

Norton Hill News



Newsletter 2 - Thursday 23rd October 2025

Dear Norton Hill Primary School Community,

What a flying start we've had to the year! I'm delighted to share the incredible journey our children have embarked on this term. Our new children have shown phenomenal resilience and independence, settling beautifully across all year groups.

We've had an exciting few weeks filled with enriching experiences. Our whole-school Wonderdome visit during Space Week brought the wonders of the universe right to our doorstep. Year 3 explored fascinating historical objects during their fossil workshop. Our school community also embraced a wonderful Scarecrow hunt that even the weather could not dampen- thank you again for your support.

Sustainability has been at the heart of our recent activities. Our Just One Tree day was particularly special, with children writing and illustrating poems about the importance of trees - oxygen emerged as a common theme! We're thrilled to have planted our first fruit tree, which will be part of our new outdoor Growing Minds area.

Exciting developments are happening in our school grounds. The PKA (parents and staff) are funding a Polycrub - an outside shelter that will become a dedicated learning space to grow and explore plants. Each year group will have their own area, with plans to potentially add a second Polycrub in the future. We anticipate this will be fitted in the Spring and ready to use by the Summer Term. Without your continued support we would be unable to achieve and purchase such fabulous resources for the children.

We're also improving our play/quiet learning areas. The fencing will be moved to create more space for children, this will also create a safe meeting area for drop off and pick up times. This work will be completed very soon and so drop off and pick up changes will be shared with parents in due course. The PKA are also funding the new tables and benches for this area.

Our Monster Disco on Wednesday was a huge success - though we were certainly tired afterwards- I mean the staff! Thank to those that volunteered their time to help us ensure the event ran smoothly.

On a personal note, Mrs Harfield has left us to prepare for the arrival of her baby. We all wish her the very best and look forward to hearing her wonderful news in the coming weeks.

Looking ahead, parents should note our upcoming Wonderland performance next term and prepare for a busy period with Christmas performances on the horizon.

We continue to celebrate the remarkable achievements and spirit of our Norton Hill children.

Have a restful half term,

Mrs Waterhouse



Head Teacher Awards

	Friday 26th September	Friday 3rd October	Friday 10th October	Friday 17th October
Bumblebee Class	Alec	Ocean	Arthur	Kaito
Honeybee Class	Mia	Elijah	Freddie	Delilah
Dragonfly Class	Bobby	Evie	Blake	Bethany
Firefly Class	Isabella	Enzo	Cassie	George
Turtle Class	Preston	Edie	Elle	Eliza
Gecko Class	Edie	Charlotte	Dilys	Esmae
Iguana Class	Myla-Mae	Darcy	Lois	Ava
Leopard Class	Aidan	Amelia	Henry	Tali
Jaguar Class	Noah	Finn	Max	Reggie
Cobra Class	Stanley	Luna	Radley	Emma

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Details</u>
Wednesday 10th December	Reception Christmas Performance	2pm & 5.30pm
Thursday 11th December	Year 1 Christmas Performance	2pm & 5.30pm
Tuesday 16th December	Year 3 Christmas Performance	2pm & 5.30pm
Wednesday 17th December	Year 2 Christmas Performance	2pm & 5.30pm
Friday 19th December	No After School Club	

Extra information

Pupil Parliament and Jigsaw Juniors update:

Pupil Parliament and Jigsaw Juniors would like to say a big thank you for all your wonderful support with our cake sale in Term 5. Whether you donated cakes or bought some tasty treats, your kindness and generosity have made a real difference.

Thanks to the money raised, we've been able to buy new Wet Play boxes filled with lots of fun games and activities for everyone to enjoy during indoor playtimes. The children are already having a fantastic time using them!

We really appreciate your continued support — it helps us make our school an even happier place.



Football:

We would like to say a huge well done to our school football team this term. This is the first time the team have played together and although the result against Paulton Juniors did not go our way, the team showed the values of resilience, perseverance and collaboration against some excellent opposition. We are aiming to be more involved with competitive sport as a school and there will be more opportunities following half term.

