



2024/25

Term 4 Newsletter

1. Welcome from the Deputy Head
2. Important dates for the coming term and information
3. What we did this term!

Our Mission

We **N**avigate **S**uccess **T**ogether with **A**mbition and **R**elevance



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up another successful term, I would like to emphasise that the past few weeks have been filled with remarkable achievements, exciting events, and incredible learning experiences. From engaging project-based lessons in the afternoons to the high-energy excitement of BMX Day and the creativity of World Book Day, our students have truly embraced the opportunities for growth and exploration.

Looking ahead, Term 5 promises to be just as dynamic. We have several exciting projects and activities lined up that will challenge and inspire our students. Our continued focus on academic excellence, personal development, and fostering a positive school culture remains at the heart of everything we do.

As we close out Term 4, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our parents for their unwavering support and involvement throughout the term. Your dedication to your children's education, whether through their attendance, supporting our projects, or fostering strong home-school communication, has played a vital role in our successes. The strong partnership between school and home is essential in helping our students thrive, and we deeply appreciate the positive impact you continue to have. We look forward to working together in the coming term and achieving even more milestones as a school community. Thank you once again for all that you do!

I am incredibly proud of all our students and staff for their hard work and dedication this term, and I look forward to another successful and rewarding term ahead. Here's to continued growth, learning, and fun in Term 5!

Serra Orumlu
Deputy Headteacher

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Important Dates for the coming term

7-18 April – Easter holidays

21 April – Bank holiday

22 April—Term 5 begins

2 May—Points reward trip*

5 May—Bank holiday

6 May—Curriculum visit to Cannington (Falcons, Eagles, Hawks)*

7 May—Down the Plughole visit to NS82

12-15 May SATs

16 May—Points reward trip*

15 May—Bristol Zoo Project (Sparrows and Kingfishers)*

21 May—Attendance trip*

23 May—Positive reward trip*

*Parents/carers of the students who are attending these trips will be contacted the previous week.



Uniform : Please remember your child should come each day in the correct uniform, which is:

black /dark grey trousers or skirt

white polo type shirt

navy blue jumper

Further uniform is purchasable from the school office.

Free school Meals/Pupil premium : Your child could be entitled to receive free school meals as well as pupil premium funding for the school. Please read this important letter for more information about how to claim. You can apply to see if you are eligible for Free School Meals here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/travel-and-free-school-meals/free-school-meals>

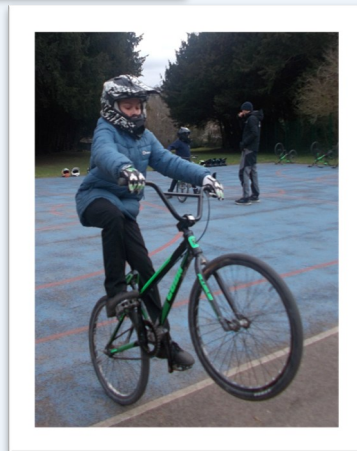
If you are not entitled to free school meals a hot meal can be purchased for £2.90. Payments can be made over the phone or by sending in cash or cheque, payable to North Star Academy Trust and via Arbor app. Payments for meals are needed in advance.

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies: We will be providing leavers' hoodies for Year 6 students. A letter asking for your child's size details will be sent out next term.

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BMX Day at North Star 82°



BMX Day at school was a huge hit with lots of fun, fitness, and friendly competition. Students participated in various activities, including obstacle courses, time trials, and relay races, all designed to challenge their skills and promote teamwork. The event emphasised the importance of outdoor activity and cycling, while also fostering school spirit as students cheered each other on. With teachers joining in the excitement, BMX Day was a memorable experience celebrating fitness, friendship, and the joy of being active.

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Fun Science Day



On our Fun Science Day, each class took part in a series of hands-on experiments that sparked curiosity and ignited the minds of our young scientists. The day was packed with fun and learning, with students from all year groups diving into the wonders of science through interactive activities. Each class engaged in a different experiment, carefully designed to teach key scientific concepts in a fun and engaging way. From bubbling chemical reactions to simple machines, our students had the opportunity to become true scientists for the day!



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World Book Day



World Book Day at school was a vibrant celebration of reading and imagination, with students and staff dressing up in their favourite pyjamas! The day was filled with exciting activities, including book-themed board games and storytelling sessions. Students had the chance to share their favourite books and discover new ones, while teachers led engaging discussions about the power of literature. The event highlighted the importance of reading and inspired a love for books across all year groups, making it a memorable celebration.



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Aerospace Bristol Visit



We're thrilled to share the exciting adventure our students had during their recent visit to Aerospace Bristol! This special trip was a reward for those who achieved 100% attendance in Term 4, and it was truly a day to remember.

The students were given the unique opportunity to explore one of the most fascinating aspects of modern technology and history: aviation and space exploration. Aerospace Bristol, a hub of innovation and discovery, provided an immersive experience that left everyone inspired and eager to learn more about the world above.

