



2024/25 Term 3 Newsletter

Primary

1. Welcome from the Head
2. Safeguarding
3. What Primary have been doing this term.

Our Mission

We **Navigate** **Success** **Together** with **Ambition** and **Relevance**



Dear Parents/Carers,

What a short but busy term it has been! It was lovely to see the students return in January with a positive start, full of New Year's Resolutions and plans for a great year. Although it has been quite dark and gloomy outside, the atmosphere in school has been busy, productive, with lots of energy.

It has been very busy with trips and visits this term. It was great to see the KS4 Art Trips out and about building their portfolios with fantastic photos. Hedgehogs and Foxes had a day at Ikea implementing maths skills with handling money, social skills and trying new foods. Life Skills trips in Year 9 have continued to provide the students with opportunities to see their role in the real world and plan for their futures.

Y11 Art students had a very successful mock practical exam where some outstanding pieces of work were created. In Owls class, the Vikings came to town as they produced brooches, Viking helmets and even learnt to write in Viking Runes. We look forward to showing these off in future showcase events.

The school council have again been very active this term, supporting their classes in purchasing items for classrooms with money raised from the Christmas Fayre. We now have many plants of all shapes and sizes in and around us as well as soothing lights, sensory resources and academic games across the school making it a calm, soothing, fun place to be.

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We are proud of our school football team who have played two matches this term. Each game, the students are improving their skills, working together and supporting one another as they come together as a team. The new football kit looks brilliant and the children are proud to wear it, representing their school.

A huge thank you to Mr Moore who has organised or several companies to come and talk to the students this term. We have had assemblies and workshops on apprenticeships, the Ministry of Defence, Bath City College and even Thatchers come to work with us. Talking to the students, you can see what an impression these opportunities are having, as the students are discussing and planning exciting futures, job opportunities and looking at what they can do to make their goals realities.

It was amazing to see the whole school engaging in Chinese Lunar New Year! We had a completely different menu for the day which went down well across the school. In Primary, we had a carousel of activities including Chinese writing and even dragon making. It was wonderful to see the students throw themselves into the day!

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the Tea and Talk session on 14th February. We look forward to welcoming you all again for the next date later in the year.

We hope you all have a relaxing, restorative half term break and look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 24th February.

Zoe Napier and Helen McDicken

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E-Safety

Wake up Wednesday—our IT leads have carefully selected our most appropriate wake up Wednesday poster and included it in this newsletter, if however you would like information or advice on any other E-safety topics please ask.

Feedback

North Star Academy Trust is committed to listening to you and working with you to resolve any concerns or queries you may have. Please contact the main office or your child's tutor to get in touch. northstar180@northstar-academy.co.uk.

Community offer

Please remind yourselves of the great sporting events taking place this term at Bath Rugby, activities are free and information can be found here bathrugby.com

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

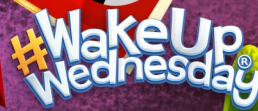
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[Live Well B&NES](#) is the home to Bath and North East Somerset's [SEND Local Offer](#), providing information, signposting and support to young people with SEND and their families.

We also offer lots of information for families and young people including, registered childcare providers, parenting support, benefit advice, food support, managing money, mental and emotional health, social activities and cost of living information.

livewell.bathnes.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/livewellbathnes



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Financial Support



Winter has been a hard time for many of us. Heating costs combined with the cost-of-living crisis and Christmas have left many of us short of money. If you find yourself in a difficult financial position please don't worry – there are organisations that can help. Please see below for a short list by local authority area.

We at Northstar 180 are always happy to chat and discuss options. The school is also able to issue foodbank vouchers for the BANES area.

BANES Welfare Support

Call 01225 477277 or email welfare_support@bathnes.gov.uk

Can help with money for essentials, household bills and white goods.

Wiltshire support

Household Support Fund 2025

Foodbank vouchers, cost of living assistance

Call 0300 003 4576 or email wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk

South Gloucestershire

Emergency assistance and referrals to help with living costs

Call 01454 868899

Bristol

Local crisis prevention fund

Call 0117 922 4500 or email lcpcf@bristol.gov.uk

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Helpful Numbers and websites



Below are some contacts of services if you need support over the break.

- NHS non-emergency line 111
- Police non-emergency line 101
- Social Care BANES 01225 396111 or out of hours 01454 615165
- Social Care Wiltshire 0300 4560108 or out of hours 0300 456 0100
- Social Care South Glos 01454 866000 or out of hours 01454 615165
- Social Care Bristol 0117 9036444 or out of house 01454 615165
- ChildLine 0800 1111
- Samaritans 116 123

For more information about services in your area look for the Local Offer:

- **BANES** <https://livewell.bathnes.gov.uk/children-and-families>
- **Wiltshire** SEND Support for 0 to 25 - Local Offer South Glos SEND <https://localoffer@wiltshire.gov.uk>
- **South Gloucestershire** southglos.gov.uk
- **Bristol** <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/bristol-local-offer>



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Primary



In Primary this term there has been an incredible amount of learning, exploration, and lots and lots of fun! Have a look at our updates below to see what we have been up to. As well as our in-class activities, we were also lucky to be given £50 raised by the school council per class to spend on giving our classrooms a little boost – please take a look at how each class spent it. It's been a busy term but here are a few highlights:

The unexpected snow day, celebrating Chinese New Year and lots of fun end of term rewards.