New pop up café

in the Midsomer Norton Rugby Club
Norton Down Playing Fields, Silver Street, Midsomer Norton BA3 2UE

Opening times - 8.30am - 12noon
Thursday 6th November and
Thursday 27th November 2025

Come in for hot drinks and sandwiches and cakes

Parking available
Thank you to the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Rotary Club and the Midsomer Norton Town Council for supporting this project.

SWALLOW Charity – supporting teenagers and adults with learning disabilities
www.swallowcharity.org
The Old Engine House · Old Pit Road · Westfield · BA3 4BQ
Registered charity number 1045893

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c October 20 2025

Bath Central Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

Board Game Saturdays
Drop in. Suitable for all ages.

Keynsham Library

Fashion Museum, Bath
Drop in. Hands-on design activities. A chance to hear about the museum's brilliant collection

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

Storytime
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

Midsomer Norton Library

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Storytime
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

Board Game Saturday's

Mobile Library
The Mobile Library may stop near you! Pop in for a visit, return your books, collect a reservation & choose something new to read. You can do all this & more with your B&NES or LibrariesWest library card.

For the Route Timetable, please visit:
<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/mobile-library-service>

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Here's what is happening in your Libraries this week

For any ticketed events, the link will be online via Social Media or via the blog.

Spooky fun at B&NES Libraries during Half Term Week
In all B&NES Libraries join us for some festive fun with Halloween themed colouring and crafts in our children's area.
Monday 27 October - Friday 31 October. During opening hours.

<p>10.30 - 11.00am Every Wednesday (term-time only)</p> <p>Every Saturday 12.30-4.00pm</p> <p><small>*subject to exhibition room being available</small></p> <p>Thursday 30 October Friday 31 October 9.30am - 4.00pm</p> <p>9.30 - 10.00am & 10.30 - 11.00am Every Tuesday (term-time only)</p> <p>10.30 - 11.00am Every Thursday (term-time only)</p> <p>10.30 - 11.00am Every Monday (term-time only)</p> <p>10.30 - 11.00am Every Wednesday (term-time only)</p> <p>Every Saturday</p>	
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Bath Royal
Literary and Scientific Institution

Bones, Beasts and Broomsticks...

Half term fun at BRLSI

Tues 28th & Wed 29th October

Magnetism: beyond beastly magnetic activity & magnetic spiders.
Play with invisible forces and build magnetic monsters

Design/engineering: dinosaur skeleton split pin models.
Ready to be afraid? Make your own moving dinosaur!

Creativity: making framed ghosts.
Want to be a ghostbuster? Then pick up the scissors and glue.

Creativity: Autumn Animals
It's not all about the pumpkins! Try leaf art!

Ghost stories
It's behind you! Real ghosts in Bath????

Maths: Pint-size Plesiosaurs
Calling tiny T-rex's! How big are you really?

Design a broomstick!
Put your cauldron down and let your creativity fly!

Geology: Become a trick or treat timeline
The scariest time to be alive? Impress your 'friends' with new facts.

It's fun and it's free!

www.brslsi.org

Car Park / Parking

Please be considerate to all users of our car park.

- Only park in designated disabled bays if the occupant of the vehicle is a blue badge holder.
- Only park in marked bays within the car park - this is for the safety of all users.

Please be considerate of our neighbours - All roads within the new estate next to the school are private roads and therefore should not be used for parking. Unauthorised parking on an unadopted/private road can be deemed as trespassing or nuisance parking.

The car park at Somer Valley Nursing Home is reserved for those visiting residents and for emergency services. They are kindly asking that parents please park elsewhere. The Rugby Club is available as an overflow car park.

!!!! Important !!!!

We are a nut free school. Please can ingredients be checked on all food brought into school to ensure they contain no nuts.

Office Update

Free School Meals

If you think you may be entitled to Free School meals please click the link below to apply: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

School Meal Bookings

School meals are now available to book for Term 2 via School Grid.

