

Message from CEO

We would like to let you know that Mrs. Amanda Tapsfield, our Headteacher, has made the decision to step down from her role. Amanda has given so much of her time, energy, and commitment to our school community, and we are deeply grateful for the positive impact she has had during her time with us.



Until a new Headteacher is appointed, Phelim Byrne will be acting up with the support of the Executive Leadership Team and Tom Marsh as Assistant Head.

On behalf of governors, staff, pupils, and families, we would like to sincerely thank Amanda for her contribution to the school. We wish her the very best for the future, both personally and professionally.



If you have any issues/questions/ want to say "Hello" or perhaps let me know if there is a member of staff that has gone that "extra mile" for you and your child then please do get in touch: phelim.byrne@Northstar-academy.co.uk

Our Mission

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance



What have we been up to?



Owls have been covering a wide variety of topics in term one - from studying King Alfred the Great; making some fantastic shields and learning about King Alfred's Cakes, to crossing lava as part of Mr. Wilson's Team Building games. We have had lots of visits to Mr. Marsh to showcase fantastic class work for the Gold Book. Class favourites include playing social games to develop social skills, gardening and forest school sessions with Mrs. Thomas.



Kestrels have been working hard in the garden harvesting the produce we planted last year. We still undecided if we would have survived in the stone age as their food is not as nice as what we normally eat.

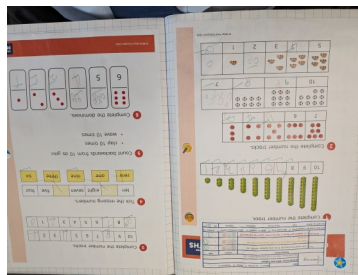
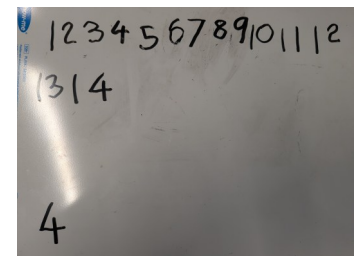
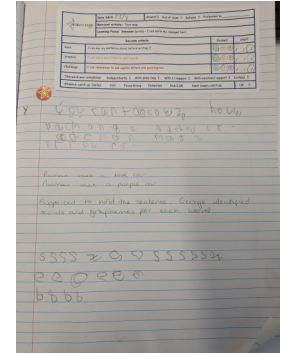
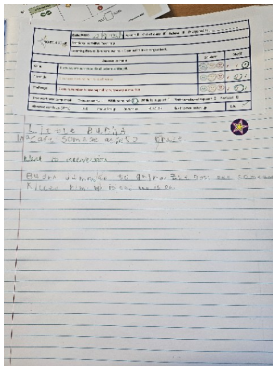
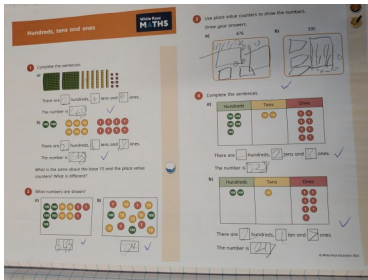


In Robins class we have been learning about what homes were like during the stone age over 5000 years ago! We have made our own roundhouses using clay, like the ones that remain in Skara Brae in Scotland.

We learned how to make the roundhouses using the coil pot technique. Next week we will be making a roof for our houses out of cardboard and straw. We have also found out about the diets that stone age people ate and how they hunted and gathered food.



The Gold Book



This week's winner of the Gold Book is Holly! She has shown a passion for Forest School and has produced this incredible picture using natural resources. Holly has worked incredibly hard this week and has brought us a number of pieces of work which had been nominated for the Gold Book. Holly is taking a huge amount of pride in her work, well done Holly! Keep up the good work!

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Primary

Boys

- ◇ Black tailored trousers
- ◇ White school or plain polo shirt (with collar)
- ◇ Navy school jumper with logo
- ◇ Black, plain, sensible shoes
- ◇ Hijab – Navy Blue or Black



Girls

- ◇ Black school skirt
- ◇ Sensible black tights to be worn with school skirt
- ◇ Black tailored trousers
- ◇ White school or plain polo shirt (with collar)
- ◇ Navy jumper
- ◇ Black, plain, sensible shoes (open-toed or backless sandals are not appropriate)
- ◇ For safety reasons, high heels are not acceptable

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: [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK](#)

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.

Our new supplier Aspens will be taking over the catering in our school In term 2. We will keep you updated with any menu changes in due course.

A message from the office;

In the event your child is ill please contact the school office on **01173772175**. Choosing option 2 to report the absence.

If you need to update any information we hold for your child such as contact numbers or address changes you are now able to do this via the Arbor app. If you have yet to log in please visit <https://login.arbor.sc> and click **Forgot your password?** to finish setting up your account.

Year 6 Parents – Secondary School Applications

If your child was born between 1 Sept 2014 and 31 Aug 2015, they are due to start Year 7 in Sept 2026. Applications open from 12 Sept 2025 and must be submitted by 31 Oct 2025.

☐ Apply via your local council:

☐ Bristol: bristol.gov.uk/school-admissions

☐ North Somerset: n-somerset.gov.uk/school-admissions

☐ South Glos: southglos.gov.uk/school-admission [Apply for...ty Council] [School adm...y - GOV.UK]

Late applications may miss out on preferred schools. Apply early!

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

Opportunity

Community

Wellbeing

Respect

UNCERTAINTY

CONFLICT

FEAR

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 38% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence>

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