



Newsletter Autumn First Half Term 2026

Welcome Back I do hope you had a wonderful summer holiday and had the opportunity to spend time with friends and family, as well as visit new and familiar places. We were certainly fortunate with the weather this summer, and I hope you were able to make the most of the sunshine.

The first week of term often brings a mix of emotions as children and staff settle back into the routines of school life. However, I have been incredibly impressed by how well all of the children have settled. I have been greeted by many smiling faces each morning and, when walking around the school, I have seen calm, focused classrooms where children are engaged in their learning.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Hobbs, Mrs Cook and Mrs Warne to Norton, and to welcome back Mrs Gleeson. We are also thrilled to welcome Mrs Radford to her new role as a class teacher, having successfully completed her teacher training with us last year. Most importantly, we extend a very warm welcome to the 26 children who have joined Star Class this year, as well as Jayden, Macey and Ella. We look forward to getting to know them all and supporting them as they begin their journey at Norton.

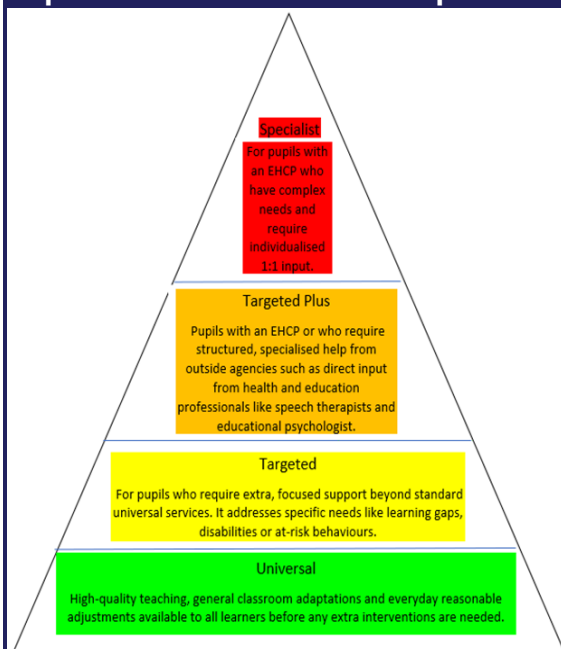
Homework Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Parent Questionnaire regarding homework. We greatly appreciated your feedback and consultation, and as a result, we have made some changes to our homework policy.

Within each class, there will be a range of different tasks to complete, with the main focus being on developing maths and English skills.

There will also be two Homework Exhibitions throughout the year. A topic homework sheet will be sent home well in advance, giving the children plenty of time to complete their work. The children will be informed when their homework needs to be brought into school, allowing them an opportunity to showcase and celebrate their work in class before it is displayed at the Homework Exhibition.

Further information will be shared during our Parent Information Sessions, as well as through ClassDojo.

Special Education Needs Update



Due to the changes in SEND provision, we have changed the levels of support in place in line with government guidelines. This is represented in the diagram. If your child is receiving **Specialist** or **Targeted Plus** support, their class teacher will contact you over the coming weeks to arrange a **Learning Plan meeting**. These meetings will take place once each term. If your child is receiving **Targeted** support, a copy of their **Learning Plan** will be sent home for you to review. Some pupils may not be on the **SEND Register** but may need a short period of additional support to help them catch up. In these cases, they will have a **Green Learning Plan**, and parents/carers will be informed about the support and interventions being provided. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss the support your child is receiving, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. You can also contact **Miss Miles (SENCO)** for further advice and support.

Free School Meals

From the 2026/2027 school year, there will be two types of FSM eligibility:

- Targeted FSM - this continues to be based on the current eligibility threshold. It applies to pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. Pupils in this group will attract Pupil Premium funding for their school and will qualify for additional support, such as the Holiday and Activities Food Programme.
- Expanded FSM - This is a new category for pupils whose households receive Universal Credit but do not meet the criteria for Targeted FSM. Pupils in this group will be eligible for free school meals only.

If you have not previously applied for Free School Meals and believe you may be eligible under the new expanded criteria, please submit an online application via the Suffolk County Council website: [Apply for free school meals - Suffolk County Council](#).

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to get a free school meal through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme which is funded by the Department for Education.

School Development Plan



School Development Plan Every school has a school development plan, a document which is reviewed and updated every year to reflect key priorities for the school; these priorities are usually linked to changes in education, data, the views of parents, staff and children, and observations. As a school we are always looking to improve and to make Norton a place where children are happy and develop socially and academically to achieve the best they can be.

