

# Norton Hill News

Newsletter 4 - Wednesday 6th November 2024



## Message from Mrs Waterhouse

What a fabulous and busy term this has been for us all. The children have settled beautifully back into the routines of school and our Honeybee and Bumblebee Classes have surpassed expectations in the way they have handled their introduction to life here at NHP. What a tremendous addition to our lovely school!

From Scarecrow Hunts, to disco's and learn with me sessions-moving on to Space week and so much more; we have not stopped learning and enjoying.

We have also completed our first parent/teacher sessions; a great chance for you to hear about your child/children's learning; but also an opportunity to look at books to see what your child has been learning this past term at school.

The Christmas season is almost upon us; probably one of the busiest terms we have. Please keep an eye out for dates of events and performances. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will each have a Christmas performance to attend in December. Tickets will be released soon. Year 3 will be hosting a Christmas extravaganza for parents in the last week of term. Year 4, 5 and 6 will participate in school events only as we are limited with time and space. All of our upper KS2 children will be learning and performing Christmas songs to the new residents of the nursing home across the street; a wonderful opportunity to enhance the winter holidays for all and to build our community links. In the meantime-the PKA will be hosting our annual Christmas visitor, raffle and shop. Details will be shared soon.

## HEADTEACHERS AWARD

	Friday 18th October	Thursday 24th October
Bumblebee Class	Pyper	Max
Honeybee Class	Enzo	Ava
Dragonfly Class	Theo	Ian
Turtle Class	Seb	Eira
Terrapin Class	Max C	Avis
Gecko Class	Felix	Elsa
Iguana Class	Elisha	Daisy
Leopard Class	Ted	Maybel

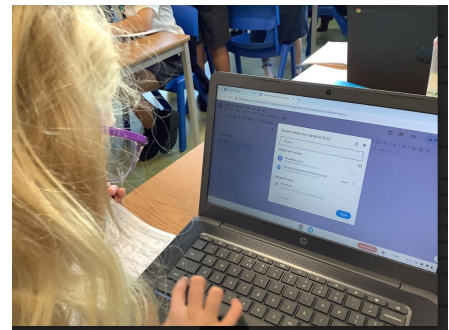
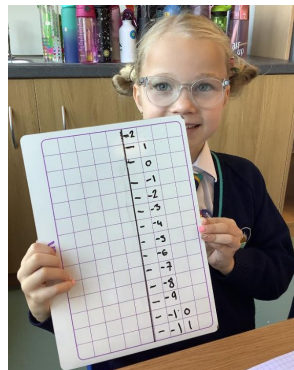
# Christmas Performances

Year Group	Date	Time
Nursery	19th December * Please note date change.	2.30pm-3.00pm
Reception	12th December	5.15pm-6.15pm
Year 1	11th December	5.15pm-6.15pm
Year 2	10th December	5.15pm-6.15pm
Year 3	18th December	5.15pm-6.15pm

A Ping will be sent in term 2 with details on how to book the Christmas performances.

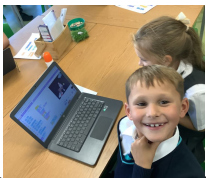
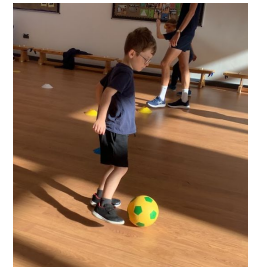
## Year 4

Leopard Class have fully immersed themselves into their Term 1 topics. In Science, they have been exploring the human digestive system, different types of teeth, animal diets and food chain patterns. They were extremely shocked to see the effects certain drinks can have on their teeth, and certainly appreciate why brushing their teeth thoroughly is vital for dental hygiene! In English, the children have been learning about the features of a fact-file, as well as appreciating the impact Katherine Johnson had in the field of space engineering. In Maths, the children have been exploring place values within 10,000 and learning how to write dates in Roman Numerals. As well as practising their times tables daily, they are also becoming increasingly confident at proving their mathematical thinking in a variety of different ways. Some of their favourite parts of this term were designing and making working torches, and understanding electrical circuit knowledge to do this. In addition, they have been learning core life skills like creating and sharing a document on Google. We are extremely proud of how our eldest pupils are being such responsible and mature role models to our younger children.



