



Weekly Newsletter – 20th December 2024

A message from Mrs Farren...

Happy 2025! It is, as ever, a joy to be back with your wonderful children.

As the cold weather kicks in, please ensure that your child has **warm outdoor clothing and that these are ALL labelled with their name**. Thank you!

Time to Get Talking in 2025

Our school is very excited to be taking part in the 'Look Who's Talking!' competition, along with lots of other schools in Gloucestershire!

What is oracy and why is it so important?

Oracy is the ability to express ourselves clearly and communicate with others effectively, through spoken language. By teaching our children to become more effective speakers and listeners, we are all helping to give them the tools they need to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them.

How will the competition work?

Your child will get the chance to talk to their class for two minutes, about any subject that they choose and then a 'Star Speaker' will be chosen. Star Speakers from every class will then get to talk in front of the whole school. Those winners will then go on to the next stage and will represent our school in the competition, with lots of other local schools! The grand final will be on 04.04.25

What can your child talk about?

Children can talk about absolutely anything that they choose to, for up to two-minutes. They can use any props that they wish to, which will help with their talk, but just cannot use any technology, so no Powerpoints slide shows please.

How can you help them at home?

First of all, please help them to think about what they would like to talk about. The more interested they are in the subject, the more passionate their talk will be! What are they interested in? What excites them? It might be a toy, their pet, a book, something they have seen on TV, their favourite sports team, something they have learned about from you at home - or anything else! It really can be anything at all!

They will need to plan and rehearse their speech, so please listen to them practice and give them lots of encouragement! Make sure they are speaking with big voices, nice and clearly, so everyone can hear their talk and learn about their chosen topic.

Thank you for your support
Mrs Farren and Team Norton

Class News – 20th December 2024

Happy New Year! It was fabulous to see everyone back this week and hear all the **Little Learners** news from the Christmas break.

This week we have enjoyed lots of role play including vets, babies and pretending to be Father Christmas, delivering presents to those fast asleep! We have also enjoyed exploring the magnets and seeing what was magnetic, it was like magic!

Reception have had a fantastic first week back! We have started our Topic of 'Around the World' and the children have shown a great interest in learning about different countries and cultures. As a stimulus for our writing we have been reading 'Bradley and the Magic Carpet' and the children have come up with some fun ideas of where they would like to go on a magic carpet! We are also using the book 'Around the world with Max and Lemon' which is helping us to understand that we are different and unique.



During English lessons this week, **Year 1** have had great fun acting out the story of The Three Little Pigs. It was brilliant to see the children enjoy themselves so much and to take their acting parts so seriously! During Science, the children were learning about Mammals and were able to identify which animals were and weren't mammals.

We have had a lovely first week back in **Year 2**. We have started our new topic 'Castles, Knights and Fairytales. In English, we have been looking at the themes and features of a traditional tale. In Science we have been sharing our knowledge of what we know about plants with each other. In History we have learnt about the first Motte and Bailey castles.

What a fantastic first week back **Year 3** have had! We started our Geography learning this week with a recap of the continents of the world. In French we learnt the names of some animals. In our English writing, we have been looking at a traditional Japanese children's tale called "Momotaro", which means peach boy, and have rewritten part of the story ourselves and in Computing we started looking at branching databases by asking yes/no questions.

In **Year 4** this week we have read our model text for English, the Greenling by Levi Pinfold. We have thought about what questions we have about the text as well as predictions for the next part of the story. In computing we have started to learn about creating and editing digital images. We had a go on the website we will be using, befunky.com to edit some images



This week **Year 5** have begun their World War Two topic. We have been looking at many diaries kept by those on the homefront and also had a go at guessing the purpose of a range of artefacts.

This week, **Year 6** have started a new science topic - Light and Sight. We looked into the different parts of the eye and the roles they have. We also looked at why our pupil changes size when exposed to different light levels.



Head teacher's worship challenge!



New Term = New challenge!!!

We would love you to create a new logo for our Christian value this term: **PEACE**

ANYONE CAN ENTER! Parents/Carers/Brothers/Sisters/Aunts/Uncles/Teachers... ETC...

Entry deadline is Wednesday 12th February

Please send/give any entries to Mrs Farren or Mrs Higgins.

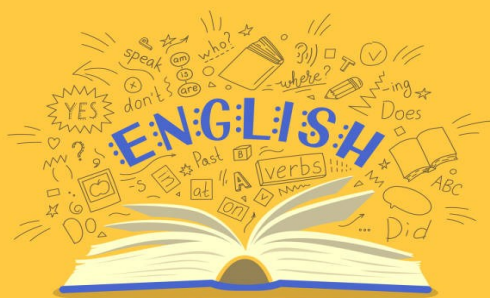
Please ensure your full name is on the back (so we can judge without names showing!)

The logos will be judged anonymously by the staff and a winner will be announced on Friday 14th February!

Templates are available under the office window in the junior corridor if you would like to use them!

You can see the previous two winners displayed on the office window.





CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK!

Have you thought about what you'd like to achieve this year? If not, then maybe you can create a new years resolutions poster like this one?

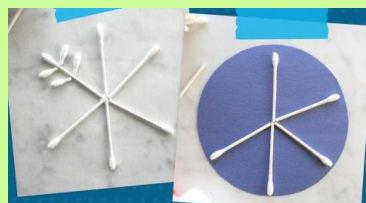
You could display it somewhere in your house with all your wonderful ideas written on it!



Maths challenge of the week!

