

Norton Hill News



Newsletter 4 - Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Norton Hill Primary School Community,

What a bustling term we've had! Let me share with you the wonderful experiences our children have been enjoying.

We've had an incredible array of activities this term. Our space planetarium brought excitement, while our Pupil Parliament week saw an engaging visit from our local MP. Year 3 delved into fascinating science by dissecting pellets, and Dragonfly class explored creative filmmaking with green screen lessons. We also celebrated One Tree Day with a focus on sustainability, enjoyed a magical Wonderland theatre performance, and spread Christmas cheer with our Christmas jumper day.

Our sports teams have been phenomenally active, particularly in football matches against local schools. A special mention goes to our swimming achievements at the Banes Gala - we placed highly, even without a Year 6 team! Harry from Year 5 and Avery from Year 4 both won Silver medals in their events, competing against 12 other schools - a remarkable accomplishment!

Our Christmas performances have been absolutely delightful. Last week, Curiosity Corner, Bumble Bee, and Honey Boo classes, along with Year 1, shared the most wonderful Nativity shows. The children truly embodied the Christmas spirit and shone brightly on stage.

This week continues our festive celebrations: Tuesday sees Gecko and Iguana classes performing, Wednesday is our Year 2 performance, and on Thursday, our Year 4 and Year 5 classes will entertain us with Christmas Carols in the car park from 4pm. We hope to fill you all with good spirit and create lasting Christmas memories.

During Pupil Parliament week, our subject leads delivered inspiring speeches encouraging children to vote for their favourite subject. The children voted in our special voting booths, and the results were exciting! English and Design & Technology emerged victorious. We'll be hosting a DT day before Christmas, where children will design, make, and evaluate Christmas projects. Our English focus day will follow in the new year, featuring script writing, performing, and recording.

We're looking forward to several upcoming events: our Christmas lunch on Wednesday (thank you for all the cracker donations!), a Christmas Panto performance of Peter Pan on Thursday (generously gifted by our fabulous PTA), and a Pop-Up Christmas Shop on Friday. We might even have a special visitor popping into classes throughout the day!

Finally, we wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and a harmonious, healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday, 6th January.

Warmest wishes,

Siobhan Waterhouse

Head Teacher Awards

	Friday 21st November	Friday 28th November	Friday 5th December	Friday 12th December	Friday 19th December
Bumblebee Class	Beau	Sophy	Sully	Kaito	Ollie
Honeybee Class	Theo G and Arthur W	Charlie	Mabel	Harry	Cooper
Dragonfly Class	Henry	Zara	Lewis	Albie	Alfie
Firefly Class	Pyper	Theo	Bonnie	Rex	Oscar
Turtle Class	Rose	Percy	Aila and Lorelei	Evie	Mila-Jay
Gecko Class	Harry and Noah C	Delilah	N/A	Esme and Bronwen	Raelyn and Sophie
Iguana Class	Aoife	Ethan	Jasper	Willow	Alice
Leopard Class	Travis	Bertie	Isla O	George	Madison
Jaguar Class	Georgia	Ella	Raiden	Arthur	Ayva
Cobra Class	Lauren	Arthur	Darcie	Elsie	Freddie-Mae

Name	Class	Achievement
Seth	iguana	Excellent progress on the Saxophone

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Details
Monday 5th January	Inset Day	
Tuesday 6th January	Term 3 start	
Monday 12th January	Term 3 Clubs Start	Details to follow
Tuesday 13th January	Starbooks Cafe	Reception and Year 1 - Details to follow
Tuesday 3rd February	Y5 Visit Downside School	Details to follow
Thursday 12th February	Term 3 Clubs Finish	
Friday 13th February	Term 3 Finish	

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.