Priority 1

To embed a consistent and progressive approach to oracy across the curriculum, enabling all pupils to develop confidence, vocabulary, communication skills, and articulate their learning effectively.

Priority 2

To successfully implement the Little Wandle phonics programme, ensuring consistency in teaching, assessment, and intervention, leading to improved pupil outcomes and more effective tracking of progress.

Priority 3

To introduce and embed a Therapeutic Thinking approach across the school, further strengthening our inclusive culture and supporting positive behaviour, well-being, and emotional regulation for all pupils.

Priority 4

To continue to develop and embed an inclusive curriculum that meets the needs of all learners, ensuring every pupil feels represented, valued, and able to achieve success.



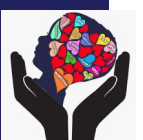
Supporting Families: Online Safety and Parent Workshops

For our first newsletter of the year, I would like to highlight two valuable sources of information and support that we will share with parents throughout the year.

Online Safety: The digital world is evolving rapidly, with developments such as artificial intelligence, social media and new online platforms becoming part of everyday life. These technologies offer many benefits but also require careful guidance and monitoring to ensure children use them safely and responsibly. Last year, we subscribed to the Knowsley Learning Centre's online safety service. Their monthly newsletters and videos provide practical advice, information about current online trends and guidance for keeping children safe online. These resources can be found on our website, and parent training opportunities will be shared each term. I strongly encourage all parents and carers to make time to read these newsletters. They contain a wealth of useful, up-to-date information that can help families navigate the digital world with confidence.

Parent and Carer Support Workshops: We will also continue to share information about free online workshops provided by the Psychology in Schools Team at Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust. These sessions focus on childhood mental health and neurodivergence, helping parents and carers better understand and support their children's needs. Workshop information will be shared through Arbor each term.

As we often tell the children, knowledge is key. By taking advantage of these free resources, we can work together to support children's wellbeing, safety and success both in school and beyond.



Pupil Leadership at Norton

At Norton, we believe our pupils play an important role in shaping our school community. Their ideas, voices and actions matter, and we are delighted that so many children are keen to contribute. Our newly appointed pupil leadership teams are excited to begin their work and make a positive difference across the school.



Worship Team: This half term, our Worship Team will begin leading parts of Collective Worship. They will support younger pupils in learning our Prayer Hands and the sign language linked to our school vision. The team will also help plan and prepare for our Harvest Service, making it a meaningful and special celebration for our school community.

Eco Committee: The Eco Committee is ready to get started with an audit of our school's environmental strengths and areas for development. Their findings will help shape exciting projects and initiatives throughout the year as we continue to care for our environment.

Sports Ambassadors: Our Sports Ambassadors will meet weekly to organise lunchtime activities for different year groups. Chosen for their enthusiasm, leadership and teamwork, they will help encourage active play and ensure lunchtimes are enjoyable and inclusive for all pupils.

School Council We are looking forward to welcoming our new School Council representatives. This term, their focus will be on promoting friendship and kindness across the school, exploring ways to strengthen our caring and supportive community.

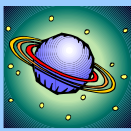
We look forward to sharing updates on the fantastic work of these groups throughout the year.

FAPONS Welcome back to the start of the new year! Details of the FAPONS AGM will be coming out later this week. It would be great if you could attend to hear what we did last year and so that a committee can be elected for 2026-2027. If anyone would like to get involved with FAPONS, feel free to email with any questions you may have ahead of the meeting. A couple of fundraisers have already been confirmed for this term, the Christmas shop for the children's artwork on personalised keepsakes and providing refreshments for the Pirates Praise Party at the Village Hall on 17 Oct, save the date!! Also please continue to vote for FAPONS when shopping in Tesco in Bury St Edmunds, with your blue voting coin. Funds raised from this will be going towards setting up an outdoor learning area with raised vegetable patches. The shed will be open on Thursdays for pre-loved uniform. However I'm more than happy to open the shed on request, just drop us an email and we can arrange a time! Email - fapons@norton.suffolk.sch.uk.