## Year 3:

What a first term for Iguana Class! We have tackled our new learning challenges with bravery, excitement and enthusiasm, absorbing fresh knowledge like sponges. Our English text this term has been Floella Benjamin's 'Coming to England', where we have been fascinated to learn about the experiences of the Windrush Generation, and have explored the differences between her native Trinidad and the place that we call home. We used our role-play skills to put ourselves in her shoes, constructing diary entries and letters from her point of view that used a variety of prepositions to bring our writing to life. We were also lucky enough to participate in a Guinness World Record attempt for the biggest poetry lesson ever, where over a quarter of a million children across the country took part! In maths, we have focussed on different pictorial, concrete and abstract methods we can use to explore place value, addition, and subtraction of 3-digit numbers, as well as practising our times tables. Throughout our science lessons this term we have had the opportunity to adventure through the human body, studying our different bones and their lengths, how they work with our muscles to move and support ourselves, and the effects that varied foods and nutritional values have on our systems. We particularly enjoyed making a model of the human hand out of straws and string to demonstrate how our muscles contract and relax! In art, we have experimented with drawing techniques and used frottage to make delicate pictures of flowers, and we have loved developing our passing, dribbling and attacking skills in football during PE. I'm so pleased with our positive attitude to learning during the past eight weeks, amazing job Iguana Class and lets keep it going!



These eager Geckos have been adapting to all kinds of environments and learning ventures this term! After exploring the Windrush Generation through Floella Benjamin's story, 'Coming to England', we were able to tackle some wonderful poetry with similar themes. Not only did we write our own 'diamond' poems, experimenting with adventurous vocabulary and techniques, but we also delved into the performance side of it to give us and our audience a fresh perspective on poetry. Excitingly, we also joined forces with Iguana Class to participate in a Guinness World Record attempt for the world's largest poetry lesson!

Another thing we conquered this term was coding and programming. Fortunately, we were lucky enough to have some of our adults with us for our Learn With Me during our first ever 'micro:bit' DT session. Together, we programmed tiny computers to flash with symbols or lights in order to help children walking home in the dark! After this, we designed products to make our micro:bits wearable and suitable for the design criteria.

In Humanities, our focus was 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes' which has been pretty ground-breaking (not literally though, as we're not situated too close to a tectonic plate boundary). Miss Cassidy was extremely impressed by our brilliant subject terminology as we recalled parts of the volcano like "pyroclastic flow". We were fascinated by the impact of earthquakes and tsunamis too.

In Space Week, our curiosity went wild as we investigated telescopes and rocket science - we loved learning about Sir Isaac Newton's laws of motion and putting his third law to the test with a balloon rocket.

A final highlight for us is the preparation for our new Art project inspired by Black History Month and the work of Althea McNish. In our final few days of term, we will be experimenting with textiles and printing to create colourful designs worthy of a spot in the Liberty London department store!

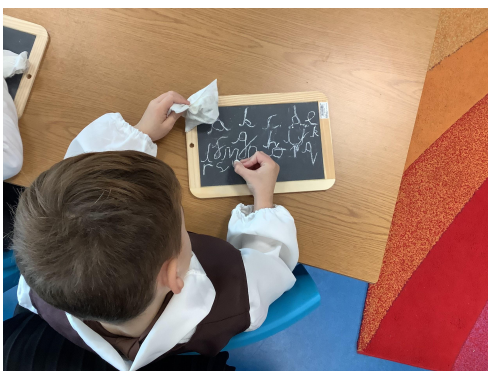
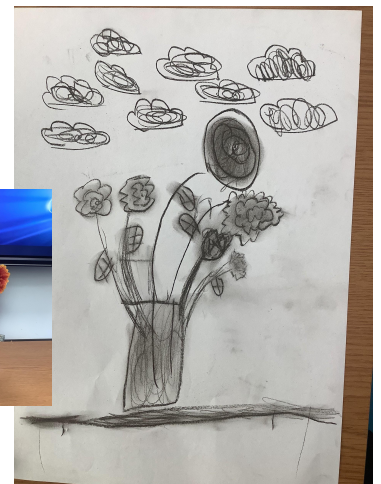
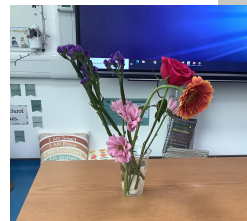
## Year 2:

As we settle into the new school year, Terrapin and Turtle Class have been diving into some interesting topics across our subjects. Here's a peek into our curious learning adventures happening in our classroom. This term, we've embarked on a magical journey with stories like "Troll Swap", where the children are crafting their own characters. It's delightful to see them use brilliant adjectives to bring their creations to life! We're focusing on noun phrases too, and soon they'll be writing stories brimming with vivid descriptions! In Maths, we are exploring place value, which helps us understand how numbers fit together. We've been using 100 squares to discover 10 more and 10 less, a super way to see the patterns in numbers! Our budding mathematicians are learning to hop along blank number lines, which makes adding and subtracting so much fun. We're also getting a first taste of the column method, building our skills for future maths challenges!

