

Norton Hill News



Newsletter 10 - Friday 4th April 2025

Message from Mrs Waterhouse

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we hop into the Easter break, I wanted to catch you up on some of the exciting events and achievements we've had at Norton Hill Primary this term. It's been a fantastic time filled with learning, creativity and lots of fun!

First, a big congratulations to all of our young inventors who participated in the STEM fair. The creativity, innovation, skills and knowledge shown by our children was truly inspiring. We had everything from eco-friendly glass recycling projects, to clever coding projects. Well done to everyone who participated.

We also proudly celebrated Dandelion Day today, raising awareness of children who have parents serving in the British Armed Forces. All money raised will go towards supporting children of military families. It has been an excellent opportunity for our children to learn about the important roles that service members play in our community. Here at school, we have quite a few military families and so a big thank you to those who took time from their busy schedules to come in today or record clips. Our military children have also been sharing their experiences with peers and hearing about each others personal experiences as part of the British Armed Forces Family.

Science Week this term was a blast! The school buzzed with exciting experiments and hands-on activities, nurturing our young scientists' curiosity and understanding of the world around them. We loved seeing the spark of discovery in the children's eyes.

Our vocabulary Day was a roaring success too. The children showed off their impressive word skills and expanded their vocabularies. We definitely heard some fancy words being used around the school and myself and the staff also learned a few more definitions- we really are learners for life.

The Dance Umbrella event was a dazzling display of talent and teamwork. Our children showed great skill and rhythm and it was wonderful to see them express themselves through dance on stage. A big round of applause to all of our dancers.

Last but not least, a massive shout-out to every child for their hard work and dedication. We've seen some amazing academic progress this term, and we're so proud of each and every child. The teachers are keen to share learning targets with you so please don't forget our parents evenings will commence after half term. We will also hold a Summer book look event which will give you all an opportunity to come into school and look through the learning that has taken place at the end of the academic year. Dates to follow.

Now as we look forward to a well-deserved Easter break, we hope you take the time to relax, recharge, and enjoy some quality time with your family. Have a wonderful holiday break. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. We look forward to seeing everyone back, ready for more adventures in learning. Happy Easter!



STEM Fair/ Science Week

During Science Week, the school was buzzing with excitement as we hosted a STEM Fair with the theme "Adapt and Change". Pupils had the opportunity to discuss their imaginative projects, showcasing wonderful ideas on how living things and systems adapt overtime. The week was packed full of engaging workshops, fascinating visitors, and thrilling activities, involving children from Nursery all the way to Year 4. A huge thanks to everyone who contributed to this fantastic week of learning and exploration.

Car Park / Parking

Please be considerate to all users of our car park.

- Only park in designated disabled bays if the occupant of the vehicle is a blue badge holder.
- Only park in marked bays within the car park - this is for the safety of all users.

Please be considerate of our neighbours - All roads within the new estate next to the school are private roads and therefore should not be used for parking. Unauthorised parking on an unadopted/private road can be deemed as trespassing or nuisance parking.

!!!! Important !!!!

*We are a nut free school.
Please can ingredients be checked on all food brought into school to ensure contain no nuts.*

Office Update

Free School Meals

If you think you may be entitled to Free School meals please click the link below to apply:

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

School meals are now available to book for Term 4 all bookings need to be made via ParentPay by Thursday 20th February for the first week back. We are unable to provide a meal if you have not booked.

Wraparound Care Bookings - Term 5

Sessions are now available to book via ParentPay.

Tax Free Childcare /Childcare voucher payments - Please allow 1 week for payments to be allocated to ParentPay. To enable us to allocate the payments quicker please can you email the School Office with the following information EVERY TIME.

- **Child's Unique Reference Code**
- **Date Paid**
- **Amount £**
- **Where and the amount you would like the money allocated in ParentPay i.e breakfast club/after school club/nursery**

Unfortunately we are not able to accept vouchers to pay for extra-curricular clubs/meals or trips.

Emails to school

When contacting the school office regarding your child. Please could you include your child's class for us to be able to process your request quick. If requesting wraparound care booking, please ensure you inform us of the time of the session required.



STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS

We are excited to welcome families into our school for stay and play sessions! This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and carers and for your child to experience a new environment.

Time: 9:30-10:30am
Cost: Free of charge
Dates: Friday 2nd May, Friday 9th May, Friday 16th May and Friday 23rd May
Location: Norton Hill Primary School, Silver Street, BA3 2UD
ALL CHILDREN WELCOME!
(up to school age 4)

Please come to the main office upon arrival.
Refreshments will be available.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Details
Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Term 5	
Tuesday 22nd April	Parents Meetings	Year R to Year 4 (Not Terrapin Class) - Details send via SchoolPing
Wednesday 23rd April	Parents Meetings	
Wednesday 23rd April	Egyptian Workshop	Year 3 - Information sent via SchoolPing
Monday 28th April	Term 5 clubs start	
Monday 28th April	Parents Meetings	Terrapin Class - Details to Follow
Tuesday 29th April	Parents Meetings	Terrapin Class - Details to Follow
Thursday 1st May	Longleat Trip	Reception Trip - Information sent via SchoolPing
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday	School closed for all pupils
Wednesday 7th May	Hearing and vision Screening	Reception Class - Details sent via SchoolPing
Wednesday 7th May - Tuesday 13th May	Book Fair	Details to follow
Monday 12th May - Friday 16th May	Careers Week	Various workshops/activities across the week
Wednesday 14th May	Class Photos	Details to follow
Tuesday 20th May	Folly Farm	Year 1 Trip - Information sent via SchoolPing
Friday 23rd May	Term 5 clubs finish	
Friday 23rd May	No After School Club	
Friday 23rd May	End of Term 5	
Monday 2nd June	Start of Term 6	
Monday 2nd June	Term 6 Clubs Begin	YR - Y4
Monday 2nd June - Friday 6th June	Music Week	Various workshops/activities across the week
Friday 6th June	Jammada Samba Workshop	YR - Y4 information to follow
Wednesday 9th June	Carymoor	Reception Trip - Information sent via SchoolPing
Friday 13th June	We The Curious Trip	Year 4 Trip - Information sent via SchoolPing
Wednesday 18th June	Nursery Sports Day	2pm -3pm - Details to follow
Thursday 19th June	EYFS & Year 1 Sports Day	1.30pm -3pm - Details to follow
Friday 20th June	Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4 Sports Day	1.30pm -3pm - Details to follow
Monday 23rd June - Friday 27th June	Sports Week	
Tuesday 1st July	Cricket competition	Year 4 Trip - Information sent via SchoolPing
Thursday 3rd July	Shuffle Up Day	Reception - Year 4
Friday 4th July	Term 6 Clubs Finish	Wraparound Care available to book via ParentPay
Friday 18th July	No After School Club	
Friday 18th July	End of Term 6	

HEADTEACHERS AWARD

	Friday 21st March	Friday 28th March
Bumblebee Class	Frankie	Arlo
Honeybee Class	Anna	Emelia
Dragonfly Class	Margot	Liv Walker
Turtle Class	Sophia	Arthur
Terrapin Class	Skye Alana	Noah
Gecko Class	Averie	Isla
Iguana Class	Ayva	
Leopard Class	Stanley R	Ava

Curiosity Corner

Our curious quest for this term has been “Did dragons exist?” The children have visited many marvellous stories such as Zog, The knight who wouldn't fight and Dragon Stew. Reading these adventures has led us to talk about castles and the characteristics of what would make a safe castle.

During Science Week, the children explored “What a Scientist is” and what clothing they may wear to make their experiments safe. The children talked extensively about animals that can camouflage. Some of the chameleons had camouflaged themselves in the outdoor environment for us to find, which was great fun. Our curious learners discussed migration, we looked closely at what animals migrate and we built on our previous focus with some more animal knowledge.

At the beginning of the term we took great enjoyment from making pancakes just like ‘Mr Wolf’s Pancakes.’ The children had the opportunity to flip pancakes independently. They demonstrated incredible positivity to every friend that gave it a go, by cheering and offering encouragement. The children have ended the term following a biscuit recipe. They measured, mixed and rolled their mixture to make delicious Easter bunny’s. Next term, we will be exploring ‘How can we protect our planet?’



