hearted and frivolous, it is worth reading this edition of Wake up Wednesday which explores how filtered content can pose a risk to our children. The leaflet highlights what the potential risks are and offers supportive, practical advice on how we can diminish these risks and continue to support our children through their journey into the online world.

On another note, please make sure that children bring their named water bottle to school every day and that they have a sun hat with them for when we are lucky enough to need them! We do encourage the children to spend some time in the shade during break and lunch time but if they have their sun hat then they can venture out for a little while. If the weather demands it, please also ensure to apply sunscreen before school. If you would like your child to top up for lunch time, they must bring their own, named sun cream and be able to apply it themselves.

### **Website Update**

Please be aware that our wonderful new website is: [www.northmarston.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.northmarston.bucks.sch.uk)

As you may have seen, our old website is no longer being updated, so do ensure any bookmarks you have are changed/deleted. As we get used to the new format, please continue to let us know if there is anything missing so we can ensure our site provides all visitors with the information they need.

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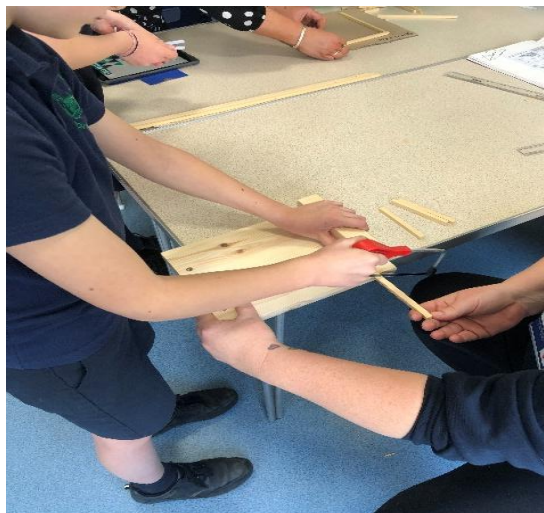
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### **Thank you from our Forest School Team**

A huge thank you to Anneka Boyt for kindly offering to provide the coloured pebbles.

We would also like to thank Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shop in MK for generously donating the jars, and Sophie Ward and her husband for providing firewood and kindling.

On another note, we would like to extend our thanks to Sam and Sophie Alder for making some Bench Hooks for DT – they have already been used for a very ambitious project planned and executed by the wonderful Mariana Daviu and ably supported by a raft of Sapphire parents.



Your kindness and support are truly appreciated and will make a wonderful difference to the children.

### **Getting Out and About**

Please see the attached leaflet which has lots of activities and ideas which you might enjoy either on your walk to school or while enjoying some family time at the weekends or holidays. We appreciate that some families live too far away to walk to school but, if you are able, why not park down by the pond or by the pub and walk up the hill while completing one of these activities?

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/uyxhwz0/family-activity-booklet.pdf>

### **Church News from Rev Mark Payne**

This Sunday 10th May is our annual Rogation family service. This year it is being held at the Dancer's farm in North Marston at 10.30am. Refreshments will be served following the service. The theme for the service is trees so if you have a story about trees that you would be happy to share, please email me (markp22@hotmail.co.uk) Further details are on the poster.

### **Ground Force Afternoon**

Hi everyone, our next Groundforce Afternoon is on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June @ 1:15pm**. Anyone who can come and help, please do and bring any tools such as spades and trowels so you can help with tidying up and doing some gardening.

From Henry and Max (Grounds Co-ordinators)

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### **Scarly B's Bakes**

My name is Scarlett and I am having a bake sale after school on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June to raise money for the charity Parkinson's UK. My grandpa was diagnosed with Parkinsons in 2024. Parkinsons is a disease that some people get and it can cause different conditions although unlike other diseases, Parkinsons cannot be caught. There also isn't a cure. In the UK, 166,000 people have Parkinsons and that is why raising money is so important! All the money I raise will go to funding pioneering projects, important personalised information and more. That is just a few reasons why you should donate to this incredible charity. I have a Just Giving page which can be found here: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/scarlet-burton-1?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/scarlet-burton-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL). Thank you and see you on the 23rd June!

### **News from the Vaults**

#### **RUBIES:**

Rubies had an amazing experience at the Dancer's Farm, recently. They used an OS Map to help them follow the route, learning the symbols for the church, school, pub and footpaths. Once at the farm, they learnt about the ewes with their lambs, the work some of the horses do and different types of calves. They were fortunate enough to watch a lamb being born, with assistance and they also fed the pet lambs. The highlight of the trip was one of the calves licking Mrs Hunter's fingers! We would like to thank Georgie for all her support in arranging this trip and the rest of the family for their contributions on the day.