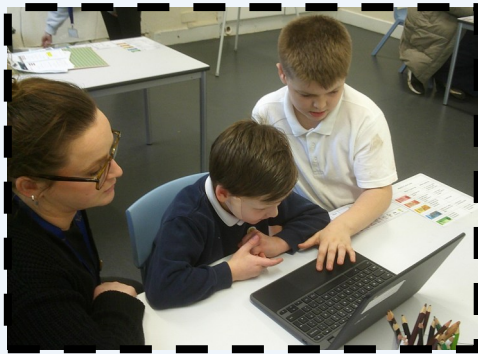


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Sparrows and Kingfishers

As part of our afternoon project-based curriculum, Sparrows and Kingfishers classes embarked on an exciting Humanities journey this term, studying the iconic Suspension Bridge and the brilliant engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Students explored the history and engineering behind the bridge, learning about its significance and the challenges Brunel faced in its construction. The highlight of their studies was a visit to the Suspension Bridge itself, where they could see Brunel's masterpiece up close. To bring their learning to life, the students also created their own version of Isambard Brunel's famous hat, combining creativity with history in a hands-on way. It was an inspiring and educational experience that brought history to life for all involved!

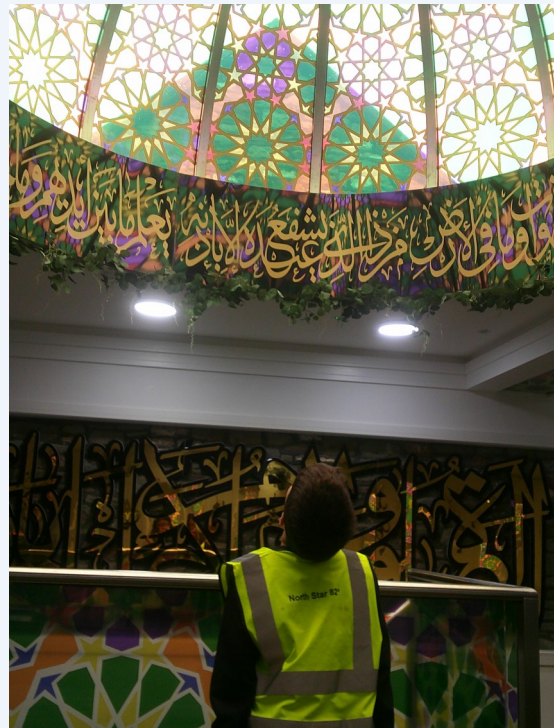


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Hawks, Falcons and Eagles

This term, Hawks, Falcons, and Eagles classes delved into the fascinating world of Islamic civilizations as part of our afternoon project-based curriculum. Students explored the rich history, culture, and contributions of Islamic societies, gaining a deeper understanding of their impact on the world. The highlight of their studies was a visit to a mosque, where they had the opportunity to experience the architecture, learn about Islamic practices, and engage in meaningful discussions with members of the community. This hands-on experience truly brought their learning to life, helping students connect with history in a meaningful and immersive way.



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Robins



Robins class has been immersing themselves in the fascinating world of the Romans. As part of their studies, the students explored the significance of Roman shields and their role in battle. Not only did they learn about the history behind these iconic pieces of armour, but they also had the chance to design and create their own Roman-inspired shields. To bring their designs to life, the students used a creative and hands-on approach. They began by using masking tape to carefully outline clear boundaries between different colours on their shields, ensuring that each section was crisp and well-defined.



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Big thank you!

All staff and students would like to say a BIG thank you to our supply agencies, they have been so kind and have donated enough Easter Eggs, so that every student at a North Star School will receive one. Our supply agencies are a constant support to us and have helped us grown our staff community, keep up the great work!



Five Education, Zen, Lexia Education, Long Term Teachers, Vision for Education, Hanson and Suppleo we thank you!



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A poster for a Forest School and Outdoor Cooking event. The background is a close-up of a campfire with logs and flames. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, in large green and yellow letters, is 'FOREST SCHOOL AND OUTDOOR COOKING EASTER HOLIDAYS'. On the right, a yellow box lists activities: CAMPFIRE, GROUP GAMES, ROPE SWINGS, CLIMBING NETS, DEN BUILDING, WHITTling, FORAGING, and AND MORE,,,. On the left, a green starburst says '8-15 year olds'. At the bottom, it says 'HEART OF BS13 CLIMATE ACTION HUB'. There are logos for 'NATURAL NETWORKS' (a circular logo with a bird and roots) and 'Your Holiday HUB Bristol' (a colorful logo). A contact email 'info@natural-networks.co.uk' is in a brown box.

**FOREST SCHOOL AND
OUTDOOR COOKING
EASTER HOLIDAYS**

**8-15
year olds**

- CAMPFIRE
- GROUP GAMES
- ROPE SWINGS
- CLIMBING NETS
- DEN BUILDING
- WHITTling
- FORAGING
- AND MORE,,,

**HEART OF BS13 CLIMATE
ACTION HUB**

**NATURAL
NETWORKS**

**info@natural-
networks.co.uk**

**Your
Holiday
HUB**
Bristol

NS82°

Mr. Croney is the Senior Outdoor Practitioner at North Star. This Easter, he will be leading Forest School and Outdoor Cooking activities in South Bristol. Thanks to funding from Bristol City Council's Holiday Activities and Food programme, children and young people who qualify for benefits-related free school meals can participate at no cost. Affordable rates are available for other families. The activities are also suitable for younger siblings aged 5-7, though they must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

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Top Tips for...

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday