

NS82° School Newsletter



Dear Families,

This term so far has been an exciting journey of learning and growth across our school. Our pupils have embraced **Project-Based Learning (PBL)** with enthusiasm, producing fantastic work that showcases creativity, collaboration, and deep understanding. From science investigations to history projects, the quality of learning has been outstanding.

Music has played a special role in PBL this term. Pupils have explored rhythm, melody, and composition, bringing energy and joy to their projects. We've also introduced **Mr Ashman's "Song of the Week"**, which is helping our school community discover different genres of music—from classical to jazz, pop to world music—broadening horizons and sparking conversations.

We are thrilled to launch our **Helpers Initiative**, giving pupils opportunities to take on responsibilities around school. These roles are helping children develop leadership, teamwork, and a strong sense of community—skills that will serve them well in life.

Another highlight has been our **Year 6 Chess Lessons**, which are going brilliantly! Chess is more than a game—it builds **critical thinking, problem-solving, patience, and strategic planning**. It also teaches resilience and the importance of learning from mistakes, all while being fun and engaging.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a vibrant place for learning, creativity, and community spirit.

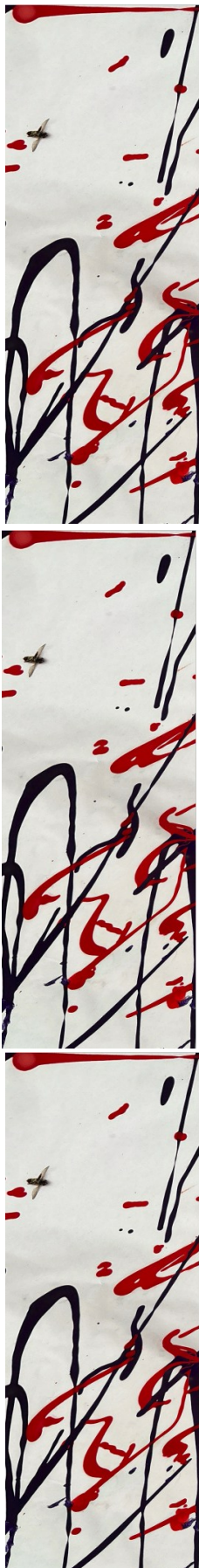
Warm regards,

Mr Byrne, Headteacher



Our Mission

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



Dear Families,

We are delighted to announce the launch of **LIFT**, our new outreach service designed to support pupils, families, and the wider community. LIFT stands for **Learning, Inclusion, Families, Together**.

What is LIFT?

LIFT is a holistic provision that brings together educational, emotional, and practical support for families. Our aim is simple: to empower every pupil and family to thrive, both in school and beyond.

How will LIFT help you?

- **Attendance Support**— Helping to break down the barriers to attendance.
- **Communication Support** – Help with emails, applications, healthcare access, and more.
- **Health & Wellbeing** – Nutritional advice, emotional regulation, and stress management.
- **Daily Guidance** – SEN activities, childcare support, and local offer navigation.
- **Education** – SEND support, transition planning, and educational advice.

We are proud to introduce **Matt Lee**, our dedicated LIFT Mentor, who will work closely with families to provide tailored support and guidance.

Why LIFT?

Progress is stronger when we rise together. LIFT is here to ensure that every pupil, family, and community member feels supported, connected, and empowered.

Warm regards,

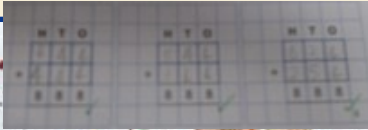
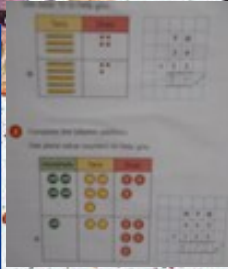
Mr Marsh, Assistant Head Teacher



What have we done this week?



Kestrels class have been amazing mathematicians this week, we have started to learn about column addition and have been busy practicing our new skills.



This week, Sparrow class wore odd socks for anti-bullying week. We spoke about what bullying is, what to do if we see bullying and how to help others. We also looked at what our differences and similarities are and how we can celebrate them.



Kingfisher Class has had an action-packed week! We started by exploring dynamics and tempo in music with Sparrows Class. We then put our learning into practice by creating music to accompany a story. On Thursday, the Kingfishers enjoyed a trip to the cinema to watch Smurfs! They loved the experience and even came back discussing the soundtrack - spotting changes in dynamics and tempo like true musicians. In Science, we've been learning about food and nutrition, and the children have been applying their knowledge during lunchtime by identifying the different food groups on their plates.



This week Falcons class had the pleasure of attending a midweek reward trip to the cinema to watch Harold and the magic crayon. We had a brilliant time sat on the comfy, recliner chairs spending a good length of time out of the school. The children were even more thrilled that we did not have to complete math's and English that day! We have enjoyed further progression on our chess mastery, having more expert teaching and extra practice time to sharpen our skills. Its been great to see so many golden book entries this week to really highlight and display the amazing work that has happened in class this week. We have also had the privilege of welcoming another addition to the class room, and I'm really proud of the acceptance the class has had on this addition.



GREEN
SCHOOLS
PROJECT



The eco council had their first meeting today. We talked about what we would like to achieve as a team and agreed that it would be amazing if we can work towards lowering the schools carbon footprint and in turn make the world a better place to live. We look forward to sharing our progress with you.