Star Class Welcome to Star Class! We are delighted to have started the term so positively and appreciate all your support at home. The children are already settling brilliantly into the classroom, playing kindly in the garden and playground and adapting to the new challenges and routines of the school day. Please celebrate all their achievements. We begin this half-term learning to make new friends, getting to know each other and discovering how the classroom and garden help us to learn. Please could you bring a coat every day so that we can still explore outside, whatever the weather! We will soon start our Little Wandle Phonics lessons, and the children will bring a worksheet home to complete the handwriting and sound of the day activity. Please keep this at home to refer to, there is no requirement to hand this in. To begin with, your child will bring home a story to share. We want to foster a love of reading and stories so please read this and lots of other stories to your child, ask and answer questions and talk about the characters. Our Maths lessons begin with matching, counting, sorting and recognising and ordering numbers. There will be lots of opportunities at home to embed these skills, perhaps recognising numbers on doors or number plates. You could match the socks from the washing or see who has more or less when playing a game. We will have two PE lessons each week, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and tend to keep the PE bag at school until the half-term break. Our PSHE curriculum starts with the 'Zones of Regulation' and we discuss how to name and share our feelings in relation to colours. This also helps us to try different strategies to get back to the green zone and be ready to learn. We are really looking forward to getting to know the children and have a wonderful outdoor area and lots of super activities to enjoy. Please always talk to us if you have any questions. Thank you, Mrs Bouttell and Mrs Cole.





Galaxy Class Welcome to Year 1! We hope you had a wonderful summer and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. This term, our topics are Traditional Tales and Home Sweet Home. In Geography, we will explore where we live in the world. We will be looking at maps, identifying where the UK is located and learning about the geography of our local area and after half term we will investigate how homes have changed over time through our History topic.

In English, we will be reading favourite traditional tales, including *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Three Little Pigs*, while developing our writing skills. We are also excited to begin using the Little Wandle phonics programme to support reading and spelling. Each week, children will bring home two books: one for practising fluent reading and one to share and enjoy together. Books should be returned on Thursdays and new books will be sent home on Fridays.

In Maths, we will focus on place value, numbers to 10, addition, subtraction and shape. In Science, it is our role to teach VAPOQ (our science mascot) about our planet. This half term we will investigate our five senses and how they help us explore the world. After half term, we will learn about everyday materials and seasonal changes in autumn. We would be grateful for any autumn treasures, such as leaves, cones or conkers, for our investigation table.



PE lessons take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, so please ensure all uniform and PE kit is clearly named. We are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning together! Mrs Rossiter and Mrs Harris



Planet Class Welcome back to our fantastic Year 2 children! We hope you had a lovely summer and are excited for the year ahead.

In English, children will build on their Year 1 learning, developing sentence writing, punctuation and spelling through the new Little Wandle programme. Our writing will be inspired by our topics, traditional tales and the work of Anthony Browne.

In Maths, we will focus on place value, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, addition and subtraction, before moving on to 2D and 3D shapes.

Our Autumn 1 topic is Kings, Queens and Castles, where children will learn about castles and the people who lived in them. In Autumn 2, we will explore Around the UK, using maps to learn about the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom.

In Science, we will investigate Living Things and Their Habitats before exploring the properties and uses of different Materials.



PE takes place on Wednesdays and Thursdays, focusing on agility, balance, dance, gymnastics and ball skills. Mrs Sturman will teach RE and Art on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Children will learn about topics such as Jewish New Year traditions and explore printing, textiles and block printing techniques. At home, children will receive Little Wandle reading books and will continue developing their maths fluency through Numbots. Please keep an eye on Class Dojo and the class webpage for updates, homework and photos of our learning. Thank you, Mrs Radford.



Comet Class Hello! My name is Miss Potter, and I'm excited to be the Comet Class teacher this year. I'm looking forward to getting to know the children and having a fantastic year together! Our topic this term is

Stone Age Rocks. In History, we'll explore early humans in Britain and learn about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. In Science, we'll investigate different types of rocks and discover how soil and fossils are formed.

In English, we'll read Stone Age texts and use them to inspire our own stories, setting descriptions and explanation texts. Please encourage children to use capital letters, full stops, question marks and finger spaces when writing at home.

In Maths, we'll focus on place value, working with 3-digit and 4-digit numbers. We'll practise recognising digit values, partitioning numbers, and comparing and ordering them.

PE will take place on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings. Please ensure PE kits are in school every day. Long hair should be tied back and jewellery removed on PE days.

Weekly spelling homework will be sent home on Fridays and collected on Thursdays. A lunchtime club is available for children who are unable to complete it at home. We encourage regular practice on TT Rock Stars to build confidence and fluency. Children should know their 2s, 5s and 10s, and in Year 3 we will learn the 8s, 4s and 3s. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to me after school or contact me via Class Dojo. I look forward to teaching your children. Thank you, Miss Potter





Rocket Class Welcome to Year 4! Mrs Hobbs, our new class TA, and I are looking forward to a fantastic first term, getting to know the class and enjoying lots of exciting learning. Our topic this half term is **Rivers**. In Geography, we will learn about rivers and the journey they make. Towards the end of the unit, we will walk to the Blackbourn River.



