



# Norton CEVC Primary School

School Close, Norton, Bury St Edmunds,  
Suffolk, IP31 3LZ



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

# Newsletter 1

# Autumn 2025

**Headteacher**

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### Special points of interest:

- ☺ School Success P1
- ☺ School Priorities for 2024 –25 P2
- ☺ Elsa P3
- ☺ All newsletters, important events and updated school policies are published on our website.

**Welcome back** I do hope you had a wonderful summer holiday and had the opportunity to visit friends, families and places. In the first week of term, everyone experiences a mix of emotions as children and staff get back into the routine of school life. I have though, been incredibly impressed with how well all the children have settled. I have been greeted with many smiling faces in the mornings and, when walking round the school, all classes are calm and the children are engaged in learning.

We are so pleased to welcome Miss Potter to our teaching team and to welcome back Mrs Gleeson and Mrs Woodward after a period of illness and injury. Most importantly we welcome 28 new children into Star Class who have joined the school as well as Katelyn in KS2.



### Communication

Communication is very important to us at Norton CEVCP School. If there is a concern, however small, please come and share it with us. If we are aware, then we can promptly deal with any situation or look to solve it. Teachers will be available at the end of the day and there is always a member of staff on duty in the morning to pass on any information you may have. I would always say face to face communications with the class teacher is the best practice however I appreciate that this is not always possible. Each class has Class Dojo and one of the features of this app is that you can send the class teacher a message. Teachers will always aim to respond promptly within school hours. I am aware that classes have their own WhatApp parent groups, these are not part of the school's communication systems, so if you need clarity or confirmation on anything school-related then please contact the office. Alternatively, you may wish to speak with me as Headteacher, I am usually available at the beginning or end of the day. If it is urgent, I will always aim to accommodate as quickly as possible.



**Change in Newsletters** From this term onwards, we will be sending one detailed newsletter at the beginning of each term, followed by a shorter, more informative update at the start of the second half of the term. From conversations with parents and staff, we understand that a half-termly newsletter is no longer necessary, as many families already use Class Dojo and the school website to find information and keep up to date with what is happening in school.

**Claiming for Free School Meals** If you think your child may qualify for Free School Meals, please read the following information so that you can begin to start the claim process.

Why should I claim for Free School Meals?

It is really important, that if you feel you may be entitled to claim for Free School Meals, that you do so. This is because there is additional government funding awarded to the school, called the Pupil Premium, which is awarded to schools according to the number of children in receipt of Free School Meals. This means that claiming for Free School Meals could also help your child receive other benefits at school. If you do feel you are entitled to claim, it is very much in your, your child and the school's interest that you do make this claim. To check if your child is eligible, apply online:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals>

Or speak to the office for further information.

**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 children using the library and completing so many Accelerated Reader quizzes. In fact last year, as a school, we read over 77 million words! This was a school record and it was fantastic to celebrate so many reading achievements over the year in Celebration Assembly. 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.



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Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9



## School's Focus for 2025-26



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	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
To continue to develop and embed consistent teaching strategies, build metacognition and a deeper understanding of how pupils learn across the curriculum through <u>WalkThrus</u> (instructional coaching) and latest research-led CPD	To develop the oracy skills of pupils to enhance their critical thinking, justification and explanation of ideas across the curriculum	Further develop the teaching of writing so that more children meet or exceed the expected standard, with a focus in the mechanics of writing and transcriptional skills	Adapt the delivery of the curriculum for pupils with SEND so that these pupils can access the full curriculum and achieve well with less adult support
Ofsted Category	Ofsted Category	Ofsted Category	Ofsted Category
Personal Development, EYFS, <b>Leadership and Management</b> and Quality of Education)	<b>Personal Development</b> , EYFS <u>Behaviour and Attitudes</u> and Quality of Education	<b>Quality of Education</b> , EYFS and Leadership and Management)	(Quality of Education, EYFS, <u>Behaviour and Attitudes</u> , Personal Development and <b>Leadership and Management</b>

We will look to update you each term on the progress we have made to address each priority. This years priorities take into considerations the areas of development linked to our SIAMS and Ofsted Inspection.

**School Success:** I am pleased to announce that the school was awarded the Gold Sports Award. This is the third year we have achieve Gold in this government-led awards scheme, launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community on a yearly basis. We also achieved our Eco Green Flag , with our application receiving the following feedback ‘Your greatest overall success: Your greatest success has been the growing enthusiasm for environmental care across the school. The widespread participation in litter picking and nature club highlights how sustainability has become embedded in school life, with students taking active responsibility for their surroundings. Well done Norton!



