

Norton Hill News

Newsletter 8 - Friday 14th February 2025



Message from Mrs Waterhouse

Just a quick note to say a big “thank you” for all of the support you have given to us this term. The team at Norton Hill Primary really value the help that you give to all of your children each day, listening to them read, helping with homework and additional projects. On top of that- our new Spelling Bee Challenge and Times Tables Challenges have really helped the children increase their confidence in these areas of learning and the impact has been huge. We couldn’t do this without working in partnership with our families and probably don’t say thank you enough for all of your help and support.

I have just completed my final celebration assembly of the term. We discussed the weeks that have passed, and shared some of the things that the children can look forward to upon returning to school. We will be celebrating Vocabulary Day and our annual STEM week- another term filled with rich learning experiences. The school disco this week was another huge success and the PKA raised £800 that will go towards the playground equipment. A special thanks to all of the adults that have given up their time this term to help run events for the children.

Next term our Pupil Parliament will be planning the playground with their peers and listening to the ideas of others as we make our final decision on the equipment that will be purchased. Thank you for supporting all of our events as all of the money raised over the past few years will go towards the playground this year. This term our KS2 Pupil Parliament have been problem solving as it seems we only have 8 toilet cubicles across the school and these need to support 5 classes of children and the children who use the hall each day. They have introduced the toilet passes for each class and we have already seen an improvement in accessibility for all of the children; there is now always a free cubicle when needed! They are also looking forward to implementing their next idea- toilet decor!

Have a super half term and enjoy some much needed family time. We look forward to welcoming the children back in school on Monday 24th February.

HEADTEACHERS AWARD

	Friday 24th January	Friday 31st January	Friday 7th February	Friday 14th February
Bumblebee Class	Zoe	Henry	Bethany	Alfie Wi
Honeybee Class	Blake	Cassie	Dylan	Lewis
Dragonfly Class	Paige	Mila-Jay	Edie	Tallulah
Turtle Class	Alice	Ralph	Lois	Esmae
Terrapin Class	Bella	Jack	Ava	Iris
Gecko Class	Aidan	Isla	Baylaa	Mila
Iguana Class	Jaxon	Georgia	Ralphie	Bertie
Leopard Class	Maisie	Arthur	Valentina	Stanley



VOCAB DAY 2025!

THURSDAY 6TH MARCH

WE ARE INVITING CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED AS A WORD FOR OUR 'VOCAB DAY'. THE AIM OF THIS DAY IS TO BROADEN OUR CHILDREN'S VOCABULARY WITH WORDS THAT THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO BEFORE.

PLEASE CAN THE CHILDREN HAVE THEIR WORD WRITTEN ON A PIECE OF PAPER IN THEIR POCKET- WE WILL BE TRYING TO GUESS WHICH WORD THEY ARE. WE WILL ALSO BE HAVING A VOCABULARY PARADE WHERE ALL OF THE CHILDREN WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF THEIR NEW WORD. KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR PHOTOS!

- IDEAS**
- ANCIENT (DRESS AS SOMEONE OLD)**
 - MONOCHROME (BLACK AND WHITE CLOTHING)**
 - CELEBRATORY (ADD BALLOONS TO AN OUTFIT)**
 - VIBRANT (WEAR COLOURFUL CLOTHES)**

NORTON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL'S STEM FAIR

We will be celebrating British Science Week from Monday 10th March - Friday 14th March.

The theme this year is 'Adapt and Change'.

We will be hosting the 'STEM Fair' again this year, and pupils are invited to design a Science project based on the theme 'Adapt and Change'. We are extremely excited to see how creative pupils can be themselves!

Projects need to be brought into school on the morning of Monday 10th March, and will be displayed from 3.15-3.45pm each day for family members and pupils to enjoy in Picasso Room.

At the end of Science Week, we will be presenting prizes for winning projects, and certificates for all who participate.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRIES

- Entries must be based around the theme 'Adapt and Change', this can be interpreted anyway as long as it links to Science.
- Entries must be child-led.
- Entries should be no bigger than an A3 piece of paper.

Norton Hill Primary School

Parents Meetings 2025

Tuesday 22nd April	Parent Meeting Reception - Year 4	3.30pm -6.30pm
Wednesday 23rd April	Parent Meeting Reception - Year 4	3.30pm -5.30pm
Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 25th April	Parent Meeting 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.

Curiosity Corner

Curiosity Corner children have been exploring the tropical rainforests and following the quest 'What will I find in the rainforest?' The children have wowed us with their thirst for knowledge this term by learning a wide range of facts about animals. Did you know that an anteater has a tongue that is 60 cm long? They have been introduced to vocabulary such as venomous, herbivore, habitat and many more. If you need to know more about animals from the rainforest, come and ask the nursery Zoologists!

Numbers Day was hugely exciting in Nursery, we created our very own shop and used coins to purchase our healthy mid morning snack. We sang many number songs, played bingo and managed our spatial awareness by a tricky obstacle course. Jumping off objects was the best bit!

Thank you to all of the families that got involved with the 'Big bird watch' . It was very exciting to make food for the birds and observe what animals came for a snack. The children became fascinated with spotting the birds in the garden.