Reception

Our topic this term has led us around the world investigating animals and their habitats. This inspired some fantastic non-fiction writing that captured the learning from our science lessons.

During Science Week we focused on the various ways that animals camouflage. We investigated animals that use disruptive colouration, disguise and mimicry. We then used the green screen to work as a team to identify the animal camouflaged in the background. We designed moths and used collage to create a moth that we then conducted an experiment to camouflage them in our outdoor area.

We have now learnt all of set 1 and 2 sounds and are revisiting many of our digraphs and trigraphs. We are embedding this learning by using these phonemes in words and sentences. It has been impressive to see the children applying this with growing independence.



Year 1

Dragonfly Class have had a busy Term 4, filled with lots of exciting new learning opportunities. We dipped our toes into the world of science during Science Week by exploring the fascinating states of matter. The children got to put on their scientist hats, using microscopes and conducting lots of fun experiments! It was a joy to see their curiosity and enthusiasm shine through as they learned about the wonderful world of science.

One of the highlights this term was visiting the local care home. Our class had the opportunity to interview the residents about their childhoods. The children generated questions linked to their history topic and interviewed the residents using these. It was amazing to see the connections formed as our young ones listened to stories from the past, building bridges between generations.

On Vocabulary Day, Dragonfly Class also transformed into budding inventors! Each child came up with their very own futuristic invention. They also stepped into the shoes of a news reporter and presented their creative inventions to the whole class. The children certainly came up with some incredible ideas!

In maths, we have enjoyed investigating different measurements - especially capacity! We have participated in lots of activities allowing us to measure lots of different things around our classroom.

Over the term, the children have worked extremely hard and enjoyed learning about lots of new topics. Thank you for your continued support at home, we hope you have a lovely and restful break.



Dance Umbrella

We participated in the annual 'Dance Umbrella' with some of our Reception and Year 1 children who performed beautifully at The Bath Forum. They worked very hard and their performance was a testament to all their efforts – well done to our talented young dancers! Thank you to Miss Price who has been working extra hard with the children over the last term.



Family River Safety Adventure

16 April
10.30am to 12

Join us, and the Avon Fire & Rescue Service to master essential water survival skills (whilst staying firmly on land). Explore hidden dangers and learn how to stay safe by the river. It's an exciting opportunity to engage in family friendly activities and challenges, all set against the beautiful backdrop of the river.

To reserve a spot through Eventbrite scan the QR code or visit the link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-river-safety-adventure-tickets-70123456789>

Meet at Keston's Field (what3words // human.line.former)

This event is led by
The Bath River Line Team and Avon Fire & Rescue Service



Year 2

Year 2 have really enjoyed a busy Term 4 and we definitely have a few highlights that have made us all smile! We kicked off this term with our exciting Vocabulary Day! The children loved dressing up as their favourite words and sharing them with the class. The creativity was off the charts, and it was so much fun seeing the children not only enjoying words but also learning new ones to add to their growing vocabularies.

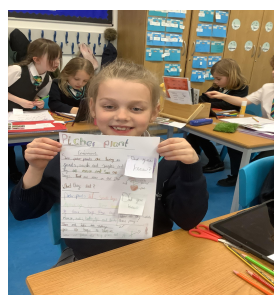
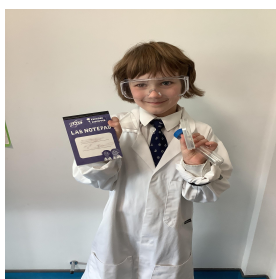
Our Girls' Football Day was a huge hit! It was wonderful to see so many of our girls getting active and having a go at football. They dribbled, they kicked, and they scored! The teamwork and enthusiasm were fantastic, and we're hopeful this will inspire some future football stars! We then rolled into Science week, which left us all buzzing with excitement. We explored the wonders of the world through fun experiments and activities. The children became mini scientists, investigating and researching 'Pitcher Plants'. Curiosity and a love for exploring definitely shone through!