Wraparound Care

Wraparound Care will be available to book via Arbor's Parent Portal during august, once balance transfers have been completed.

Tax Free Childcare /Childcare voucher payments - Please allow 1 week for payments to be allocated. To enable us to allocate the payments quicker please can you email the School Office with the following information EVERY TIME.

- **Child's Unique Reference Code**
- **Date Paid**
- **Amount £**

Unfortunately we are not able to accept vouchers to pay for extra-curricular clubs/meals or trips.

Emails to school

When contacting the school office regarding your child. Please could you include your child's class for us to be able to process your request quick. If requesting wraparound care booking, please ensure you inform us of the time of the session required.

Curiosity Corner

Welcome to our new families and children who joined Curiosity corner this term and welcome back to our familiar families. The children of Curiosity corner have been extremely busy over this term exploring the quest 'What is a community?' The children created their own maps to their homes and shared features of Midsomer Norton that are familiar to them. To celebrate Black history month the children of Curiosity Corner have been singing along to Ella Fitzgerald 'A tisket, a tasket', creating amazing mosaic art just like Alma Thomas and creating their very own traffic lights, inspired by Garrett Morgan.

Our biggest learning this month has been underpinned by the seasonal changes in our school community. These changes have meant we have experienced many Autumn welly walks, leaf paint printing, collage making and learnt a new Autumn song.

Thank you to all of the families who have returned their Autumn treasure hunt bags, the children have really taken so much pride from sharing them with their nursery community. Have a fantastic half term!



Reception

As we approach the end of the first half-term, it's wonderful to reflect on how well our new reception children have settled into their school environment. It has been wonderful to witness the children forming new friendships and exploring new routines with enthusiasm. We are so proud of them and all they have achieved.

Our phonics journey is well underway, and it's been brilliant to see the children's excitement as they learn new sounds. We hope the children have been practising 'Fred Talk' with you all at home!

The children thoroughly enjoyed Space Week. The highlight was our visit to the mobile planetarium, where we blasted off on a virtual journey through the stars and planets. The children were mesmerised and had plenty of questions for our visiting astronomer. We also had a crash landing from an Astronaut called Bob which sparked lots of great ideas and the children were introducing sequencing a story.

The children have worked so hard and we hope you enjoyed watching their fantastic Harvest performance.

This term we have been super scientists and learnt all about the five senses. The children got to take part in our senses experiments to see if they could identify and describe purely using their sense of smell. We have also learnt about the human skeleton and bones within their body such as the hips, collar bones, shins etc. The children then completed a puzzle together to show how their bones form together to create their skeletons. We then worked in pairs to draw around each other and draw their skeletons.

Thank you to all the parents and carers for your support in settling the children this term. We look forward to an exciting (and very busy!) term two.



Year 1

As we come to the end of our first term, we are excited to share with you some of the highlights from our Year 1 adventures. We are exceptionally proud of all the children and how well they have settled into their learning.

Our journey through history was truly special as we stepped back into the 1950s. The children had a fantastic opportunity to visit the local care home, where they interviewed residents about their childhoods. This gave our young historians a chance to connect with their community. Prior to the visit, we created an apple crumble linked to our RE topic of *Harvest*, which we shared with the residents—they thoroughly enjoyed it! We also celebrated the Queen's Coronation with our very own street party, marking this significant event with joy and cheer. We loved celebrating with food, games, singing the national anthem, and even had a 'live' broadcast of the coronation ceremony.

In Science, we conducted a range of experiments to test different everyday materials. The children made excellent predictions and drew thoughtful conclusions from their findings. Using digiscopes, we investigated materials further, and the children were truly fascinated by what they discovered!

Art this term was a splash of fun as we entered our colour-mixing lab. The children loved exploring how colours blend and change, creating stunning new shades. Their creativity shone brilliantly in their artwork inspired by our focus artist, *Jim Dine*.