**NORTON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL'S
STARBOOKS CAFE IS OPEN!**





Norton Hill
Primary School

TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2026

SESSION 1- HONEYBEE CLASS
9:00-9:30AM

SESSION 2- BUMBLEBEE CLASS
9:45-10:15AM

SESSION 3- DRAGONFLY CLASS
10:30-11:00AM

SESSION 4- FIREFLY CLASS
11:00-11:30AM

We would like to invite parents/carers/grandparents to our reading cafe sessions where you are able to share a book with your child. We offer tea, coffee, squash and biscuits to enjoy whilst you read. We greatly appreciate small cash donations at the sessions to enable us to sustain the reading cafe. Please bring a travel mug for a hot drink if possible.

!!!! 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 - Any payments made after Friday 18th July will be posted directly into Arbor. These will be processed as soon as possible in September, but 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 £**
- **Where and the amount you would like the money allocated in ParentPay i.e Wraparound Care or Nursery**

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

Our enquiry this term has been ‘What happens in the world when I am asleep?’ The children of Curiosity Corner have been learning deeply about different occupations that work through the night, animals that are nocturnal and how things look different at night. Some of our activities involved us going on treasure hunts in the garden, role playing different occupations and making homes for our animals using construction. We have looked closely at Georgia O’Keeffe’s art and have been extremely creative in making our own masterpieces.

This term we have been preparing for the Christmas celebrations and especially enjoyed being Christmas creators. December the 1st kicked off the countdown to Christmas for us with ‘Bookvent’. It has been extremely exciting to read a wide range of different literacy to get us excited for Christmas. Our ‘Wiggly Nativity’ took to the stage on a very wet and bleak Monday. The children have shown determination and commitment in learning lots of new songs, actions and lines. The testament to their hard work could be seen on the day and the children wowed the audience with their performance. Well done Curiosity Corner, you were fantastic.

Thank you to the families who have shared their home learning, the children will be enjoying their very own adventure book in the reading den focussed on ‘What happens in the world when I sleep’. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy 2026.



Reception

What a wonderfully busy term it has been in Reception! Our theme of ‘*Little Inventors*’ has truly captured the children. We began by learning about the inventor of LEGO, exploring how a simple idea grew into one of the world’s most loved toys. The children then designed their own inventions, such as a machine to change the weather and making traps for villains in familiar stories. We also learned about Louis Braille and his remarkable invention that transformed reading for people who are visually impaired. The children enjoyed hands-on activities that helped them understand how Braille works and why it is so important. We then took a look at how technology is advancing and how this could lead to exciting advances in the future.

Our classrooms have also started to feel very festive as Nativity practice is well underway. The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm, working hard to learn their lines, songs, and actions. We are so proud of how confidently they are preparing for their performance.

During UK Parliament Week, we used the traditional tale *Little Red Riding Hood* to explore how democracy works. The children were given two different versions of events—one from Little Red and one from the Wolf. Working in groups, they discussed, debated, and listened to each other’s ideas before taking part in a big vote. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn about fairness, listening, and decision-making.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.



Year 1

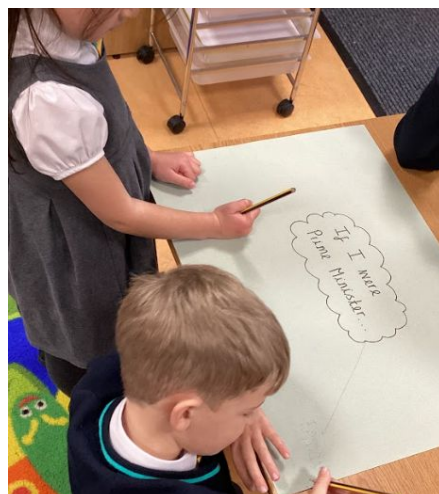
We have had such a brilliant term in Year One where we have been learning about some exciting topics! In Geography, the children have been learning all about our capital city, London. They've been learning about the famous landmarks and understanding what makes London such a special place. They have also applied their knowledge to their artwork where they have recreated London themed artwork in the style of James Rizzi.

In DT, the children have been engineers, working on designing their very own London taxis! They've been learning all about axles and how they help our vehicles move smoothly.

In Science, we've been transforming into mini weather reporters! Using a green screen, the children have been recording daily weather updates. It's been brilliant to see their enthusiasm in front of the camera!