We have also really enjoyed our Geography topic this term, 'Why is our world wonderful?'. The children have been discovering some of the UK's and World's marvellous human and physical features and not to mention our very own Midsomer Norton! The children have loved being Geographers Investigating new and old maps of Midsomer Norton and then drawing their own mini sketch maps.

You may have also noticed that we are nurturing little green thumbs, with our exploration of plants, seeds and bulbs in Science. The children have planted their own seeds and created their very own seed diaries. We have then compared the growth of these seeds with other variables, such as the plant growing in the dark, which has allowed us to observe something very interesting! This experience has deepened our knowledge of the plant life cycle and what they need to grow. It's been a thrill to watch their faces light up as their plants grow a little each day!

Maths has been an exciting journey as we explore fractions, focusing on halves, quarters and thirds. We are working on recognising and creating simple fractions, both with numerals and shapes.

We are incredibly proud of all the hard work and enthusiasm shown by the children this term. Our classrooms are a place of discovery where every day brings new opportunities for learning and growing and we thank you for your continued support in your child's learning journey.



Vocab Day

A big thank you to everyone who helped make Vocabulary Day 2025 a huge success. It was wonderful to see the children's creativity shine through as they dressed up as different words and participated in a lively vocabulary parade. The whole-school dictionary we put together was a delightful collection of entries, and the children had great fun guessing each other's word choices. Around this event, the whole school also did some incredible work inspired by the book 'What We'll Build'.



Year 3

Term 4 has been filled with exciting learning experiences for Year 3! In Maths, students have been exploring fractions and practising measuring mass, developing their skills in these key areas through hands-on activities. In Literacy, the children have been busy crafting imaginative stories about the "Silent Seeker," using their creativity to build engaging plots and characters. The History curriculum has taken us back to Roman times, where students have learned about the mighty Roman Army. They had the chance to try out army formation training, using the Roman shields they created as part of their home learning to understand the tactics that made them such effective soldiers.

During Science Week, we were lucky enough to take part in multiple engaging workshops, including one hosted by Wessex Water, where students explored the importance of water conservation and the science behind it. The hands-on activities sparked curiosity and deepened their understanding of environmental science.

Year 3 had a fantastic opportunity to take part in a Zoom workshop with Stephen Pass, author of *Madge the Mermaid*. The session was inspiring and interactive, as students learned about the creative writing process and the journey of bringing a story to life. One of the highlights was exploring shorthand writing! The children enjoyed practising this unique skill and discovering how it can be used for quick note-taking and secret messages. It was an engaging experience that sparked creativity and a love for storytelling!

It's been a fantastic term, full of exploration and discovery! Have a wonderful Easter break!



Year 4

What a busy term it's been in Leopard class! The children took great interest in their Science Week topic of forces, learning all about what makes the world go round, and rose to the challenge of designing their own 'maximum air resistance outfit' with such enthusiasm as we tested our findings at the end of the week! Combined with our termly Science topic teaching all about the workings of sound and vibrations, they have learnt how to put together hypotheses on the topics they have studied.

Meanwhile, last term's Maths topic of fractions has lent itself well to moving on to decimals this term, our English has taught us all about the lives of others from across the world as we studied refugees in "Wisp: A Story of Hope" and Polynesia in "Ariki and the Island of Wonders", French has seen the children learning how to tell the weather, and RE has tied us perfectly into the Easter break by studying exactly who Jesus was and why he is so important to the lives of Christians. Aside from this, we have learnt to greatly appreciate our chocolate by studying where food is sourced from in Geography and connected this to learning how to live healthier lives in PSHE, while we have been practising our programming and digital problem-solving skills in both Computer Science and when learning how to create a timer that fits a design brief in DT!

Not to mention all the wonderful additional activities that we have been lucky to witness this term - the truly inspiring outfits made Vocabulary Day shine, Girls' Football Day was a huge hit, and it has been so heartwarming to see how the whole class has been inspired by World Poetry Day! Not only have the children had the opportunity to write haiku poetry to perform to in Music, but our author workshop with Year 3 and performed pieces across the term have left many of the children demanding to hear more poems throughout the school day! The adults have been very proud of the Leopards' enthusiasm for everything this term has brought their way and hope you all have a well-earned relaxing Easter break.




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