**Bold Adventurers** Last year, we loved hearing all about the children’s adventures through our Bold Adventurers Curriculum Driver. This year, our focus shifts to building Confidence in Communication—helping children grow in curiosity, conversation, and real-world communication skills. To support this, each child will be bringing home a challenge card with five activities to complete. The sixth challenge invites them to share their achievements with the class. Once the card is filled, we’ll come together to celebrate their success in assembly. We’d be grateful for your support at home in encouraging these valuable life skills! We will be sending home the reward card in the next couple of days.

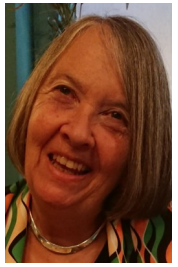


**Website** In the coming weeks we will be updating our website, due to our current platform being earmarked for retirement in the coming months. When we are ready to migrate, the website address will remain the same and you will be able to access information in the same way you currently do so. We have been informed that the new platform is more mobile friendly and so viewing information should be much easier.

**Parent Information Session** As we start the new year, Parent Information Sessions are the perfect opportunity to meet your child’s class teacher, find out what they will be learning through the year, the expectations for your child and how you can support them in their learning. The teachers will share with you some of the computer apps which your child has a log in for, such as Numbots and TT Rockstars. Sessions are being held in your child’s classroom so you will be able to see their learning new environments. There will also be time for you to ask any questions you may have. The sessions will start at 3.30pm and school staff have kindly offered to supervise school-aged children. The sessions are as follows:

Monday 8 September Supernova (Year 6), Tuesday 9 September Meteor Class (Year 5), Wednesday 10 September Rocket (Year 4) and Comet (Year 3), Monday 15 September Planet (Year 2) and Tuesday 16 September Galaxy (Year 1)

**News From Governors:** My name is Linda Ireland and I am thrilled to have been invited to join the governing body of Norton CEVC Primary School in April 2025, as a co-opted governor and member of the Learning and Achievement Committee. I began my teaching career in primary schools in 1975 and have thoroughly enjoyed teaching in primary schools within North Norfolk and Suffolk for over 35 years, including wonderful musical opportunities and residential trips involving sailing a Thames barge. In 2002 I became accredited as an Advanced Skills Teacher and became an Advanced Skills Teacher for Initial Teacher Training in Suffolk, as a school-based liaison tutor supporting mentors and trainee teachers during their Primary School SCITT training in schools within Suffolk. My husband and I returned to Suffolk 38 years ago, where we have loved bringing up our children in such a glorious setting, developing great friendships and being involved in local activities. I have found great pleasure in my chapters of primary teaching in Elmswell C P School, Bosmere C P School in Needham Market and St Joseph's College Prep School and feel really passionate about learning opportunities for all children. Having retired from education nine years ago, I am really appreciating having time to pursue my many interests. I have a great love of singing and have enjoyed years of musical enjoyment and friendship as a member of Pop Chorus. I have had amazing musical opportunities of performing in New York during two consecutive years...first in Carnegie Hall and then in the Lincoln Centre. It is wonderful to spend happy hours enjoying gardening, photography....especially with so many glorious rural sunsets, tai chi, theatre visits and catching up with dear friends. I have already been made so welcome by adults and children within the Norton school community and having attended the very special year 6 leavers' assembly, I could really feel the warmth and caring ethos within the school. I greatly look forward to being able to contribute to this wonderful school community and joining you all in the coming academic year. All good wishes.



## ELSAs at Norton Primary School

**What is an ELSA?** An ELSA is an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. ELSAs are trained and supervised by educational psychologists. We have three ELSAs at Norton Primary: Mrs Colman, Mrs Kirk, and Miss Fenn. ELSAs aim to help to ensure that children feel happy in school. ELSAs help children to understand their emotions and respect the feelings of those around them. They provide a consistent private space, time, and the opportunity for children to think about their personal circumstances and how they manage them.



The majority of ELSA work is delivered on an individual basis, but sometimes small group work is more appropriate, especially in the areas of social and friendship skills. Sessions are fun and ELSAs are trained to use a range of activities such as games, role-play with puppets or arts and craft to support the child. Our ELSA team aim to provide support for a wide range of emotional needs such as: Recognising emotions, Self-esteem, Social skills, Friendship skills, Managing 'big' feelings, Loss and bereavement.

**What does an individual session look like?** Our ELSAs plan bespoke sessions for each child to meet their particular need. The session is broken down into three main parts. We start with an emotional check-in and offer the opportunity for the child to talk about what has been happening since we last met, how they are feeling and coping. We find a biscuit helps this process! We then move onto the main activity. This will have a learning objective and will be working towards a specific target. We try to make this a fun activity and it will usually involve talking, drawing, a craft activity and maybe a small amount of writing. At the end of the session we have a quick chat about what we learned and what we will be doing next week.

**What does a Group Session look like?** Group sessions are great for nurture-groups and for building self esteem and social skills. The groups are usually made up of 3-4 children. We always start a session with a biscuit, and use this opportunity for the children to take turns in pouring drinks and offering biscuits to the other children. Next, we share any news and say how we have been feeling. We promote active listening skills and always try our hardest to only have one person speaking at a time. After this we usually move on to a fun game to help the group relax. The main activity is similar to the individual session but your child will be encouraged to work and communicate with the other children. This helps with co-operation, social skills, friendship and gives a sense of belonging. An overall learning objective will be set for the group as a whole to work towards.

**Committees:** Over the coming week we will be looking to set up a range of committees and teams which will be led by the children. This is so important for the children as it develops leadership skills and gives them the opportunity to make a difference to the school community.



## Stars

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 **Read Write Inc** lessons and the children will bring a work-

sheet home to complete the handwriting and sound of the day activity. Please keep this in your child's folder in their bag 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. We will send a reading book home for your child to read independently when they are ready. 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 numberplates. 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 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.



# Galaxies



We hope you had a wonderful summer break. The children have settled into Year One brilliantly, and we are excited about all the learning opportunities ahead this term. Our themes for the term are 'Traditional Tales' and 'Home Sweet Home'.

In **Geography**, we will ask the question "Where do I live in the world?" Together, we will explore maps, find the UK, and study the features of our local area. After half term, our focus will shift to **History**, where we will ask "Does my house look the same as a house from 150 years ago?" To help us answer, we will take a walk around Norton to look at different house

# Planets



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

**English:** This term we will build on sentence work from Year 1, focusing on capital letters, full stops and sentence structure. Children will extend writing through expanded noun phrases and conjunctions.

In Autumn 1, our writing will link to the **Castles** topic. In Autumn 2, we'll explore traditional tales, Katie in London for recount writing, and the work of Anthony Browne. Spelling follows the CUSP scheme with three short weekly lessons, plus homework. Daily phonics sessions will support continued progress.

**Maths:** We begin with place value, using number lines and partitioning two-digit

# Comets



Welcome to Year 3! My name is Miss Potter and I am so excited to be the Comet Class teacher this year. Our topic this term is 'Stone Age Rocks'. In History we will be learning about the early humans that existed in Britain and looking at the changes that occurred through the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.

As in Year 2, each term we will set topic homework. This will be up and running soon after the pupils have settled in. We would love to see any of the learning the children have done outside school linked to our topic. Please bring any homework in on Monday 1st December, ready for the exhibition.

In **English**, we will be looking at texts set in the Stone Age. We will be using them as inspiration to write our own story settings, stories and explanation texts. Whenever the children are writing (no matter which subject) there are certain things we expect to

types and consider how homes have changed over time.

In **English**, we will be reading and working with the traditional tales *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Three Little Pigs*. These stories will support the children in developing their writing skills, particularly correct letter formation and using basic punctuation. Phonics, reading, and spelling will continue daily through **Read Write Inc.** Each child will bring home an individual reading book, which should be read three times before being signed off in the reading log. Books will be changed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

In **Maths**, our first focus will be place value and number. The children will practise reading, writing, and forming numbers to

numbers. Children will practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to prepare for times tables. Later, we'll focus on addition, subtraction, and 2D/3D shapes, including vertices, edges and symmetry.

**History & Geography:** In Autumn 1, our topic is Kings, Queens and Castles. We'll study why castles were built, how they developed, and what life was like for those living in them. In Autumn 2, we'll move to Around the UK, identifying countries and capitals, before developing map making and compass skills.

**Science:** Our first unit is Living Things and Their Habitats, exploring life processes, animal needs and different environments, with a link to plants at the end of the half term. In Autumn 2, we'll investigate Materials, focusing on properties and suitability. These sessions will be led by

see: spaces between words, capital letters for names and to start sentences, full stops at the end of sentences and questions marks. It would be great if you could reinforce these when the children are writing at home.

In **Maths**, we will begin the year by consolidating our understanding of place value in 3-digit numbers before moving onto 4-digit numbers. We will practise partitioning these numbers in different ways as well as ordering, comparing and placing them on a number line. We will also begin to apply our knowledge of number bonds to add and subtract within and across 10s and 1000s

In **Science** we will be focusing on Rocks. We will learn about the different types of rocks: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic, and we will group rocks based on their properties. We will also explore how soil and fossils are formed

This term our **PE** sessions will be on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings. On

10 correctly. We will then begin to explore addition and subtraction within 10, using a variety of representations and strategies. Later in the term, we will learn about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

In **Science**, we will be helping our mascot, VAPOQ, learn about planet Earth. This half term, we will investigate the five senses and how they help us explore the world around us. After half term, we will study everyday materials and the seasonal changes that occur during Autumn. To support this, children are encouraged to bring in items such as colourful leaves or pinecones for our autumnal investigation table. **PE** will take place on Mondays and Thursdays. Thank you, Mrs Rossiter and Mrs Harris

Mrs Flintoft on Wednesday mornings.

**PE, RE, Art, PSHE & Music:** PE takes place on Monday and Friday, developing speed, balance and agility through dance, gymnastics and ball skills. On Thursday afternoons, Mrs Fenn will teach RE and Art. In RE, children will explore questions such as why Jewish families talk about repentance at New Year. In Art, they will explore printing, textiles, dip dye and block prints. PSHE will cover rights, responsibilities, and respecting similarities and differences. Music with Mr Cole will be on Monday mornings,

**Home Support** Reading books will be issued soon, along with suggestions for home learning. Children will also use Numbots to develop maths skills. Thank you Mr Mabbitt

these days, long hair should be tied back, and jewellery removed. Please ensure that children have their kits in school every day. The spelling homework will be sent out each Friday and collected in each Thursday, with a lunchtime club for those unable to complete at home. Again, this will be up and running once children have settled in. Mighty Maths tests will take place fortnightly on Fridays, with all children beginning the year on Green as specified in the National Curriculum. The focus of these tests will instead be on improving the speed at which they can complete the tests, rather than moving up the Times Table Mountain. There will be more information on both changes in the upcoming Parent Information Evenings. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to catch me after school or via Class Dojo.

Thank you.  
Miss Potter.



# Rockets



Welcome back! We are so excited to be your teachers this year and hope you are ready for a new year of learning.

Our topic this half term is **Rivers**. In Geography, we will be learning about rivers and the journey they make. Towards the end of the unit, we will take a walk to the Blackbourn river to identify the features we can see.

In **English** we will be using a poem called *The River* to write our own poems about storms. Topic homework will be sent out in the next few weeks with river-themed activities for you to enjoy at home.

After half term, we will begin a topic on **Groovy Greeks**. We will learn about how the Ancient Greeks fit into history using a timeline and use an atlas to help identify where Greece is located in the world. We will then start to learn about the Ancient

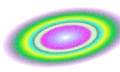
# Meteors



Welcome back everyone, we hope you had a lovely summer and are ready for all the new learning and exciting challenges Y5 will bring. Don't forget **PE** is on a Tuesday and Friday, Clarinet will start every Friday from the 19th September. Weekly homework is set every Monday and will be marked in class together the following Monday. If your child needs support with this please do not hesitate to contact one of us, alternatively the children can come and ask for support at the start of a lunch time.

This half term our principal focus topics are '**Earth and Beyond**' (Science & English) and '**Active Earth**' (Science, Geography & English). In **English** we will start by studying the written genre of Science Fiction (inspired by HG Wells' classic 'The War of the Worlds'). We will write scientific explanations of how volcanoes erupt, and also produce detailed

# Supernovas



Welcome to Year 6—An exciting year lies ahead, filled with engaging topics and memorable experiences. This term we are especially looking forward to our much-anticipated PGL trip to Bawdsey (15th–17th October), which will give the children lasting memories.

**English:** This term we will make cross-curricular links with History and Science. Children will write a WW2 narrative and an information text about Electricity. We will also create a narrative and poem on the theme of refugees, inspired by our class book *The Boy at the Back of the Class*.