#### **OPALS:**

In Opals class so far this term, we have been following the adventures of Katie Morag and the ups and downs of everyday life on the Isle of Struay. It was never going to be easy keeping the two Grandmas happy but Katie found a way. We have also been learning the features of the seaside and how we can use music as a stimulus for artwork.

Well done to the Year 2s for getting their homework done and bringing it in nice and promptly.

#### **DIAMONDS:**

This term we are very interested to learn about tropical rainforests. We have learned about their different layers and the animals and plants that live there and how they survive. In English we've written a balanced argument about whether deforestation should take place. We all feel very strongly about protecting rainforests because they are home to 80% of the world's animal and plant species and should be protected. Did you know the plants used for cancer medicines are found in the Amazon rainforest? We also made moving messages in D.T. linked to protecting the rainforests and we used levers and linkages to make our messages move. We used cereal boxes to reuse and recycle the cardboard. We have had so much fun learning about rainforests.

Bethany, Katie and Harriet

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### SAPPHIRES:

It has been a busy few weeks in Sapphires as we have been preparing for the KS2 SATs. Both Year 5 and 6 have been working hard - particularly in our Maths and English lessons - and we are really proud of the level of effort that the children have put in to improving their learning and facing challenges.

We have started our new topic, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and the children have already been impressing us with their knowledge, demonstrated through their homework and writing their Viking battle-speeches in English. We know that they are going to really enjoy our school trip which is coming up in June which will enhance all the learning we have done in class - further details to follow! We have also been very proud of our Head Pupils, who have been stepping up their roles in school and taking their responsibilities seriously by leading our Celebration Assembly. We know that lots of the Year 5 children are already setting their ambitions for next year, hoping to do a great job as Head Pupils or House Captains too!

## Summer Term 2026 Calendar

| Monday                                                                             | Tuesday                                                                               | Wednesday                                                                                | Thursday                                                                                                                            | Friday                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b><br><br><b>KS2 SATS week</b>                      | <b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>                                                    | <b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b><br>Diamonds Swimming Lesson (4)                     | <b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>                                                                                                 | <b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b><br>PTA Disco                                                             |
| <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b>                                                  | <b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>                                                    | <b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b><br>Diamonds Swimming Lesson (5)                     | <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b><br>6pm – Y4/5 Residential Meeting<br><br>6.30pm – Y5 Transition meeting                         | <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b><br>Children break up for Half Term                                       |
| <b>Half Term</b>                                                                   |                                                                                       |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                            |
| <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b><br><br><b>INSET DAY – children do not attend</b> | <b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b><br>Science Week<br><br>MTC Window for Year 4 opens | <b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>                                                     | <b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b><br>F1 in School for KS2                                                                         | <b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b><br>2:15pm: Parents Welcome to join us for the Great School Science Share |
| <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b><br>KS1 Phonics Screening week (and Y2 retakes)   | <b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b><br>1.15pm - Ground Force Day                       | <b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b><br>7pm – New Reception Parents for Sept 26 Meeting | <b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b><br>Oakridge School to visit Diamonds Class<br><br>PSHE Parent Consultation (details to follow) | <b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>                                                                         |

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u><b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>                                                               | <u><b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>                                                | <u><b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>                                                             | <u><b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b></u><br>Sports Day and<br>Summer Fair                                         | <u><b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>                                                 |
| <u><b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b></u>                                                               | <u><b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b></u><br>After school Charity<br>sale for Parkinsons | <u><b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>                                                             | <u><b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b></u><br>Diamond Class at<br>Forest School                                     | <u><b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>                                                 |
| <u><b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b></u><br>Diamonds & Sapphires<br>Class Trip to Earth<br>Trust (TBC) | <u><b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b></u><br>Group/Class<br>Photographs                  | <u><b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b></u><br>2.15pm - Rocksteady<br>performance                        | <u><b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b></u><br>Sapphire Class at<br>Forest School                                     | <u><b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b></u>                                                  |
| <u><b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July</b></u>                                                                | <u><b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b></u><br>Transition Days                              | <u><b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July</b></u><br>Transition Days                                           | <u><b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b></u><br>Sapphire production<br>afternoon<br><br>Sapphire production<br>evening | <u><b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b></u> PTA<br>Treat Friday                             |
| <u><b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July</b></u><br>Parents Evening                                            | <u><b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July</b></u><br>Retirement party –<br>details to follow     | <u><b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b></u><br>Parents Evening                                          | <u><b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b></u>                                                                          | <u><b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b></u><br>Year 6 taskmaster day –<br>details to follow |
| <u><b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b></u><br>Y6 leaver’s assembly<br>Y6 Leaver’s Fest                   | <u><b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b></u><br>Leaver’s Service                            | <u><b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b></u><br><br><u><b>INSET DAY – children<br/>do not attend</b></u> | <u><b>Summer Holidays</b></u>                                                                                        |                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                         |                                                                                           |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                           |

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### **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

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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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