



## Newsletter • Spring Term • February 2026

### Welcome back!

I hope you all had a restful half-term break and enjoyed some quality time together. It has been lovely to see the children return to school full of energy and enthusiasm for the weeks ahead. This half term is shorter than normal but there are many activities planned as well as the children continuing with their learning. Details of learning can be found on the website as well as shared on Class Dojo.

We had a fantastic start to 2026, with so many highlights across the school. We had History Off the Page visit the school on two occasions - Year 4 took part in a Greek Day, while Year 2 experienced a Great Fire of London workshop. Year 2 began the morning as apprentices on the streets of London, learning skills common at the time, including leatherworking, metalworking and sewing, before taking part in drama activities in the afternoon. Meanwhile, Year 4 pupils took on roles typical of the Athenian Agora (marketplace), becoming wax tablet makers, pottery painters, fresco painters and jewellers.

Just before half term the children took part in activities linked to 'Safer Internet Day'. The theme this year was 'Smart Tech, Safe Choices', which explored the safe and responsible use of AI. I hope that you found useful the information on how you can help your children at home make safe choices when using smart technologies.

This term we look forward to our first ever Lower Key Stage 2 Production, the return of Mother's Day Tea, World Book Day and Easter services to name but a few events.



### PE Enrichment Breakdancing

On Tuesday 10th February, we had the pleasure of welcoming Josie Sparkes to lead breakdance workshops with all classes. The children were encouraged to try out a range of moves including the windmill and worm, and followed Josie's routines with a little bit of freestyle thrown into the mix! Everyone enjoyed the sessions and responded really well to her instructions. This half term we have Will Hopkin-Jones returning for 'inclusive sports' sessions for every pupil.

### Website

Stay up to date with all our school events! Our website calendar is updated regularly, and you can subscribe to sync events directly to your Apple, Android, or Outlook calendar. <https://www.norton.suffolk.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=1&pid=87&viewid=2&month=2&year=2026>

## Pupil-Led Groups

Our pupil-led groups continue to play a vital role in the school community. Last half term, the behaviour ambassadors and Junior Journalists kick-started Children's Mental Health Week with a thoughtful presentation to the whole school about belonging and how we can make others feel like they belong. Our super sports ambassadors organised 'Winter Olympics' activities for all year groups to enjoy over lunchtimes.



This half-term, they plan to celebrate the London Marathon by organising a running event. The Eco-Committee ran a poster competition on the theme of energy conservation, and the winners were celebrated in assembly. In addition, you will have noticed the new road safety bollards, the prize from Suffolk County Council, following the competition organised by our Junior Road Safety Officers.

## World Book Day

You should have all received an email before the half-term about this year's World Book Day celebrations in school. We will be celebrating on Thursday 5th March with a special assembly, activities in class, and a creative competition for the children to think about at home to win a £5 book fair voucher! They are invited to dress up as a favourite character from a book, or simply come in their PJs or comfy clothes, ready to read! There will also be a chance for all children across the school to pair up and share a book.

We will be welcoming the Scholastic Book Fair to the hall from the 4th - 10th March. Every child will receive their World Book Day book token, which allows them to pick up a free book from bookstores. In addition, on Tuesday 10th March, we will be meeting Dave Shelton, the award winning author/illustrator; he will be talking to the children about his writing and artwork, and showing off his skills. Afterwards there will be an opportunity for the children to meet Dave and for him to sign copies of his books. You will receive an email about pre-orders, but please note these need to be received by the end of Thursday 26th February to allow time for delivery.

## Choir News

On Monday 23rd March, Mr Cole will be taking our choir to the Big Sing event at the Cathedral where they will perform their own composition. We look forward to sharing this with you!

## Concentration Aids

At Norton, we are committed to supporting every child's individual needs so they can engage confidently in their learning. Some children find it helpful to hold a small item during the teacher's input to support their focus. These items were previously referred to as *fidget toys*, but we will now be calling them *concentration aids* to better reflect their purpose. If a concentration aid has been agreed with your child's class teacher, we will guide your child in using it appropriately so that it supports their concentration without distracting others. If at any point the aid becomes more of a distraction, we will ask your child to put it away. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create the best learning environment for all our pupils.

## Diary Dates

Tuesday 24 February U11 Basketball @4.00pm  
Tuesday 3 March Year 5 and Year 6 Choir to Stowlangtoft Hall  
Wednesday 4 March Year 6 Assembly @9.00am  
Wednesday 4 - Tuesday 10 March Book Fair in the School Hall 3.15pm daily  
Thursday 5 March World Book Day  
Friday 6 March PE Enrichment—Inclusive Sports  
Monday 9 March British Science Week  
Tuesday 10 March U9 Quicksticks Hockey @ 4.00pm  
Wednesday 11 March Year 5 Assembly @9.00am  
Wednesday 11 March Year 5 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory trip  
Wednesday 11 March and Thursday 12 March Mother's Day Tea  
Wednesday 18 March Lower Key Stage 2 Afternoon Performance  
Thursday 19 March Year 1 Trip to Banham Zoo  
Thursday 19 March Lower Key Stage 2 Evening Performance  
Monday 23 March Choir trip to The Big Sing at Cathedral  
Tuesday 24 March Year 1 and 2 Pipers Vale Gymnasium Trip  
Tuesday 24 March Parents' Evening 5.15– 7.30pm  
Wednesday 25 March Homework Exhibition  
Wednesday 25 March U11 Swimming Gala  
Thursday 26 March Parents' Evening 3.30 –5.45pm  
Thursday 26 March Easter Service for Key Stage 1 and 2  
Friday 27 March Last day of term  
Monday 13 April Children return to school

## Parent Code of Conduct

Please look out for our new 'Parent Code of Conduct' which we will be sharing with you shortly. We are very fortunate to have a strong school community and pride ourselves on working well with our families to secure the best outcomes for the children. To support this, we have produced a document which outlines our commitment to providing a welcoming and safe school setting for all, as well as procedures and principles for working together.

## And finally...

- We were especially proud to see our school ranked number one of the top ten mainstream schools in the Bury St Edmunds area for the percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2025; this comes just a year after our Ofsted inspection, in which the school was judged outstanding for 'Personal Development', 'Behaviour and Attitudes' and 'EYFS'.
- Thank you for continuing to park responsibly in School Close. Please remember however, to park at least 10m from the junction, as per Rule 243 of the Highway Code, to allow for clear visibility and safe access for all.
- We will continue to celebrate children's individual achievements in the first newsletter of each term. Please email the office if your child has something to celebrate!