Our literacy skills have flourished as we wrote our own stories based on *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers. We explored creating our own characters, settings, and story structures, and worked exceptionally hard on our handwriting and sentence formation. The children's imagination and creativity shone as they developed exciting adventures for their characters.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We are looking forward to continuing this journey with our incredible Year 1s. We hope you have a restful break and look forward to welcoming you back next term.



Year 2

We have had an exciting term in Turtle Class! The children have shown such enthusiasm with their learning and have already made so much progress.

In our literacy unit we studied the book *Look Up* by Nathan Bryon which is about a little girl who loves to look up at the stars, longing to become an astronaut. During this unit we found out about Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman to travel into space, which connected beautifully with both Space Week and Black History Month. The children wrote diary entries about their own journey to space, using rich vocabulary and expanded noun phrases. As a special Space Week project and extension of our literacy unit, the children used paper mache and paint to create the planets of our solar system which they are excited to hang up in the Einstein room.



In science we have been learning about habitats and animal adaptations. The children were excited to share what they already knew about how animals adapt to their environment and protect themselves from predators – we were very impressed with their knowledge and contributions to discussions!

In history we stepped back in time and studied several British monarchs. The children were especially interested in Henry VIII and his six wives. We have learned about the choices that monarchs made and how that impacted the country and its people. This also synced with our art unit where the children have analysed royal portraits and created digital drawings of themselves in a royal pose.

In our PE units, the children have been working on team building skills, including turn-taking, sportsmanship, communication, problem-solving and inclusion. We have played different games to support their agility, balance and coordination.



I have loved getting to know your children this term and witnessing their confidence and creativity blossom. We hope you have a restful half-term and are looking forward to the festivities that are planned for the winter term- Miss Burrows.

Year 3

What a brilliantly busy term we have had in Year 3! Gecko and Iguana Class have proven themselves to be highly adaptable reptiles in just a few weeks of learning.

One of the trickiest jumps in English is the Year 3 objective of writing at length, but we have aced this so far, using Floella Benjamin's *Coming to England* as a stimulus for our work. Not only have we produced convincing letters and diary entries, but we have also participated in role play and written our own dialogue! We've even discussed big ideas like the Windrush Generation and the British Empire.

Science has been a whirlwind this term - in addition to our work on the skeletal system and nutrition, we have also enjoyed Space Week and a Fossil Workshop. Throughout the term, we have used microscopes to observe bones, visited a Space Dome to learn about our solar system, designed a nutritious meal for a British astronaut, **and** handled real fossils and bones from living things that formed millions of years ago!

In Art, we have learned all about colour theory and why certain colours work well together. We then put our creativity to the test by creating colour wheels and transforming them into something new (see below)! Our artistic skills were tested even further when we created clay murtis of Ganesh in RE. Mrs Waterhouse was so impressed that she wants them to be displayed in the school!

As if this weren't enough, this term has also been significant for other topics. Black History Month has been a great way to kick-start our learning and explore diverse experiences through writing, poetry, and drama. One Tree Day gave us an opportunity to explore current news alongside the geographical concept of reforestation, and National Poetry Day prompted us to take part in a workshop to help us write our own Remembrance poetry ahead of November. Phew - I'm exhausted just recalling how busy we've been!



Year 4

As Class Teachers, we could not be prouder of the way Year 4 pupils have settled into the academic year and the incredible learning they have produced. Here are a selection of highlights from the term:

In English, we have been working towards our final 'published piece' of writing a fact file about the inspirational lady- Katherine Johnson- who was a key part in the 1960s space race and signposted the way for black women in the world of science. We are detailing the life of Katherine, and the way that she overcame the hurdles of segregation during the 1950s to become one of the most important people in the successes of the NASA missions. The children are also writing a letter to young, inspired children with a dream, as if they were Katherine herself. The role playing within this topic is certainly demonstrating the empathetic skills that the children possess! This topic within literacy falls into Black History Month, and aims to shed some light on one of history's most significant, but *hidden* figures.

