



Newsletter • Summer Term • April 2026

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and were able to enjoy some quality time with family and friends. It's hard to believe that we are already in the final term of the academic year—where has the time gone?

The Spring Term was incredibly full and rewarding, with many memorable highlights. Particularly notable were the fantastic Lower Key Stage 2 performance of 'Spring Chicken', the delightful Mother's Day Tea, and the engaging Year 5 and Year 6 class assemblies.

I have no doubt that this term will be a busy and exciting one, filled with learning opportunities, enrichment activities, and hopefully plenty of sunshine.

Warmer Weather Please can I remind children to come to school with a water bottle. There are many opportunities during the day for the children to have a drink and we are always telling them how important it is to be hydrated particularly in warmer weather. As and when it gets warmer, can I also ask you to apply sun cream to your child in the morning so that they are protected when they go outside. Unfortunately we are not able to put sun cream on children so putting it on at the start of the school day would be a good idea.

Christian Value This half term we will be focusing on the value of Wisdom. Please find attached to the newsletter the Home School Value sheet on Wisdom. Everyone has a favourite proverb or wise saying; talk to family members about proverbs that they think give wise advice. For example 'Actions speak louder than words' or 'A chain is only as strong as the weakest link'. Find time to talk about wisdom together.



PE Enrichment Inclusive Sports On Friday 6 March, Will Hopkin-Jones visited the school to deliver an engaging session on inclusive sports for all the children. During the session, pupils explored a variety of adapted activities, including using balls with bells inside to create sound, and seated volleyball using larger, softer balls.

The children found the different types of equipment both exciting and interesting. Will demonstrated how physical education activities can be adapted to ensure that all pupils are able to participate and enjoy sport, regardless of their needs or abilities.

Staff News At the end of this academic year, we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Colman. She has been a valued member of the Norton community for 19 years, beginning as a teaching assistant and, more recently, leading the ELSA team. She will be greatly missed, and we thank her for her dedication and care over the years. We wish her every happiness and success as she begins her next chapter.

New Governor My name is Ellie Rees and I was thrilled to be appointed as a new Parent Governor at the start of this year. Having graduated with a degree in Early Years Education, I went on to do my teacher training where my placement was here at Norton CEVC Primary School, 16 years ago. I have very fond memories of my time completing my teacher training at Norton with several of the staff who are still here. It was special to see that Norton still had the same welcoming, happy and caring community ethos when I came back to look around for my eldest daughter to start her school journey back in 2021. My youngest daughter is now in reception so with both of my children at the school it felt the right time to become a Parent Governor. I am excited to be back in the school working with the Governors and staff to help support Norton's successes and to help shape a love of learning for pupils. You may see me on the school drop off or pick up so please come and say hello!



School Development Update At Norton, we are always striving to make our school the best it can be, and each year we identify key priorities. This year, our focus has been on SEND, Oracy and Writing. As we reflect on the progress made over the past two terms, it is clear—through Governor Days, observations and pupil voice—that we are successfully addressing these priorities. In English, a clear and consistent seven-step approach underpins all lessons: Activate, Inspire, Learn, Model, Check, Practise and Reflect. This structured sequence supports high-quality teaching, builds pupils' understanding step by step and ensures consistency across the school.

We have completed three oracy challenges, with many members of the school community taking part and sharing interesting facts with their peers. Pupils are increasingly using stem sentences to extend their thinking and improve their explanations, and we have seen growing confidence and clarity in their spoken performances.

In SEND, manipulatives are being used effectively to support understanding, alongside prompt sheets to guide learning.

As the Summer Term draws to a close, we will review our progress, consider how best to embed and sustain these priorities, and identify any new approaches or research to introduce in the next academic year.

Mini Marathon As a school, all children will take part in a 2.6km run on Friday 24 April to celebrate the London Marathon. Children should come to school in their sports attire and will enjoy completing the course, with plenty of encouragement from staff and Sports Ambassadors along the way.



In addition, a team of 15 pupils from Sports Ambassadors, Running Club and those who attend cross-country competitions have been selected to travel to London to take part in the Mini Marathon on Saturday 25 April. They will run a 2.6km course around The Mall and Buckingham Palace, proudly representing the school. We are really looking forward to hearing all about their experience and how they get on.