In English, we will use *The River* to inspire our own storm poems. River-themed homework activities will be sent home soon. After half term, we will begin **Groovy Greeks**, learning where the Ancient Greeks fit into history and exploring Greek culture, beliefs and myths. We will compare Greek myths before writing our own in English.

In Maths, we will focus on numbers up to 10,000, learning to order, compare and calculate with them. Times tables remain a key focus, and we aim to secure recall of all facts up to 12×12 . Please encourage your child to use TT Rockstars regularly. We will continue with fortnightly Mighty Maths Purple tests, covering the 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 times tables. The aim is to improve scores and build confidence.

We will be swimming at Stowmarket Leisure Centre on Tuesday mornings this term, returning for lunch. Children will need a swimsuit, towel and swimming hat, and may wear goggles if they wish. Jewellery is not permitted, and earrings must be removed.

Spelling home learning will be sent home on Fridays and returned the following Thursday. If you have any questions or concerns, please catch me after school or contact me via Class Dojo. I will be very happy to help.

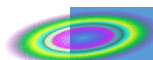
Mr Kerry



Meteor Class This term promises a wide range of exciting learning, bringing together different areas of the curriculum. As Historians and Geographers, we will explore both the natural and human world. We will start with Extreme Earth, learning about extreme weather, volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Later, we will discover why and how the Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain, exploring their settlements, daily lives, beliefs, farming and social hierarchy. In English, we will explore a range of genres, beginning with science fiction inspired by H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*. We will write scientific explanations, information texts and narratives inspired by the Anglo-Saxon legend of *Beowulf*, before investigating the Sutton Hoo treasure discovery and learning to write persuasively. Grammar will be linked to our writing. We will enjoy two class novels: *Asha and the Spirit Bird* by Jasbinder Bilan and *The 1000 Year Old Boy* by Ross Welford.



In Maths, daily arithmetic, multiplication practice and flashbacks will reinforce key skills. We will develop formal calculation methods and study number, the four operations, fractions, multiplication and division. In Science, we will learn about the solar system, Earth's movement and forces, including gravity, friction, and air and water resistance. Across the wider curriculum, we will develop skills in drawing and textiles and begin learning the clarinet. We will also talk about our pets in French, continue coding in computing, and enjoy dance and football in PE. It promises to be a busy, exciting and rewarding term of learning! Mr Mabbitt



Supernova Class Hello again! We are delighted to be your teachers once more for your final year at Norton. This term, our topics are Norton at War (History) and Natural Resources (Geography). We will learn about the causes of World War II, how Norton was affected by the war, and how the village has changed since then. In Geography, we will explore different natural resources, how they are used, why they are unevenly distributed, and why countries trade them.



To help prepare for secondary school, home learning will increase slightly. Each Friday, pupils will receive an arithmetic sheet and spelling homework, due back the following Thursday. Any incomplete homework will need to be finished at lunchtime.

Mighty Maths returns with fortnightly Platinum tests covering all times tables up to 12×12 , including multiples of 10 and related division facts. Pupils will work to improve both their score and speed. Strong times-table fluency remains essential for confident problem solving.

Our PE days are Tuesdays and Fridays, although pupils should keep a clean PE kit in school every day in case of additional activities.

We are also looking forward to our residential trip to PGL Bawdsey (14th-16th October). Activities include archery, abseiling, canoeing and the giant swing, with a disco one evening. A packing list will be sent home soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us via Class Dojo or speak to us after school. Miss Miles will teach on Mondays and Tuesdays, with Mrs Gibbs teaching for the rest of the week. Thank you



Children's Achievements

Each term, we celebrate our children's achievements outside of school. Whether your child has passed an exam, taken part in an event, or accomplished something that is a significant personal achievement, we want to recognise and celebrate it. These moments reflect our belief that our children are bold adventurers, embracing new opportunities and challenges. At the start of this autumn term, I have been particularly impressed by the wide range of achievements shared and by the many ways our children have demonstrated the school's Christian values through their actions, determination and commitment.

Well Done to **Imogen Crowe**, who recently took part in her first international music tour, performing with the Cathedral Choir at several venues across Sweden. What a wonderful achievement and an unforgettable experience!

Congratulations to **Milan Konstantinos** who achieved his Grade 1 Greek certificate this summer, recognising his hard work and success in learning to speak and write in Greek.

Well Done to **Arthur Worley**, who showed great courage and perseverance this summer by overcoming his fear of putting his head under water. After years of being nervous, Arthur found his confidence and was soon jumping into the pool at every opportunity while on holiday!