Our Science lessons have been all about habitats and microhabitats. Children are learning how different living things, from tiny insects to larger animals, have specific places where they thrive. We're talking about food chains and discovering the life processes of various creatures – it's fascinating to see the connections in nature! We've been exploring schools of the past, stepping back into different decades to see how they compare to today's schools. The children have been amazed at the differences – like using chalkboards instead of smartboards! Yet, they also noticed things that remained the same, such as the joy of learning and making friends. Our students immersed themselves in our Victorian Experience Day, dressed in charming attire, and explored the wonders of Victorian life. From traditional classroom lessons to learning how to bake, sew and had a go at some observation drawing, every moment was a delightful step back in time.

In our Design Technology sessions, the children have been busy practising their running stitch, a big step in their sewing journey. We've been making little pouches, and it's wonderful to see their concentration and pride as they work. With each stitch, they're not just creating lovely crafts but also boosting their fine motor skills and patience.

This term has started with so much excitement and enthusiasm. It's a delight to see your children grow in confidence and curiosity every day. Thank you for your continuous support, and here's to more incredible learning adventures ahead!



## Year 1:

Dragonfly Class have worked extremely hard this term facing the new and exciting learning challenges of Year 1. We have really enjoyed investigating Term 1 topics, especially Science where we are looking at the different seasons and the changes that happen within them. We have explored how trees change and how the weather changes too. As a class we set up a class experiment to measure the rainfall over a few weeks. One week we collected 3800 ml of water (It was a very rainy week). We have also really enjoyed our DT topic this term where we made smoothies, we explored the equipment and skills needed to make smoothies. In Maths, we have been focusing on addition within 10 and exploring part whole models. We have really enjoyed starting to learn our 2s, 5s and 10 times tables; the children have shown enthusiasm and resilience towards this. Not to mention, we have created songs to help us spell some of the Year 1 tricky words. We have loved learning these and the children are becoming more confident in spelling these independently, I hope they are singing some of these songs for you at home! We are proud of how well the children have settled into the new school year, well done Year 1.



## Reception:

Wow! What a fantastic first term the children in Bumblebee and Honeybee have had. We are amazed with how well they have settled into school life and have already achieved so much in such a short space of time. The children have made lots of friends and are thriving in their new classes.

We have had a busy term celebrating Space Week and Black History Month. The children have enjoyed re-telling the life story of Rosa Parks using a green screen and enjoyed learning all about space after we had a spaceship crash landing in our outside classroom.

The children have enjoyed their phonics lessons and have impressed us with their segmenting and blending skill; we can't wait to see how these continue to develop next term. We hosted a Phonics 'Learn with me' and it was lovely to see so many of you join us.

All children attended our first 'Starbooks' reading cafe this term and chose the books they would like to read whilst enjoying a biscuit!



## Curiosity Corner

Curiosity Corner have had a busy first term back, settling in and making new friends! Children who have just joined us have settled in extremely well and have been supported by those peers who have started with us previously.

We have been busy immersing ourselves in space week, becoming astronauts and exploring the different planets in space. The children took a trip to space inside of our Curiosity Corner rocket, landing on the moon safely!

It is clear we have some budding artists with us in Curiosity Corner. This has been evident while learning about Alma Thomas who was famous for her colourful abstract art work. The children worked as a team to create a piece of artwork inspired by her famous painting 'The Eclipse'. The children have also enjoyed learning about the celebration of Diwali where they created their own Diwali lanterns and some colourful rangoli patterns.

No matter the weather, the children have also been keen to put their wellies on and go for a welly walk to explore Autumn!

Well done Curiosity Corner, what a brilliant first term back.



## Food bank donations

We had such a marvellous response from you regarding our plea for food donations, so a huge thank you to you all!

Please see the below received from the Foodbank:

*On behalf of the Somervally Foodbank I'd like to thank you and the other staff at Norton Hill Primary School for making this Harvest collection possible. That thanks also extends to the children and their parents for donating such a generous amount to our food bank. We collected almost 90Kg and I was genuinely surprised at not only the quantity but also the alignment with our needs!*



## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Details
<b>Monday 4th November</b>	Start of Term 2	
<b>Wednesday 6th November</b>	Parents Meeting	Bumblebee 1.30pm-2.30pm Leopard 1.30pm -2.30pm
<b>Thursday 7th November</b>	Parents Meetings	Gecko 1.30pm - 3.30pm Honeybee 1.30pm-2.30pm and 3.30pm - 5.00pm Dragonfly 9.00am - 10.00am 3.30pm -5.30pm Bumblebee 3.30pm -5.30pm Iguana 3.30pm - 5.30pm Leopard 3.30pm - 5.30pm Turtle and Terrapin 3.30pm - 5.30pm
<b>Monday 11th November</b>	Armistice Workshops	Year 3 & Year 4
<b>Monday 11th November</b>	Extra-curricular clubs start	All clubs starting
<b>Tuesday 12th November</b>	Learn with Me - Dragonfly Class	Parents/carers welcome @ 2.15pm
<b>Tuesday 19th November</b>	Learn with Me - Iguana Class	Parents/carers welcome @ 2pm
<b>Wednesday 20th November</b>	Learn with Me - Turtle Class	Parents/carers welcome @ 2pm
<b>Thursday 21st November</b>	Learn with Me - Terrapin Class	Parents/carers welcome @ 2pm
<b>Wednesday 27th November</b>	School Inset Day	School Closed to pupils in Reception - Year 4. <b>School open for Nursery</b>
<b>Wednesday 27th November</b>	After School Club	Only available until 4.30pm
<b>Thursday 5th December</b>	Immunisations	School Nursing team visit - Form sent via SchoolPing
<b>Friday 6th December</b>	Extra-curricular Clubs Finish	All clubs finished
<b>Tuesday 10th December</b>	Year 2 Christmas Performance	5.15pm - 6.15pm : Booking details to follow
<b>Wednesday 11th December</b>	Year 1 Christmas Performance	5.15pm - 6.15pm : Booking details to follow
<b>Thursday 12th December</b>	Reception Christmas Performance	5.15pm - 6.15pm : Booking details to follow
<b>Wednesday 18th December</b>	Christmas Dinner	More details to follow
<b>Wednesday 18th December</b>	Year 3 Christmas Performance	Booking details to follow
<b>Thursday 19th December</b>	Nursery Christmas Performance	2.30pm - 3pm : Booking details to follow
<b>Friday 20th December</b>	No After school Club	
<b>Friday 20th December</b>	Last day of Term 2	

## Parents Meetings 2025

<b>Tuesday 22nd April</b>	Parent Meeting Reception - Year 4	3.30pm -6.30pm -
<b>Wednesday 23rd April</b>	Parent Meeting Reception - Year 4	3.30pm -6.30pm -
<b>Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 25th April</b>	Parents Meetings Reception - Year 4	

We look forward to welcoming parents to school for parents meetings. Please be patient if your appointment is at 3.30pm, we need to ensure all children staying for After School Club have moved around the school and are settled before adults enter the building. Please arrive through the front entrance and make your way into the main hall. You will find your child's book on the table please sit and look through these while you wait for the class teacher.

Please arrive to your appointment on time, if you are late your time with the teacher may be reduced.

### Remembrance Day 11th November

Children who are affiliated with the Scouting association or St John Ambulance are welcome to wear their uniform to school on this day.

### Learn with Me

Class	Date
Terrapin	Tuesday 21st November @ 2pm
Turtle	Wednesday 20th November @ 2pm
Iguana	Tuesday 19th November @ 2pm

### Office Update

**Wraparound Care** : Additional spaces have been added to every session in ParentPay.

**School Meals** - School meal bookings have continued to be an issue. We know this is frustrating and can only apologise. Please be reassured that your children will receive a meal.

#### **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>

**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.





## Become a School Governor



Are you passionate about education? Do you want to help shape the future of young minds?

Becoming a school governor is an incredible opportunity to use your skills, time, and passion to ensure students receive the best education and support. Whether you're a parent, professional, or community member, your voice can make a real impact in the direction and success of our schools.



### Make a Lasting Impact in Five Key Ways:

- Attend termly Governing Body meetings, reviewing data and ensuring the best outcomes for students.
- Get tailored, ongoing training to build your skills and understand your role (induction, safeguarding, and more).
- Act as a link governor, focusing on an area of your interest or expertise, and reporting on school progress.
- Represent the school positively in the community – become a proud ambassador!
- Take part in important panels (interviews, exclusions, and more), shaping the school's future.



### Who Can Be a School Governor?

No prior experience is needed! All that's required is a commitment to the role and a willingness to learn. We need governors from all walks of life:

- Parent Governors: Provide insights from the parent community.
- Community Governors: Bring your skills and experience, even without a direct connection to the school.
- Foundation Governors: Preserve the school's religious character.
- Staff Governors: Offer the unique perspective of school staff.



### What Do You Get Out of It?

Being a school governor is incredibly rewarding! You'll develop valuable skills, make a positive impact in your community, and help prepare students for success in further education and beyond. It's a role that's challenging but never dull, giving you the chance to contribute to something truly meaningful.

For more information, contact Emily Walker (Governance Professional): [ewalker@msnpartnership.com](mailto:ewalker@msnpartnership.com)  
Find a list of local governing bodies on the MNSP website.