RE has been a highlight this term where the children have been particularly enthusiastic about our topic of Diwali. The children had a wonderful time learning about the festival of lights, creating their own decorative Diyas and taking part in a special celebration filled with music and fun.

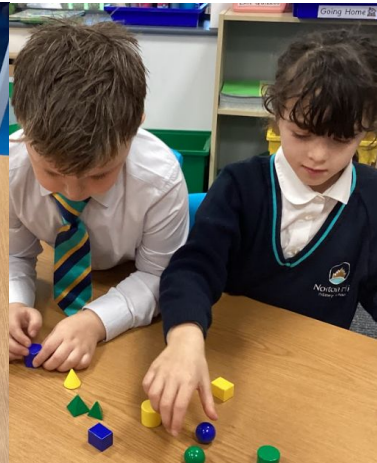
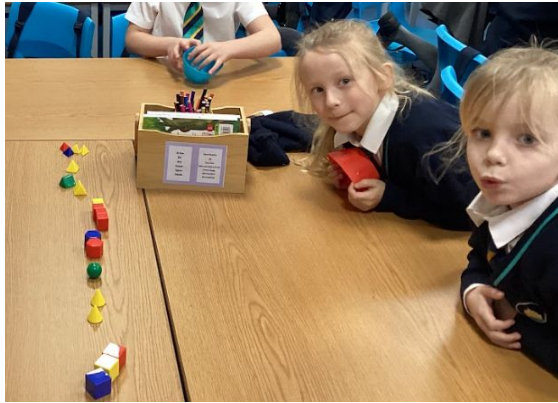
It would seem wrong to not mention our Christmas Nativity. We are so incredibly proud of the children and cannot believe the amount of talent we have in this year group. We are certain that we will see some of the children on the TV when they are older. As we approach the Christmas break, we want to thank you all for your continued support and wish you all a restful break. We look forward to more exciting learning in the new year! Happy Christmas from the Year One team!



Year 2

Turtle class have had a jam packed and fun-filled second term! They have continued to make incredible progress across the curriculum and have *thoroughly* enjoyed practising and performing their nativity – what brilliant performers we have! We have loved seeing their confidence bloom and their incredible dance moves. We are all so proud of all that they have achieved.

In maths, we have been looking at geometry and exploring properties of 2D and 3D shapes. The children have become experts at naming and sorting shapes, and counting faces, edges, and vertices, as well as exploring lines of symmetry.



In art, we have been looking at colour theory and the children have learned about primary colours and how to mix secondary colours. They have created several pieces of art using their knowledge of colour theory and mixing different hues. During our “memorable moment” for the unit, the children explored colour by looking at cellophane and tissue paper, discovering what happened when different colours overlapped. We are all artists in Turtle class, and I was amazed by some of the pieces the children created!



In our music unit this term, we have been looking at musical storytelling. The children have learned about dynamics, tempo, and pulse. These skills have been helpful in supporting learning and practising our nativity songs. The children have talked about how music can support the telling of a story and help to show how a character is feeling. They have become conductors, making gestures when the music should be louder, quieter, faster or slower, and have practised these skills with their voices and with untuned instruments.



Thank you for your continued support with children's home learning, reading records, and rehearsal of their nativity lines. We hope you have a lovely break, and a very Merry Christmas to all who celebrate!

Year 3

Yet another incredibly jam-packed term for Year 3!

We launched our History focus for this term with a prehistory trip to Cheddar Gorge where we explored the caves and learned all about how people lived in the Stone Age with our very own Caveman demonstrator. Our favourite pupil quote: "Wait... is it just called the Stone Age because they basically made everything out of stone?" Yes. That's absolutely it! We further developed our understanding of prehistory by looking at the differences between the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, and venturing through the prehistoric settlement of Skara Brae using Google street view!

Across this term, we had several visits from Mr Jenkins at Wells Cathedral. He helped us to really grow our singing skills by analysing our breathing technique and by making links between our posture and our singing power. This ended in a really powerful and emotional afternoon in the Cathedral itself, where they all made us truly proud with their incredible performance.