Well Done to **Rowan, Maisy and Marcus Ruffles**, who have shown great determination and perseverance while learning to ride their bikes without stabilisers. We are proud of the effort they have put into developing this new skill and building their confidence.

Congratulations to **Annabelle Hadley-Brown**, who successfully completed the Summer Reading Quest. Her commitment to reading throughout the summer is a fantastic achievement.

Well Done to **Toby Harris**, who has shown great determination and resilience in his swimming lessons by learning to swim without floats. We are incredibly proud of the hard work and confidence he has shown in reaching this important milestone.

Congratulations to **Eli Richmond**, who successfully completed the Summer Reading Challenge at Thurston Library. This is a fantastic achievement.

Congratulations to **Emily Rossiter** for winning multiple classes in the handicraft competitions at the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show and being placed 3rd overall in her age group.

Congratulations to **Henry Rossiter** for winning several classes in his age category at the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show in the handicraft section.

Well Done to **Willow Tanswell**, who achieved the fantastic milestone of learning to ride her bike without stabilisers over the summer!

Well Done to **Pippa Light**, who showed fantastic determination by standing up on her first try at wakeboarding!

Congratulations to **Lydia Fletcher**, who was the first child at her local library to complete the Curious Creatures Reading Quest, earning a certificate and medal, and also achieved the fantastic milestone of learning to ride her bike without stabilisers!

Well Done to **Benji Saunders** who has made amazing progress in his dirt biking and can now move from the beginners track to the main adult track!

Congratulations to **Arthur Barras** for taking part in the Junior Great North Run, raising money for children's charities in Newcastle.

Congratulations to **Niamh Widdicks** for passing her Grade 6 Irish Dancing exam with distinction.

Well Done **Chester Ward** who has achieved his 10th junior parkrun wristband over the summer. He has really been working hard on his running and getting faster and faster each week.

Well Done to **Kieran Wickes** who did a zip line activity by himself on holiday that was 200m off the ground and loved it.



Staff News: Congratulations to Mrs Flintoft and her husband on the safe arrival of their son, William Reggie Flintoft. We are delighted to hear the wonderful news and look forward to welcoming Mrs Flintoft and baby William to school for a visit very soon.



Diary Dates: Please see website for more information and make sure that you are signed up to the calendar.

Tuesday 8 September Year 4 Swimming starts

Thursday 10 September Key Stage 2 Parent Information Session at 3.30pm

Tuesday 15 September Key Stage 1 Parent Information Session at 3.30pm

Thursday 17 September Parent Consultation linked to changes in the PSHE Curriculum

Friday 18 September Year 5 Clarinet lessons start

Tuesday 22 September Flu Immunisation

Wednesday 23 September Year 1 Visit to St Andrews Church as part of RE lesson

Monday 28 September Harvest Festival at Norton Baptist Church (just children due to space limitations)

Wednesday 30 September Individual school photos and sibling groups

Wednesday 14 October – Friday 16 October Year 6 Bawdsey Manor Residential

Tuesday 20 October Parents Evening starting at 3.30pm

Wednesday 21 October Year 2 Trip to Framlingham Castle

Thursday 22 October Parents Evening starting at 5.15pm

Friday 23 October PD Day - School closed to pupils

Monday 27 October Half Term

Tuesday 3 November Year 3 Cave Man visit

Friday 13 November Children in Need

Week beginning Monday 16 November Odd Socks Day and Anti-bullying Week

Wednesday 25 November Homework Exhibition

Wednesday 2 December Year 5 Class Assembly

Tuesday 8 December EYFS/Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance 2pm

Wednesday 9 December West Midlands Theatre Pantomime Beauty and the Beast

Wednesday 9 December EYFS/Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance 5.30pm

Monday 14 December Carol Concerts

Friday 18 December Last day of Term

Term Dates

Spring term 2027

PD Day Monday 4 January 2027

Tuesday 5 January 2027 Children back in school

Half term: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2027

Second Half Term: Monday 22 February to Thursday 25 March 2027

Summer term 2027

PD Day Monday 12 April 2027

Tuesday 13 April 2027 Children are back in school

Half term: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2027

Second Half Term: Monday 7 June to Wednesday 21 July 2027

Parking: As a reminder, please use the designated parking areas when dropping off or picking up your child. Parents are able to use the Village Hall and the Salvation Army. In addition, there are a few spaces at the Baptist Church that parents are welcome to use. Please park considerately in the marked areas and avoid blocking access.

Please note that the parking bays down School Close are for residents only and should not be used. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe and considerate of our neighbours.