Throughout this term in Art, we have been exploring the use of warm and cool colours and the way that artists use them in work to evoke emotions. We have created a Year 4 art gallery, where still-life pieces will be displayed for all to see, and children have the opportunity to become art critiques and peer review others' work. The pictures are examples of work from both Leopard and Jaguar class.



In Science this term, our learners have been exploring the fascinating world of living things! The children have been learning how and why we sort and group organisms, using careful observation and questioning to develop their classification skills.

They discovered how classification keys help scientists identify plants and animals, and learned about the five main vertebrate groups (mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles) as well as six invertebrate groups. Pupils also explored the plant kingdom, comparing vascular and nonvascular plants and sorting them into the three main groups of vascular plants. Through investigations, they created their own classification keys based on their findings. They were particularly fascinated to learn about newly discovered species and had great fun classifying them like real scientists!

In addition to our curriculum topics, we also enjoyed Space Week and even had our very own space planetarium on-site, where we were taken on a guided tour through our very own solar system. This supplemented our learning on Katherine Johnson wonderfully.

In History and as part of our 'Invasion' topic, we have studied the period of British history from the Roman exodus of Britain to the Norman Invasion in 1066. We have looked at the power struggles of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and significant events during this time i.e. the invasion of Lindisfarne and the creation of Danelaw. We studied significant individuals from the time (such as Alfred the Great and King Athelstan) and the impact they had on the country. Our study culminated in applying knowledge learned to the Coppergate Dig findings and what this significant archaeological discovery told us about the Vikings.

It's been a wonderful term of curiosity, discovery, and scientific thinking — well done, Year 4!

Year 5

What a wonderful first term it has been in Cobra Class!

In English, pupils have taken inspiration from the texts *Young, Gifted and Black* and *Race to the Frozen North*, producing thoughtful diary entries, letters and character profiles that have highlighted both their creativity and growing mastery of complex grammatical rules. In Guided Reading, the students have been perfecting their skills of retrieving key information from texts and independently using dictionaries to find an array of advanced terminology to add to their ever-growing vocabularies.

In Maths, the children have shown great perseverance in mastering place value: writing, rounding, partitioning and comparing numbers all the way up to one million! Equally, in our Friday Fundamentals sessions, the students have made exceptional progress in essential skills such as calculating with decimals and dividing numbers up to four digits long. In Science, our space topic aligned perfectly with Space Week - enabling our unforgettable visit to the Space Dome, where stunning planet projections and well-researched facts brought all we had learned to life.

Across all subjects, the children have approached their learning with enthusiasm, creativity and care. Their teamwork and communication skills, particularly in PE, have also flourished - resulting in effective collaboration and encouragement towards one another in their academic subjects too. Most of all, it has been a joy to watch their confidence grow - both personally and academically. I am incredibly proud of their efforts this term and look forward to seeing their continued success next term after a well-deserved rest!



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Details
Friday 24th October	Inset Day	School Closed for all pupils
Monday 3rd November	Start of Term 2	
Monday 3rd November	Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 parents meetings	3.30pm - 5.30pm in the main hall
Tuesday 4th November	Year 3, Year 4 & Year 5 parents meetings	3.30pm - 6.30pm in the main hall
Wednesday 5th November	Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 parents meetings	3.30pm - 6.30pm in the main hall
Wednesday 5th November	Year 3 - Trip to Cheddar Gorge	See SchoolPing for details
Thursday 6th November	Year 3, Year 4 & Year 5 parents meetings	3.30pm - 5.30pm in the main hall
Monday 10th November	Term 2 Clubs Start	See SchoolPing
Tuesday 11th November	Hedgehog Workshop	All Students
Friday 5th December	Wells Cathedral performance	Year 3 - Details to follow - parents welcome
Friday 5th December	Term 2 Clubs Finish	
Tuesday 9th December	Year 1 Christmas Performance	Details to follow
Wednesday 10th December	Reception Christmas Performance	
Tuesday 16th December	Year 3 Christmas Performance	
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Dinner	School Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 17th December	Year 2 Christmas Performance	
Friday 19th December	No After School Club	
Friday 19th December	Last Day of Term 2	