**Maths:** We begin by revisiting Place Value, exploring numbers up to 10 million. Next, we cover the four operations with larger numbers, practising written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Later, we study fractions (equivalence, conver-

sion, calculation), before moving on to metric measures and unit conversions.

**Science:** Our first unit is Electricity, where we will investigate how it is produced and conduct experiments with series circuits, exploring the effects of changing components and batteries. After that, we will study Light, looking at how the human eye works and the properties of light.

**History:** In our WW2 topic, we will focus on how the war affected life in Norton. We will explore how WW2 began, examine old photos of the village, and study census records of villagers who lived during that time.

**Geography:** In the second half of the term, we will study 'Power', learning how the UK generates and uses energy, linking to Science by exploring renewable energy sources.

**RE:** We begin by learning how 'tawhid' creates a sense of belonging in the Mus-

lim community, before exploring how Christians show their belief that Jesus is God incarnate.

**Art:** This term we will develop sketching and painting skills, drawing on ideas from artists such as Clarice Cliff and Pablo Picasso. After half term, we will focus on textiles, designing and creating poppies using dip-dyed fabric.

**Computing:** Our topics include Networks, Graphing and Blogging, with regular discussions on e-safety.

**PE:** Our PE days are Wednesday and Thursday. Please ensure children have the correct kit in school on these days. We are looking forward to a busy, creative, and rewarding term ahead.

Information texts about the recent Turkey-Syria earthquake. We are reading 'Asha and the Spirit Bird' by Jasbinder Bilan together in class, a novel set in the Himalayas. In Guided Reading sessions, we will tackle a wide canon of texts, including a biography of British Astronaut Helen Sharman, news reports of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and science fiction from Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

As **mathematicians**, we practise arithmetic and multiplication facts daily, as well as revisiting key skills as part of our 'flashbacks' to keep our learning fresh in our minds. Topics this term in maths lessons include Number and Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, and Multiplication. We will work hard to fine tune our formal methods of calculation!

As **Scientists**, we will learn about the solar system, describing the movement of the planets, moon and Earth relative to the

dren will need a swimsuit, towel and a swimming hat. They may wear goggles too if they wish. Please be aware that there are strict rules about jewellery, and earrings must be removed otherwise pupils will not be allowed to swim. Spelling Home Learning will also come home on Friday afternoons. These will be expected in class by the following Thursday. Children may have to use their break time to complete the work if we have not received it by then.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to send us a message on Class Dojo or catch us after school. Please be aware that Miss Miles will teach from Monday to Wednesday lunch time, and Mrs Gibbs will teach the rest of the week.

Miss Miles & Mrs Gibbs

Sun. We will explore the Earth's rotation, and the apparent movement of the sun in the sky.

As **Geographers**, we explore our planet and how plate tectonics have shaped the world in which we live. We will investigate the formation of mountains, & the facts behind volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

As **artists**, we will be working on our drawing and sketching skills, inspired by two artists acclaimed for their landscapes, Hokusai and David Hockney. We're all excited to get the new year started, and with lots of great learning and enrichment, it promises to be a great year! Dojo is our main form of communication, keep your eyes peeled for regular updates and photos! Mrs Winter and Mrs Flintoft

lim community, before exploring how Christians show their belief that Jesus is God incarnate.

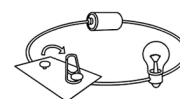
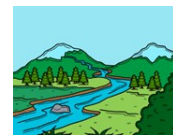
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**PE:** Our PE days are Wednesday and Thursday. Please ensure children have the correct kit in school on these days. We are looking forward to a busy, creative, and rewarding term ahead.