Mental Health Workshop Programme I would like to draw your attention to the free online workshops delivered by Psychology in Schools Team. These free virtual workshops (Zoom) are designed to provide up to date advice and guidance on how parents and carers can support the young people in their life. The workshops are 60-75 minutes long and include:

Supporting your child to Manage Big Feelings

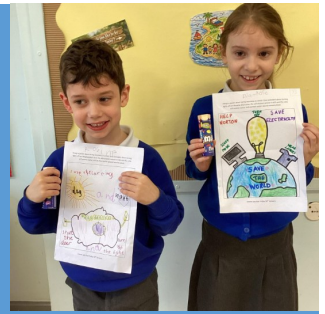
Tools for Managing Worry and Uncertainty

Supporting your child/Adolescent with Anxiety

Managing Changes and Transitions as we enter the summer holidays

Attached to the newsletter is a flyer which includes further details or visit <http://www.nsft.uk/workshops>


News from our Committees In January, the **Eco Committee** launched a competition inviting pupils to design posters about saving energy in school. The winning entries are now displayed around the school, reminding everyone to turn off lights and close doors. In March, we took part in *The Big Plastic Count*, a national initiative to track how much plastic waste is produced in a week. Star, Galaxy and Rocket classes collected and submitted their data, which will be combined with results from across the UK. These findings will be presented to the government to help encourage action on reducing plastic waste. We were proud to take part and raise awareness about the impact of unnecessary plastic use.



As **Behaviour Ambassadors**, our aim is to ensure all children enjoy breaktimes and feel part of a happy community. We continue to run clubs that help KS1 pupils build friendships and social skills. Two clubs, including the Year 6 Art Club, have been running for nearly two years, showing great dedication and organisation. Year 5 pupils have also supported these initiatives. This term, we are introducing reading clubs for Early Years and Year 1, while continuing a Maths club for Year 2. The Behaviour Ambassadors continue to look out for kind and helpful behaviour and if seen, we give out certificates in our whole school sharing Assembly.

Our aim for the **School Council** this term is to meet more regularly and gain a deeper understanding of pupil voice on key school matters, such as playtimes and homework. By listening carefully to our classmates, we can represent their views and come together to share our collective voice.

FAPONS Welcome back to the summer term, I hope everyone had a chocolate-filled Easter break. Last term FAPONS raised nearly £600 from our movie night screening "Luca", chocolate bingo (which was wonderful to see the concentration and anticipation from the children as each number was called) and finally from our sign up initiative for our TakePayments card reader. Last term we were able to fund the purchase of additional supplies for Star class: nesting balance buckets; rugged racers; glue sticks and dry wipe pens. I am sure these are being fully enjoyed by the children. This term we hope to hold the Great Norton Bake Off and after school cake sale, freeze Fridays and the end of the year whole school disco.

 **Star Class** Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely Easter break and are ready for a busy Summer Term. Our topic this term is *Living and Growing*.

In Literacy, we will explore poetry, instructions and non-fiction, alongside sharing favourite stories. The children will continue with *Read Write Inc*, focusing on phonics, key words and developing independent sentence writing linked to their reading.

In Maths, we will learn about capacity and measuring, as well as addition, subtraction and problem solving. The role play area will include opportunities to use money, helping children practise counting and understanding how to pay for items.

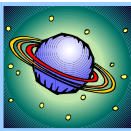
In Expressive Arts and Design, we will create artwork inspired by plants and minibeasts through painting, drawing and collage. We will also learn new songs and play simple instruments. In PE, we will develop ball skills, play simple games and use balance bikes, making the most of outdoor learning.

In RE, we will explore the idea that everyone is unique and precious, including learning about the parable of the lost coin and discussing how people are valued.

Through our topic work, we will enjoy nature walks, grow seeds and learn about plants, animals and life cycles. We are looking forward to a trip to Lackford Lakes and a visit from Little City.

Thank you for sharing updates on Dojo—we love celebrating the children's achievements. Please speak to us if you have any questions. Mrs Buttell and Mrs Cole





Galaxy Class Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely Easter break and enjoyed the sunshine. This half term, our Geography topic is *Let's Go to the Jungle*. We will explore different types of jungles around the world, including cloud and mangrove forests, and compare them with British woodlands. Later in the term, we will visit Felixstowe to study seaside features and compare modern and past coastal life, linking to our History topic in Summer 2.



