



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are at the halfway mark for Term 1 and I am delighted to see how well the children have settled into their new classes and routines. The enthusiasm and engagement we have seen from all children in exciting activities happening across the school has been fantastic. We hope you enjoy seeing and reading about some of the brilliant learning that has taken place in classes during the past week.

We have also been focusing on creative thinking and problem-solving through outdoor learning and forest school skills. These activities not only enhance children's understanding of the natural world but also promote teamwork and resilience.

I encourage you to continue to engage as much as possible with your child's learning at home by discussing their activities at the end of the day. These small conversations can help reinforce their classroom experiences and love of learning. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership, working together we can ensure that your child thrives at North Star 82.

Warm regards,

Phelim Byrne
Acting Headteacher

As we settle into the rhythm of the new term, I want to take a moment to thank all parents and carers for your continued support. Your efforts in ensuring excellent attendance and engagement with school life have not gone unnoticed, and they make a real difference to our students' success and wellbeing.

I'd also like to highlight the importance of online safety. In today's digital world, it's vital that both children and adults feel confident navigating the internet safely. To support this, we're offering free online safety training through the school, which includes a certificate upon completion. This is a great opportunity to strengthen your understanding and help protect your child online.

If you're interested in taking part, please feel free to contact me directly at **tom.marsh@northstar-academy.co.uk** or call the school office for more information.

Warm regards,
Tom Marsh
Assistant Headteacher

Our Mission

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

What have we been up to?



Eagles Class Weekly Round-Up

 **Science Spotlight:** This week, the Eagles soared into an exciting parachute experiment! They have planned and made their parachutes to explore **air resistance**—investigating how

surface area affects the rate of descent. We will be using predictions and observations next week to discover how science and creativity go hand in hand.

 **Math's Mastery:** In math's, the focus has been on **flexible partitioning**—breaking numbers in different ways to deepen understanding and build number sense. The class has been working hard to apply their skills and will finish on Friday with practical problem-solving games.

 **English Adventures:** The Eagles wrapped up their **hot write** by crafting imaginative journey stories. Drawing on structure, description, and character development, they brought their tales to life with flair, focus and unique individu-



This week in Robins we have been writing our innovated stories in English. We have been ordering num-

bers in maths using the greater than and less than symbols.

In PBL we have been thinking about the differences between homes today and stone age houses in the past. The children were given a challenge to make a stone age village out of paper; and they have done a brilliant job!



This week in P.E our focus of the learning for Upper KS2 has been for pupils to use their prior knowledge and understanding of passing and dribbling when playing Football, to help them create space whilst learning ways and strategies to keep possession of ball.

In lower KS2 we have been working on improve Locomotor Skills, Refining Non-Locomotor Skills

and learning understanding of where to dribble and why.

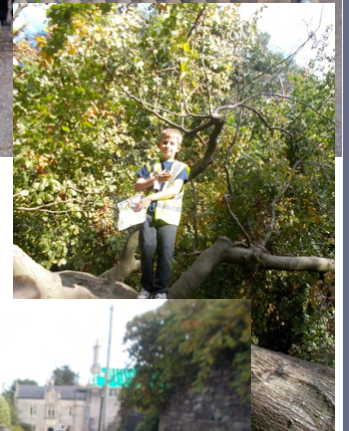
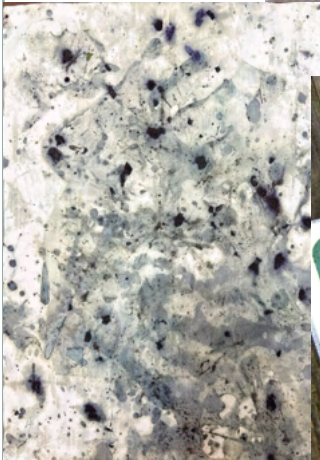
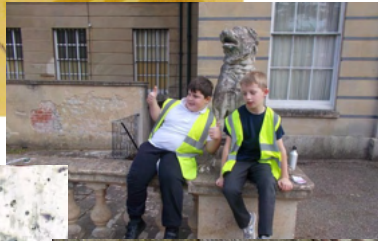


Sparrow class had a fun Topic lesson this week. We learnt about where different food comes