Thank you,

Mr Kerry



## Diary Dates: Please see website for more information as dates may be added during the term

**Monday 8 September** Supernova (Year 6) Parent Information Session at 3.30pm

**Tuesday 9 September** Meteor (Year 5) Parent Information Session at 3.30pm

**Wednesday 10 September** Rocket (Year 4) and Comet (Year 3) Parent Information Session at 3.30pm

**Thursday 11 September** Year 4 Swimming starts

**Monday 15 September** Planet (Year 2) Parent Information Session at 3.30pm

**Tuesday 16 September** Galaxy (Year 1) Parent Information Session at 3.30pm

**Friday 19 September** Year 5 Clarinet Lessons start

**Friday 19 September** Year 6 Team Building session at TCC

**Tuesday 24 September** U11 Cross Country at Stowmarket High (after school)

**Wednesday 1 October** Individual school photos and sibling groups

**Wednesday 15 October –Friday 17 October** Year 6 Bawdsey Manor Residential

w/c **20 October** BCY Prayer Space with a focus on Harvest

**Tuesday 21 October** Year 5 Trip to Sutton Hoo

**Friday 24 October** PD Day—School closed to pupils

**Monday 27 October** Half Term

**Thursday 6 November (tbc)** Year 3 Cave Man Visit

**Friday 14 November** ELSA Parent Consultation

**Friday 21 November** ELSA Coffee Morning—with a focus on how to support children

**Wednesday 3 December** Homework Exhibition

**Wednesday 3 December** U11 Dodgeball Festival 3.45 –5.30pm

**Monday 8 December** Carol Singing by the choir at Stowlangtoft Hall

**Tuesday 9 December** Whole School Pantomime Dick Whittington

**Tuesday 9 December** U9 Dodgeball Festival 3.45 –5.30pm

**Wednesday 10 December** EYFS/ Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance 2pm

**Thursday 11 December** EYFS/ Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance 6pm

**Monday 15 December** Carol Concerts

**Friday 19 December** Last day of Term

### Spring Term 2026

Begins Monday 5 January 2026

PD Day Monday 5 January 2026

Half term Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February 2026

Ends Friday 27 March 2026

Spring holiday Saturday 28 March to Sunday 12 April 2026

### Summer term 2026

Begins Monday 13 April 2026

Half term Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2026

Ends Monday 20 July 2026

**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, Caroline Vallance, Pastor of Norton Baptist Church, has kindly offered a few spaces at the Baptist Church that parents are welcome to use. 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.



**Children's Achievements:** As we move to a termly newsletter, we will no longer be including individual achievements within it. However, we remain committed to recognising and celebrating the successes of our children. We kindly ask that you continue to share your child's achievements via Class Dojo with their teacher, so these can be acknowledged and celebrated within the classroom community. We look forward to hearing about all the children's achievements this year!

**Attendance:** Over the past few years, attendance has been a key priority for our school, particularly as we worked to recover from the dip following the pandemic. Last year, the Government introduced clearer guidelines and a more consistent approach to attendance across the education sector. We are pleased to report that our attendance has continued to improve, with an overall rate of 95.3%, compared to the national and local figure of 94.8%. We are committed to maintaining this upward trend.

Regular attendance is vital. Being in school allows pupils to learn alongside their teachers and peers, keeps them safe, and provides access to extra-curricular activities and pastoral care. We do understand that children come down with illnesses making them too unwell to attend school and that there is a fine balance to be struck when deciding whether they are well enough for school. Please be reassured that if we feel any pupil is unwell and struggling with the school day, we will contact you during the day.

Punctuality also plays an important role in attendance. The school site opens at 8.35am, and registration begins at 8.45am. Children arriving between 8.45am and 8.55am, when the register closes, will be marked as late. Arrivals after 8.55am will be recorded as an unauthorised absence for the morning session unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you are experiencing difficulties with your child's attendance or punctuality, please contact us so that we can work together to provide support. We will continue to monitor attendance carefully and will write to parents and carers if we have concerns. Updates on our attendance will be shared with you throughout the year.



**FAPONS:** Welcome back and welcome to all new starters! We were busy at the end of last term and raised profits of £405 from the sports day bottle tombola, £205 from Freeze Fridays and a massive £680 from the end of year disco! A huge thank you to all who supported us. Last term in addition to the annual funding we provide each class for trips and extra curricular activities, we also wrote a cheque to help with the refurbishment of the year 1 outside area, and I've already seen the great water tray that has been purchased with some of the money. We were also able to gift all children an ice lolly on the last day of term to help cool off in the hot weather and funded the bouncy castle assault course for the year 6 leavers party. To kick off this school year, we will be holding our AGM on zoom, details to follow via email, so please do dial in to find out more about us and get involved. There will also be the regular Monday pre-loved uniform shop at the shed (if you cannot make a Monday but would like to have a look to see what we have, please do send us a message as I am happy to open up as required), an all school disco, our pre-loved Christmas jumpers shop (any donations would be great fully received), the children's personalized Christmas item shop and our annual rainbow raffle. Thank you in advance for your upcoming support. As always please do get in touch if you have ideas on fundraising events or if you would like to get involved in anyway, fapons@norton.suffolk.sch.uk.