In English, we will use books by Julia Donaldson to inspire our writing, focusing on correct punctuation, sentence structure, adjectives and joining words. Handwriting sessions will continue twice weekly. Phonics remains a daily focus as we revise set 2 and 3 sounds—regular reading at home is essential to build fluency.

In Maths, we will work on numbers to 100, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will count in 2s, 5s and 10s, explore equal groups and arrays, and begin learning about halves and quarters.

In Science, we will study plants and investigate the best conditions for growth. In RE, we will learn about Judaism, focusing on prayer and worship.

PE will take place outdoors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays—please ensure your child has suitable kit, including trainers and a jumper.

If you have any questions, please speak to us at drop-off or pick-up. Thank you, Mrs Harris and Mrs Rossiter



Planet Class This term, we will explore a range of exciting topics across the curriculum. In English, we will study fables, stories and poetry, discussing themes and morals before writing our own. We will also explore texts linked to *Transport Through the Ages* and *Australia*, developing sentence structure, punctuation (including conjunctions and apostrophes) and editing skills. We will learn poems by heart, practise performance and finish with letter writing.



In Maths, we will cover fractions ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$), time (o'clock, half past, quarter past/to) and statistics, alongside practising the four operations and times tables (2, 5 and 10). In Science, we will focus on plants, investigating growth conditions and exploring life cycles.

Our Humanities topics include *Transport Through the Ages* in History and *Australia* in Geography. Pupils will compare past and present transport, learn about key inventions, and explore Australia's location, climate and wildlife.

In RE, we will study Judaism and Christianity. In Computing, pupils will compose music, handle data and present information using Purple Mash. In Art, we will develop drawing and create 3D work inspired by Aboriginal art. In PSHE, we will learn about relationships and change. PE (Wednesdays and Fridays) will include athletics, games and fitness. In DT, we will design fairground wheels and make a chair for Baby Bear. We will also continue preparing for the move to Key Stage 2, supporting transition to Year 3. Mr Mabbitt



Comet Class Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely break and feel refreshed for the new term. Well done to the children for their hard work last term—I am very proud of their progress. This half term Year 3 topic is Best of British. In English, we will use *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes to explore characters before creating advertisements and persuasive leaflets, using techniques as alliteration, emotive language and rule of three.



In Maths, we continue learning fractions and move on to mass and capacity, applying these skills to real-life problems including money.

In Science, we will study plants including growth, water transportation and life cycles. In Geography, we develop map-reading skills using four-figure grid references and create own maps.

In Art we focus on drawing skills, while in PE we develop athletics and rounders skills. RE explores Humanism and the concept of being good, linking to compassion. PSHE focuses on relationships and conflict. In Music, we explore a song from a musical, and in French learn seasons and weather.

Thank you for your support. Please continue reading regularly at home, use TT Rockstars and support with homework. Topic homework will be sent out soon. I am looking forward to another great half term. Miss Potter



Rocket Class Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Easter break. It's hard to believe we are in our final term already. This half term, our topic is *Ruthless Romans*. We will explore the rise of the Roman Empire, learn about Julius Caesar and investigate the Roman invasion and Romanisation of Britain. After half term, we will study *Deserts*, including their locations, climates and how people use them.



In English, we will read *Stig of the Dump* by Clive King and use it to write diary entries and adventure stories, focusing on paragraphs, fronted

adverbials, conjunctions and expressive sentences. Later, we will write poetry and create persuasive adverts. In Maths, we will work with decimals—partitioning, comparing and using them in real-life contexts such as money—as well as telling time using 24-hour clocks. After half term, we will learn about angles, shapes, coordinates, translations and data handling.

In Science, we will study sound and how it travels, before moving on to electricity and simple circuits.

We have several exciting events ahead, including our residential trip to Burwell House (12–13 May), a Multi-Sports Festival (3 July) and a visit to the Guru Nanak Gurdwara (9 July).

In June, pupils will complete the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. Please continue practising times tables regularly, using Times Table Rockstars where possible.

If you have any questions, please contact us via Class Dojo or speak to us after school.