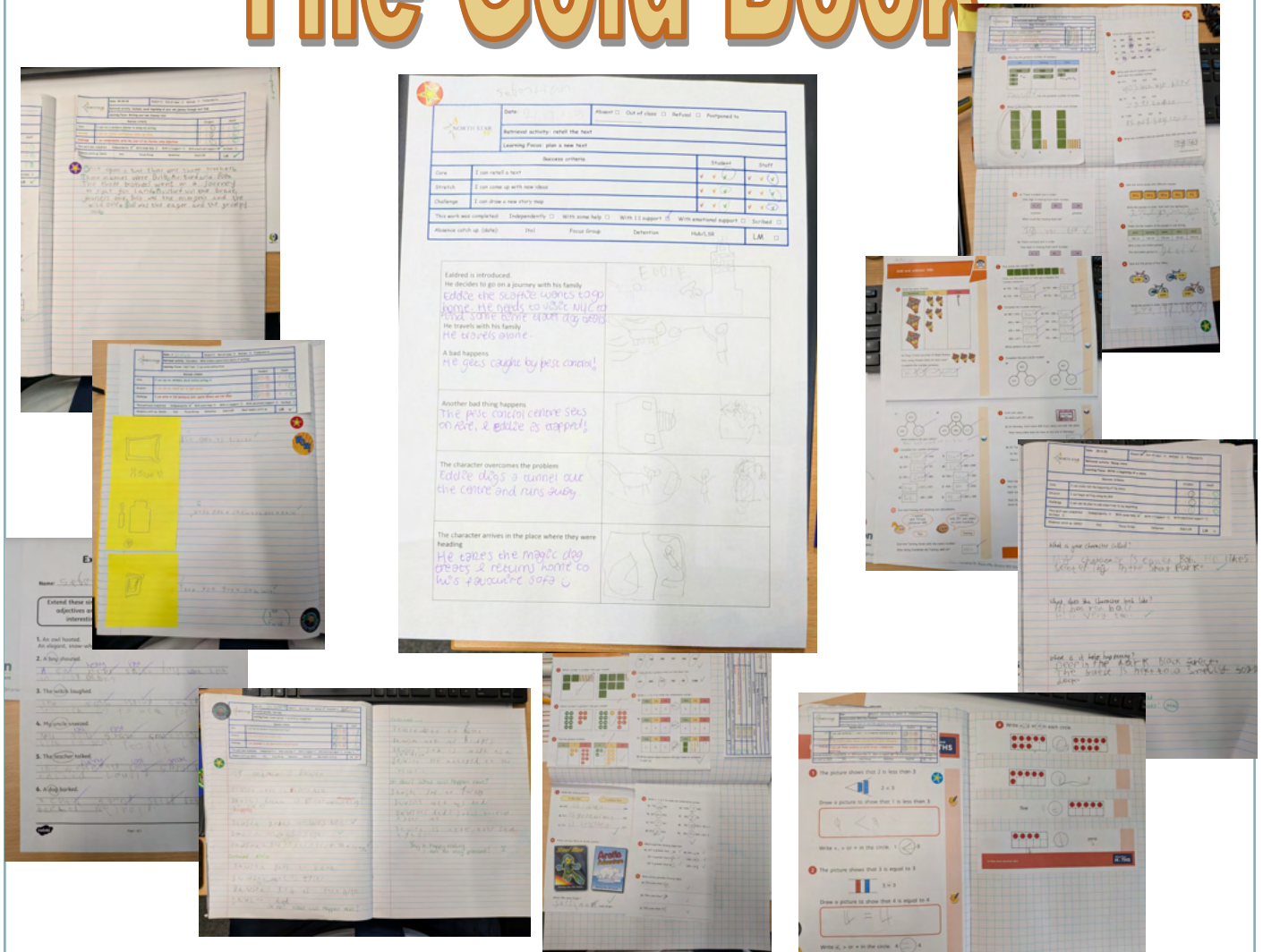
from and thought carefully about which fruits the family who used to live in the school building would have grown and eaten. Then we made our own fruit salad artwork in the shape of a hot air balloon.



Owls have enjoyed a varied week of learning, from covering the military & political exploits of Alfred through constructing model swords, shields and crowns. Owls have thoroughly enjoyed sessions with Mrs. Thomas where they helped in the garden and have been helping dig for the new BBQ area, examining plants, digging potatoes and collecting runner beans. In English Owls were fascinated by the process of making Sushi and enjoyed the opportunity to sample some fresh sushi.



The Gold Book



This week's winner of the Gold Book is Seb! Well done for your incredible English work. Your enthusiasm for this piece of work was amazing to see. You have shown great resilience in your learning which has enabled you to accept support and produce a fantastic piece of work.

Our Mission

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

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!

Our Mission

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

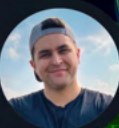
As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>

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