Our science topic this term really had us getting our hands dirty! We conducted an investigation into the diet of common owls, firstly researching the hunting habits of owls and their habitats, before dissecting regurgitated owl pellets and categorising the bones that we found. Some of us were even lucky enough to find an entire vole skeleton!

Computer science also brought some more hands-on learning this term. We learned about what constitutes a computer network, and compared how different devices connect together to share data and information. This involved a 'network safari', where we searched through the corners of the school for connected devices, making note on if they were wired or wireless, and even took a peek into the heartbeat of our network, the server room!

Finally, of course we should mention our hard effort and rigorous practice in preparation for our Christmas performance! We are very proud of how all of year 3 have shown enthusiasm in learning their lines, actions and words to our songs, it's been a wonderful experience.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year, and look forward to seeing what term 3 will bring for us all!



Year 4

Year 4 has been stretching, strengthening, and slowing down in all the best ways this term! In Health and PE, students have been exploring the world of yoga—learning how mindful breathing can calm busy minds and how different poses help build balance, flexibility, and confidence. From tree poses that tested their wobble-control to partner stretches that encouraged teamwork and trust, the class embraced each session with enthusiasm and plenty of smiles.

In Art, creativity wove its way into the classroom—literally! Students learned how fabrics are made by experimenting with warp and weft weaving techniques. They carefully planned their colour patterns, threaded their looms with patience and persistence, and were delighted to watch their individual threads transform into vibrant, textured pieces of fabric. The weaving process encouraged focus, fine motor skills, and a deep appreciation for handmade craftsmanship.

We were also delighted to welcome Father Phillip from St. John's the Baptist for a special visit. Year 4 listened beautifully as he shared the Christmas Story, and they impressed him with their thoughtful, curious questions that showed genuine interest and understanding.

It's been a wonderfully holistic term for Year 4, filled with movement, mindfulness, creativity, faith learning, and hands-on discovery.





EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c December 01 2025

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.

Bath Central Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.
10.30 - 11.00am
Every Wednesday (term-time only)

Board Game Saturdays
Drop in. Suitable for all ages.
Every Saturday 12.30-4.00pm
*Suitable for children 10 years and over

Our sensory room is available all day if you need to escape the Bath Christmas Market.

Keynsham Library

Festive Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.
9.30 - 10.00am & 10.30 - 11.00am
Every Tuesday (term-time only)

Festive Storytime
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.
10.30 - 11.00am
Every Thursday (term-time only)

Midsomer Norton Library

Festive Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.
10.30 - 11.00am
Every Monday (term-time only)

Festive Storytime
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.
10.30 - 11.00am
Every Wednesday (term-time only)

Board Game Saturday's
Every Saturday

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>

Unwrap some festive library treats. Why not try these books:

Father Christmas's Fake Beard by Terry Pratchett

Diary of a Christmas Elf by Ben Miller

How Winston came home for Christmas by Alex T Smith



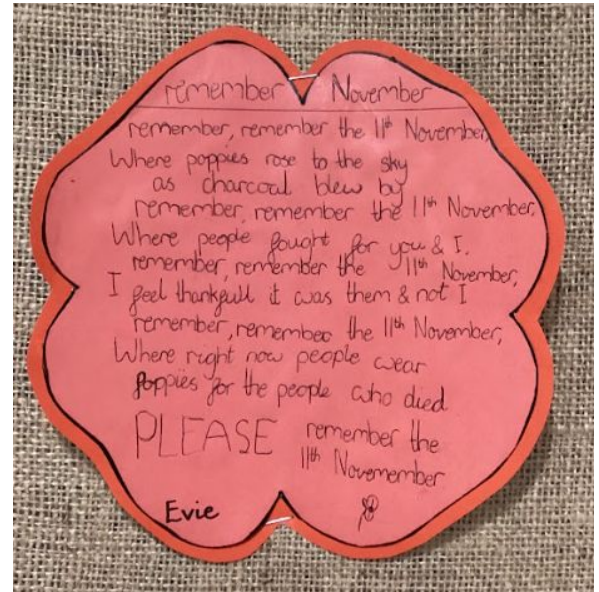
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives



Year 5

Throughout this term, the Year 5 students have undoubtedly demonstrated their flair for creativity!