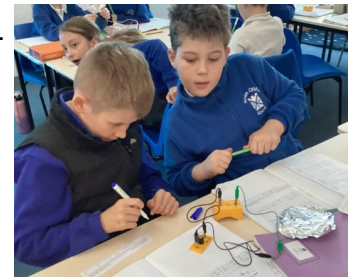
Miss Miles & Mrs Gibbs



Meteor Class Welcome back, can you believe it is our last term in Year 5.

As Geographers, we will be learning about Mexico, exploring its location, key features, history, culture and traditions.

In English, we will be inspired by *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket, using both the book and film. We will also continue reading *The House with Chicken Legs* and promote reading for pleasure, with updates shared on Class Dojo.

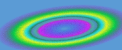


In Maths, we will practise arithmetic and times tables daily, alongside topics such as Statistics, Shape, and Position and Direction, supported by weekly homework.

In Science, we will continue our learning on materials, including solubility, separating mixtures, and reversible and irreversible changes.

In Art, we will explore collage techniques inspired by Eric Carle. In Music, we will prepare for the WCET festival, where Year 5 will perform on clarinets alongside other schools in Bury St Edmunds.

In RE, we will study Christianity, focusing on the Eucharist. PSHE will introduce our 'Brain Buddies' unit, and in French we will learn to order food and drink. In DT, we will design and make slingshot cars. Please note our PE days are Monday and Thursday. Thank you Mrs Flintoft



Supernova Class This is an exciting and important final term as our Year 6 pupils prepare for SATs and their move to high school. We begin with a strong focus on revision, followed by our end-of-year production full of singing and celebration.

English We are revising grammar, spelling and reading skills for SATs—regular reading at home is vital. After SATs, we will move on to a fantasy writing unit.

Maths We will complete our learning with statistics, geometry, and position and direction, alongside SATs revision. Weekly homework will continue.

Science We will study the circulatory system, including the heart, blood vessels and the effects of lifestyle choices. This will be supported by our visit to Crucial Crew (22 June).

Art & DT In Art, we will create collages inspired by Gustav Klimt and clay sculptures based on Henry Moore. In DT, we will design and make SATs mascots using sewing skills.

Other Subjects Music: Performance and production, RE: The Resurrection, PSHE: Relationships PE: Athletics (Thursday) & Cricket (Friday) French: Me in My World

SATs Week (w/c 11th May) Mon: SPaG | Tue: Reading | Wed: Maths (1 & 2) | Thu: Maths (3) | Fri: Rest

Thank you for your continued support—we are very proud of the children and look forward to a fantastic final term. Mr Kerry



Children's Achievements



Each term, we celebrate the children's achievements outside of school. If your child passes an exam or takes part in an event, please let the school office know so we can include it in the next newsletter. This term, I have been particularly impressed by the wide range of achievements and the way the children have demonstrated the school's Christian values.

Well done **Marcus Ruffles**. You have been an absolute star at handling your diabetes whilst getting used to your new pump.

Congratulations to **Henry Rossiter** who has moved up to stage 2 in swimming.

Congratulations to **Isaac Alexander** who has taken on the challenge of teaching himself both acoustic and electric guitar, showing great determination. He bravely learnt a Grade 2 piece of classical guitar for the Year 5 Assembly and played it very well.

Well Done **Hattie Finlay** for competing in the Pony Club Horse & Pony Care competition over the Easter break. The team Hattie was in (team of 3) came 2nd place out of 15 teams from and has qualified for the championship in Warwick in August.

Congratulations to **Mia Cook** who passed her ESF ski level 1st Star whilst on holiday during Easter.

Well done to **Arthur Barras** in Meteor Class who completed the Brighton Miles Race during Easter. This was part of the Brighton Marathon Weekend.

Congratulations to **Emily Rossiter** who has moved up to stage 7 in swimming.

Congratulations to **Robin Fenn** who successfully climbed Cader Idris in Wales- 4 miles and 600m tall

Well done **Toby Harris** in Star Class who wrote a diary over the Easter Holidays, we are super proud of him for keeping up his writing practice and now he has a lovely record of all of the things we got up to.

Congratulations **Bethany Loader** for her first ever performance at Bury Theatre Royal, playing a part in 'Little Criminals'. She was the bailiff.

Congratulations to **Annabelle Hadley-Brown** for winning a gold, a silver and two bronze medals in the Suffolk Gymnastics individual apparatus competition and qualifying for the regional finals.