Reception

We started this year by asking the children 'What invention would you create?' The children did not disappoint with their responses. We have learnt about famous inventors and how their inventions have changed our world as we now know it. The children were particularly inspired by Louis Braille and how his invention has progressed to support the visually impaired community.

Our Phonics has focussed on digraphs and trigraphs this term and the children have been applying these within their writing in Literacy. Our latest learning focus has challenged the children to design an invention for Zahra, a child who lives in Africa, to support her water sources. The designs were fantastic and allowed the children to explore similarities and differences from a different country.

As part of our ongoing focus to celebrate different cultures with the children, we have been learning about the various ways in which people around the world celebrate Lunar New Year. If you ask your child I am sure they will agree that tasting the noodles-which symbolise long life, was their favourite part of the learning!

We have been demonstrating our sculpture skills this term, through designing and creating animal sculptures from clay. We explored the artist Julie Wilson. We took an interactive tour of her gallery to inspire our designs.



Year 1

This term, in Science, we have been learning all about the 5 senses. Dragonfly Class have used their scientific enquiry skills to predict and test our senses through lots of different class experiments. Our favourite experiment included testing our sense of taste - we used blindfolds and guessed what foods we were eating. Some of us discovered we loved the taste of lemon!

We have been inspired by the topic of toys, some of our favourite things! 'Toys' have taken over our DT, History and Computing lessons this term. We have become historians and interviewed some of our teachers to discover more about their childhood toys - we received a letter from Ruth Handler (the creator of Barbie) which motivated us to think about when Barbie was invented and we have created a timeline of toys from both the past and present.

A highlight of this term has been creating our own hand puppets in DT, inspired by the colour monster, we carefully designed, tested, created and evaluated these. We designed the puppets for the age range of 4-5 year olds and we invited some children from the Reception classes to see the design process at various points. They also visited to see our final products and Dragonfly Class then led a puppet show for the children which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

Dragonfly Class certainly have ambitious dreams they hope to achieve in both the near and distant future. Our PSHE lessons have allowed us to discuss our goals in life - we have some future dentists, doctors, lifeguards, authors and teachers! We set ourselves some goals we hope to achieve this year and planned smaller 'stepping stone' goals on how we aim to achieve this.

We are looking forward to the new and exciting learning challenges that Term 4 has to offer, well done Dragonfly Class for another term filled with enthusiasm and resilience!



Year 2

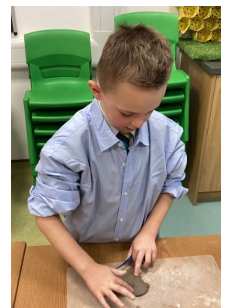
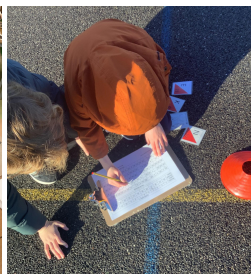
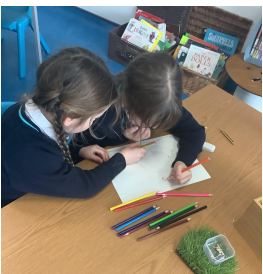
Year 2 are thrilled to share with you all of the amazing things your children have been up to this term! It's been a period of discovery, creativity, and lots of learning.

In Maths, we've been diving into the world of measurement. Your children have been: Measuring in centimeters, adding, subtracting, and ordering lengths, exploring 2D and 3D shapes, learning about the properties of shapes, including sides, vertices, and faces. Their enthusiasm for learning and their progress has been incredible to see!

Our History lessons have taken us on a journey through the skies as we've explored how humans developed flight over time. The children have been captivated by the incredible stories of significant figures in aviation history. Their curiosity and excitement have been truly inspiring. The children had an excellent day at Aerospace in Bristol where they were able to consolidate their learning and have a hands-on learning experience. We even ate our lunch underneath Concord!

In Art, we've been getting hands-on with clay. The children have loved exploring and creating with this versatile medium, learning how to manipulate it to make 3D elements in their designs. Their creativity knows no bounds, and we've seen some fantastic pieces come to life.

We are so proud of all the hard work and creativity your children have shown this term. We look forward to more exciting adventures and learning experiences in the term ahead.



Year 3

Another term, another period of incredible learning opportunities for Year 3! Our focus text in English these past six weeks has been 'The Fossil Girl' by Catherine Brighton. We have taken a really keen interest in the life of Mary Anning and have found her story really inspiring. This led to us writing our own fossil journal that retells her life and achievements, packing it full of adverbs and exclamations! We've even had a few pupils take up amateur fossil hunting, with them being keen to show off their fossil findings to our friends!

In science, we further developed our understanding of the formation and properties of rocks, soils and fossils through a series of experiments that simulated different weathers. This involved observing how porous they are by pouring droplets of water on them; using magnifying glasses to study their layers and crystal content; and even pouring acids on rocks to see how they react, with many of us being shocked to see some of them fizz and bubble!