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Hedgehogs



The Hedgehogs have been putting in a tremendous amount of effort in their learning this term. We've been busy writing stories and postcards in English, and we've really enjoyed listening to our class story, Paddington. In Maths, we concentrated on addition and subtraction, discovering new techniques to tackle challenging problems.

During our Humanities lessons, we looked into what life was like for nurses in the past, explored places of worship in RE, and improved our attacking and defending skills in PE.

The Hedgehogs also took a trip to IKEA to pick out items for our classroom. We had a great time exploring the aisles and checking out all the different rooms. In the end, we selected some wonderful items that have made our classroom feel cozy and homely, including a car mat, pillows and blankets, a turtle lamp, a new plant we've named MJ, and a doormat for wiping our feet.



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Foxes



Although it seemed quieter than the last, this term has been just as busy! The Foxes have made some amazing progress and been working hard on their learning in class. We've been busy practicing some key skills in English to improve our writing, we've started learning about money in Maths and have been exploring how light affects plants in Science!

As well as our learning in class, we have also had loads of fun out of the classroom: various learning walks around the school to spot shapes, wintery walks in the wood and a very exciting trip to IKEA! We loaded up the bus, took our spending money and went to Bristol for the day to do some shopping. The Foxes were brilliant role models for the school while out and about. After a lot of deliberation, we bought some lovely items to brighten up our class! A new curtain, some lovely pants, a disco ball and some hanging lanterns.



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Rabbits



This term in Rabbits, we have been swimming which we have really enjoyed and learnt about birds and made bird feeders at forest school. We have carried out our first experiment on different soils and predicted what soil would absorb the most water. We explored the religion Islam and drew symbols to represent our own lives, explaining why we drew a specific symbol.

We are looking forward to making some classroom improvements too – we are going to get some fairy lights, plants, games, a tapestry for the calm corner and a class height chart.



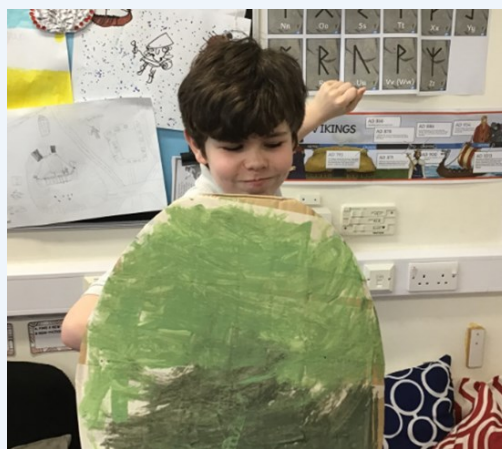
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Owls



Owls have been looking at all things Viking this term. We have investigated what Viking was like. The children particularly enjoyed re-enacting court scenes to decide on which Crimes deserved which Viking punishment! We have made shields, brooches, and designed tapestries. Mr Bentley also led an assembly explaining all about Viking life, made clay tablets with the children and taught them all about the alphabet that they used. We also made Viking bread - which we discovered was not the tastiest!

We spent our £50 on some lovely things for the classroom too: wall stickers, pencil pots and sharpener, plants, lights, and cushions.



Badgers



The Badgers have had a lot of fun this term, enjoying our time in the outdoors (despite all the rain!) We've been working hard on finishing our Chinese New Year mosaic - and can't wait to put it up when we're done!



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Feedback from London Zoo!

Ronnie, in Otters, was really excited to learn about how the team at London Zoo were able to rescue several endangered Darwin Frogs from Chile over the last year. 90% of them had been wiped out in a year and they faced extinction.

Ronnie found out that the tiny male frog (2.5cm long) carries the froglets (1.5mm long) in his mouth until they are ready to be released. London Zoo managed to breed the rescued frogs and reported this week that 50 new froglets were born! Ronnie created a Lego model inspired by the story. We then emailed a photo of this to London Zoo who have shown the model to the conservation team.

They emailed us back to say: *"That's wonderful to hear about the impact the Darwin Frog and our conservation efforts have had! I've forwarded Ronnie's creation on to the team now. I'm sure they will appreciate his passion for their conservation efforts!"*

Well done Ronnie for thinking about our world and sharing this good news story!!



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Tea and Talk Times!



This term we held another Tea and Talk Time for parents. Every term, parents and carers are invited to come in for a chat over a cuppa in friendly, like-minded company.

We have a growing group and it's always fun. There's always quick 10-minute talk on a theme and this term we looked at @transitions and Routines in School Holidays (by popular request!). We talked about keeping simple routines going in school holidays and looked at tips to stop your children from deep-diving into their devices.

Next term we are holding another Tea and Talk Time on Friday 28th March- if you have any requests for themes then please let us know.

Simple Steps for a Calm Holiday

- ✓ Keep a predictable but flexible routine
- ✓ Give warnings and use visual schedules
- ✓ Include no-cost, screen-free activities
- ✓ Set clear screen-time limits with alternatives
- ✓ Involve children in planning



Holidays don't have to be stressful—small changes can make a big difference!

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Important School Year Dates

2024-2025

SEPTEMBER 2024							OCTOBER 2024							NOVEMBER 2024									
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	School Holidays								Bank Holidays														
	Inset Days								Pupil Review Days														
	Staggered Start for all children								Interim Reports														
	Tea & Talk Times for Parents								Move Up Day														
	School Twilights								Primary Sports Day														
	Primary Nativity								Christmas Craft Fayre														
	Christmas Dinner								Exams														
	Mock Exams								Summer Fayre														