Well done **Elsie James-Sallows** who took to the stage with confidence, flare and sparkling talent at the Dancing Sparks Academy's Big Dance Show - Dancing in the Spotlight at Thurston Community College. She wowed the audience with her acro dancing skills, performing with energy, precision and a huge smile.

Congratulations **Elsie James-Sallows** who has achieved an amazing milestone by earning her very first JuJitsu grade - 10th Kyu - after just three months of dedicated practice. Alongside her technical progress, Elsie has shown great respect for the dojo, her teacher, and fellow students.

Harry Reynolds in Comet Class passed his grading in martial arts, he is now a brown/ black belt.

Congratulations to **James Rossiter** who took part in Suffolk Young Farmers' Club Reading competition, where his team was placed first with James winning best speaker and best chairman award. They then represented Suffolk in the Eastern Area Regional competition where they were placed second.

Well done to **Grace Mould**, who had diligently practised her performance for several months at her PQA drama classes and was thrilled to be given the amazing opportunity, at just 10 years old, to perform at His Majesty's Theatre in London. Grace showed perseverance, bravery, courage and determination as she performed on stage in front of 1,200 people.

Parking Thank you for your continued support with parking on School Close. Staff have noticed a clear improvement in the flow of traffic, which is very positive.

A reminder that parking is also available at the Salvation Army and the Village Hall. In the warmer weather, if families wish to cycle or scoot to school, we have a bike shed available for storing bikes during the day. Please ensure that children dismount from bikes and scooters before entering the school site.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Diary Dates: Please see website for more information



Wednesday 22 April Theatre in Education—Whole school then workshop for Planet Class

Thursday 23 April U9 Tennis Festival Thurston @ 3.45pm

Friday 24 April Mini Marathon in School

Thursday 30 April Class Photos

Thursday 30 April U11 Tennis Festival at Thurston @ 3.45pm

Friday 1 May Star Class 9-11am Little City

Wednesday 6 May Comet Class Assembly @ 9am

Week beginning Monday 12 May Year 6 (Supernova) SATS

Tuesday 13 May Rocket Class Residential to Burwell House

Friday 15 May Meteor Class East Coast Adventures Sutton Hoo Trip

Friday 15 May New Parent Intake Information Morning

Wednesday 20 May Galaxy Class Assembly @ 9am

Friday 22 May PE Enrichment Flag Football

Friday 22 May End of Summer 1

Monday 1 June Start of Summer 2

Tuesday 2 June Comet Class trip to Cambridge Mosque

Wednesday 10 June Rocket Class Assembly @ 9am

Monday 15 June Cathedral Service for Church Schools - Meteor and Supernova Class to attend

Wednesday 17 June KS1 Multi Skills Festival - Planet Class at Thurston Primary School

Thursday 18 June U11 Rounders Festival at Stowmarket High School 4.00-5.45pm

Monday 22 June Supernova Crucial Crew

Wednesday 24 June Meteor Class WCET Festival

Thursday 25 June Sports Day at 10am followed by picnic

Friday 26 June Star Class Lackford Lakes

Monday 29 June Key Stage 2 Eucharist Service

Tuesday 30 June Reserve Sports Day

Tuesday 30 June U9 Rounders Festival at Stowmarket 4.00-5.30pm

Wednesday 1 July Star Class Assembly @ 9am

Wednesday 1 July Upper Key Stage 2 Production afternoon performance

Thursday 2 July Upper Key Stage 2 Production evening performance

Friday 3 July Rocket Class Multi Sports Festival at Thurston Community College

Friday 3 July Homework Exhibition

Week beginning 6 July Bikeability

Wednesday 8 July and Thursday 9 July Year 6 Thurston Community College Transition Day

Wednesday 8 July Transition Morning at Norton

Thursday 9 July Rocket Class Trip to Ipswich Gurdwara

Friday 17 July Leavers Assembly and Last day of Term

Reading Volunteers Wanted At Norton we recognise that reading is so important as it is the key to knowledge. It has been so great to see the children using the library and completing so many Accelerated Reader quizzes, in fact last year, as a school, we read over 80 million words! Hearing children read individually is a priority and so, if you are a parent/carer who would be willing to volunteer to come for an afternoon or morning once a week to hear children read, then please speak to the office.



Norton Church of England VC Primary School

Learn Believe Achieve: Hand in hand with God and each other