During our maths lessons, we have been increasing our times table knowledge with particular focus on the 3, 4, and 8 times table, using those facts to multiply and divide 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. We have also been levelling up our measuring skills - using measuring tapes to find out how tall we are in metres, centimetres and millimetres, and using trundle wheels to determine how long our Key Stage 2 corridor is. Lastly, we spent some time getting more comfortable with handling and counting money, using coins to 'buy and sell' a selection of items to each other as part of a bingo-style game.

In Geography, we used atlases to help us discover and plot where the lines of latitude and longitude are on the Earth and how they mark different climate zones. Armed with this new knowledge, we explored the freezing desert conditions of Antarctica - drawing comparisons to our lives and weather in Britain - before using grid references to chart the infamous third Antarctic expedition of Ernest Shackleton and his crew. Impassioned by his exploration, we planned our own expedition around our grounds, using compass points to direct each other to specific landmarks within the school.

Throughout music, we have been practicing our singing ability by rehearsing viking-style songs and chants, before dipping our toes into reading musical notation. Computing this term has involved us setting up and sending our own emails, CC'ing each other and replying to messages that explained how to stay safe online. Listening to, speaking, and reading numbers 1-12 has been our focus in French and we have played french playground games to consolidate this learning. In DT, we drew thumbnail, exploded, cross-sectional and detailed diagrams as part of designing a pneumatic box toy for five-year-olds, before using a selection of common materials and our crafting skills to turn our creations into reality. Finally, in our main PE topic, we have been using rolls, balances, and various equipment to build gymnastic sequences to demonstrate to each other. Additionally, we had two visitors who led PE workshops: one on athletics circuits for fitness, and the other with an orienteering focus where we followed instructions to navigate around the playground.

We are looking forward to Term 4 and are keen to take on its new learning challenges with a positive attitude and open-minded enthusiasm!



Rugby Club message....

We don't mind the little ones running around on the playing fields - it's nice to see - but a some children are running around the back of the clubhouse.

Whilst we do regularly sweep up, very occasionally there can be glass/glasses or other hazards on the patio and we would not want anybody to get injured. There can also be grounds equipment out or maintenance going on.

Year 4

It has been a busy and exciting term in Leopard Class, the adults have been so pleased to see a wonderful attitude to learning from all the Year 4 children!

In Maths this term, we have been mostly focusing on fractions. The children have grown their thinking greatly in discovering many different ways to represent fractions and how to add and subtract them from each other, including being introduced to improper fractions and mixed numbers. What perfect practice for Number Day! In English, we have been learning all about volcanoes. Our class literacy text, *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit, has really captured our imaginations of what life must have been like during and after the ancient eruption of Mount Vesuvius, culminating in brilliant independent writing pieces from the perspectives of children living in Pompeii at the time. Our non-fiction guided reading book has also taught us more of the real-life facts and science behind volcanoes.

In Science, we have been discovering states of matter. This has allowed us to take part in experiments testing evaporation, condensation and melting and connect our new knowledge to the water cycle, finding out where our water comes from and how it is affected by climate change - perfect for the rainy and foggy January weather!

Our History learning has been all about the invaders and settlers of ancient Britain, spending our time focusing on the Anglo-Saxons and discovering how they took over from the Romans, fended off the Vikings, and were eventually bested by the Normans in 1066. It has been fascinating learning about how different life was and the many wars that changed the course of our history! In PSHE, we have thought about our dreams and goals for the future, understanding how to stay motivated when things get challenging and to work well in groups to achieve a shared goal. In RE, we have discussed the importance of beliefs across all religions and none, in French, we have been practicing saying higher numbers and connecting them to dates, and in Music, we have learnt about ostinatos and used our voices alongside percussion instruments to create pieces around the theme of a flowing river. We have been practicing our gymnastics skills and balances in PE. Our Art lessons have also been very exciting, allowing us to practice 3D sculpture in a variety of media, including wire and even soap! Finally, Computer Science has seen the children creating their own website designs on their favourite topics, which they have taken to with great enthusiasm and excitement.

The adults have loved seeing Leopard Class' kindness, keenness, and readiness to learn, and it has been brilliant to see the subjects that excite the writers, scientists, musicians, and coders of the future!



Free Webinar on Emotional Health and Well-being for Parents/Carers

- We are pleased to offer a FREE webinar on emotional health and well-being, hosted by the school nursing team. The session will take place on **05 March 2025 at 11am** and is specifically designed for parents and carers.
- If you would like to attend, please use the links or QR code below to sign up. We encourage you to join us for this valuable session!

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/406d0c0a-aa6b-4543-819b-160de70aa67b@2c2b1ee0-a8a1-49e6-a820-5ce4890cf466>

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 4

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.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Details
Friday 14th February	Term 3 Extra-curricular Clubs finish	
Friday 14th February	No After School Club	
Friday 14th February	Last Day of Term 3	
Monday 24th February	Term 4 starts	
Monday 24th February	Iguana swimming starts	
Thursday 6th march	World Book Day	Vocab Day - See flyer
Monday 10th - Friday 14th March	Science Week	
Friday 21st March	World Poetry Day	
Friday 4th April	No After School Club	
Friday 4th April	End Of Term 4	

Would any parents like to join the PKA? Please contact nortonhillprimary.pka@gmail.com for further information