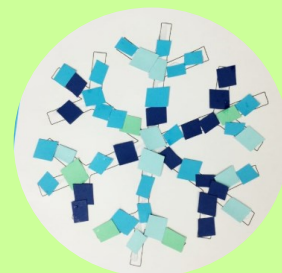


The weather has been so cold this week, and lots of places around the UK have had snow... but we've missed out, so we're challenging you to make a snowflake as we haven't had any!



What could you use to make your snowflake?

Can you make one with an **EVEN** number of sides and one with an **ODD** number of sides.



Here are some ideas but maybe you could do something different?

Send us pictures of your creations!



Important reminders:



Snacks

A healthy diet is crucial for a healthy lifestyle. Only healthy snacks are allowed in school for break time.

Healthy snacks include: fruit, veg, cheese, crackers, yoghurt, plain pop- corn

(NO NUTS - please check packaged food labels carefully).

NO sweets, crisps or chocolate!



Uniform



Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform to school. Jewellery such as necklaces should **not** be worn in school. This is because they can be dangerous when the child is being active and also because there is a high risk they will be lost!

Please ensure your child's **NAME** is in all uniform, including hats and gloves etc!



Before and after school club

Please fill out before and after school club forms for term 3 and term 4 and return to the office. Forms can be found on the website.



Dates for your diary for spring term:

- Monday 13th January - PTA meeting - 8pm.
- Monday 20th January - new teacher led clubs starting - *forms on website and dojo*
- Tuesday 28th January - school Christingle service with Reverend Joe
- Friday 14th February - last day before February half term. Finish at normal time.

Half term dates: Monday 17th - Friday 21st February

- Tuesday 18th March - Parent Consultation - 3:45-6:30pm
- Thursday 20th March - Parent Consultation - 3:45-6:30pm
- Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day
- Wednesday 9th April - Easter open afternoon
- Thursday 10th April - Celebration Assembly - 2:30pm
- Friday 11th April - Easter rolling
- Finish for the Easter holiday @ 1:30pm

Easter holiday dates: Monday 14th - Monday 28th April - inset day.

Monday 28th April is an inset day. Children return to school Tuesday 29th April.

Next week's diary:

13th January 2025	The School Day	After School	Lunch Menu (week 3)
Monday		PTA meeting. 8pm.	Macaroni cheese Vegan plant balls in tomato sauce Jacket potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna
Tuesday			Cowboy casserole Cheesy and tomato pizza Jacket potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna
Wednesday			Roast turkey Vegan quorn Jacket potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna
Thursday			Spaghetti bolognese Chinese vegetable curry Jacket potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna
Friday	Sharing assembly 2:45		Breaded fish Cheese and red pepper frittata Jacket potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna



PTA NEWS



PTA pages on school website

Norton.sch.pta@gmail.com

Nortonsecondhanduniform@gmail.com



Find us on facebook: Norton PTA

Christmas Fayre
and Raffle raised
a whopping

£1580!



Next PTA meeting
13/01/25
All welcome!
Email for details

Christmas Cards- £124

Uniform sales- £190

Your School Lottery - £238 (so far)

Thank you to
all our
supporters from
Norton PTA

£6000

£5000

£4000

£3000

£2000

£3250

ipads &
Musical Instruments



New year
PTA
meeting

Monday
13th
January

email PTA
for more
details

8pm





Local benefice news



Worship in the benefice

Every Sunday Benefice Holy Communion in one of our churches

..... **with families in mind:**

~ 10-11.30 am = Children and parents meet in Sandhurst village hall on 2nd Sunday of each month

~ 4.00 pm = Explore! Food, friends and faith on 3rd Saturday of each month

~ 10.30am = Informal Worship in Sandhurst Church with children's activities

Each month Rev Joe Knight or Rev Philippa Donald write a letter to the Benefice – here is January's letter.

Dear friends,

A very happy New Year to you!

Christmas festivities are slowing down, the dust begins to settle, and January arrives as a month of start-stops and paradoxes. We both hunker down for waning winter and we gear up for new beginnings. New Year's resolutions abound but rarely continue past their third week. And we wonder (with excitement and some trepidation) about what this year will bring.

It's 2025. We are half-way through the 20's, a decade labelled by many in 2019 as a defining decade for humankind, a decade where global cooperation is vital if we are to tackle the major challenges of our time. And yet, you'd be forgiven for thinking that we've gone backwards rather than forwards. We have a long way to go. One thing that brings me hope for the coming year is an echo of the Christmas message, sung by the angels to the lonely shepherds on a Palestinian hillside: 'Peace on Earth!' We have a saying that a 'dog is for life, not just for Christmas' and might also say the same for Christmas itself: Christmas is for life. Especially in the depths of winter, there is something in the message of light in the darkness, of God in the mess of life, of the promise of small things, that is world changing and hope kindling.

That message of peace on earth was both a proclamation and an invitation; it is something for all of us to practice in our households, neighbourhoods and lives. We practice it with acts of kindness, solidarity, in hospitality and empathy, in refusing to speak and act in ways that cause hurt or harm. It demands humility and love. It takes courage. It requires that we see the world and everyone in it as sacred.

Mother Theresa is known for saying, 'not all of us can do great things, but we can all do small things with great love,' and I believe that's how we can best change the world, and that's how peace on earth can turn from hope to reality.

Our Bible verse for this year encourages us to live this out in everyday life:

Be alert. Stay wide-awake in prayer.

Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it.

Love makes up for practically anything.

Be generous with the things God has given you.

That way, God's bright glory will be seen in everything. 1 Peter 4:7-11

So, here's to small acts of kindness this year, and may you know (and practice) God's peace whatever the year may bring.

With love,

Joe