At the start of term, the students honoured Remembrance Day by writing poetry inspired by John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields". While tackling such a profound and emotive theme, the children demonstrated a notable level of maturity and sensitivity, producing poems that were thoughtful, heartfelt and moving. More recently, the students have exhibited their impressive way with words through their original mythical narratives, inspired by the classic epic, Beowulf. Their writing has been rich in the description of heroic protagonists, fearsome creatures and daring combat! I truly believe that we have some future bestselling authors in our midst!



Continuing our theme of creativity, the Year 5s recent woodwork has been spectacular! During our recent DT day, the students showed great levels of care and precision developing their woodworking skills by producing their own Christmas tree ornaments from twigs sourced from the local community. With careful supervision, the children used glue guns and saws - resulting in phenomenal, professional-looking festive creations!

However, the creativity doesn't stop there! In addition to applying casting techniques with cardboard, clay and plaster in art, and developing their own dances and yoga flows in PE, the students have been just as inventive in Science! This term, the Year 5s have been exploring the forces of gravity, friction and air resistance which resulted in their creation of parachutes. The students designed and created parachutes to see first-hand how air resistance slows falling objects. By considering the materials used, the children made predictions about which parachutes would experience the most air resistance and then conducted a series of tests to discover the results.

Wishing a Merry Christmas to those who celebrate, and a Happy New Year to all!



Sport at Norton Hill Primary:

Over the first two terms of this year, Norton Hill Primary have competed in a number of sporting events organised by BANES Sports Partnership. It is important to note that we have been entering leagues and competitions with predominantly Y5/Y6 pupils from other schools and as such, the successes of our pupils of Y4 and Y5 are of particular merit.

Football:

Football vs Paulton Junior School- this was the first fixture our school football team have played together. It was an extremely challenging match against excellent opposition. What impressed parents and NHP Staff alike, was the determination, teamwork and positive attitude the team showed. They stuck together and did not let their heads go down at any point. They certainly displayed NHP School Values and represented the school in impeccable fashion, despite a challenging fixture.

Girls Cup Match vs Westfield 4-3

This also was the first match the Girls Football Team had played together. Within 5 minutes, the team were 3-0 down, but showed incredible resilience and teamwork and did not give up. They managed to bring the score to level with 10 minutes left of the game, but unfortunately conceded in the last few minutes. The spirit in which the game was played by both teams was inspiring and all players should be really proud of what was an exciting and enthralling fixture.

Both teams were entered in the Midsomer Norton Tournament hosted at Norton Hill Secondary School. Again, they performed excellently and picked up our first points of the season.

We look forward to more football fixtures in the New Year, especially now our NHP football kit has arrived and is ready to go!

Y4/Y5 Cross Country

What an event this was! Pupils from Y4 and Y5 had a boggy terrain to negotiate alongside the challenging distance. Despite a few pre-run nerves, all pupils performed excellently, with a special mention to Jack Arnold of Leopards who managed to secure a 2nd place finish!

Swimming Gala

Mrs Waterhouse and Mrs Node took a number of swimmers to compete against local schools in this year's swimming gala. With a range of swimming strokes on display, pupils participate well and represented the school in incredible fashion.

As always, we would like to thank parents for their help with transport and attendance at these events. We could not enter teams without this and the support is much appreciated.

We look forward to more sporting events in 2026 and well done to all athletes that have taken part in competitive sport this term.



Pupil Parliament and Jigsaw Juniors
One Tree Day

As part of our One Tree Day Pupil Parliament and Jigsaw Juniors wrote letters to the local Nurseries requesting donations of fruit trees to enhance our natural environment and improve sustainability in our food technology curriculum.

We were kindly donated an apple tree from Chew Valley Trees.



Thank you for all your support with the Christmas Activities. We have raised £2540 for the school.

Extra information