SAVE THE DATE!



Pupil Review—Pupil Review Day on Wednesday, 3rd December.

This is a valuable opportunity for you to come into school, meet with teachers, and see how your child is progressing. Our Trust Governors will be attending our pupil review day, this will be a great opportunity for you to meet them .

Nativity—Friday 19th December. We are very excited to invite you all to our Christmas Nativity play. All pupils will be involved with the Nativity. Please save this date and keep an eye out for arrival times and start time.

PBL Showcase—Wednesday 3rd December. We will be exhibiting a showcase of our Project Based Learning Curriculum. This will be a showcase of some of the fantastic work your children have produced during term 1 and 2.

Engagement Page

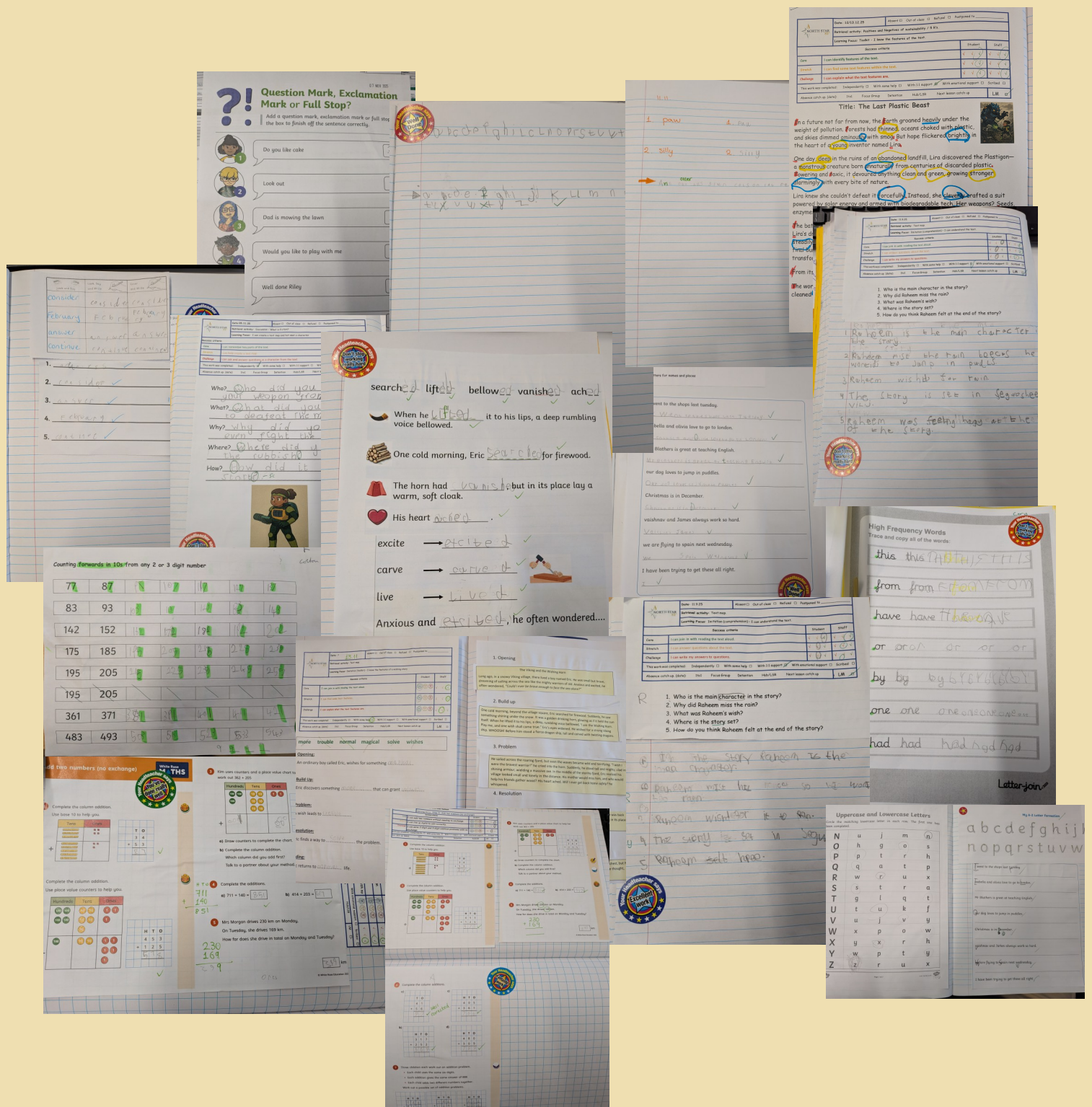


This week the engagement team organised some lovely trips to the cinema. Our year 6 classes went to the Vue cinema and watched 'Harold and the magic crayon' the film was brilliant, but I believe the highlight of their trip was the fact that the seats reclined. Our younger classes went to the cinema and watched the 'Smurfs'. We received amazing feedback from the children who wanted to tell everyone about their favourite parts of the film.



As well as cinema trips we have continued our amazing interventions supporting children's turn taking and interactive skills. The engagement team are delighted to see so many children working really hard at displaying the correct behaviour and encouraging friends to do the same.





Our Mission

The Gold Book

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance

The Gold Book

NORTH STAR 82	Date: 12/13.12.25	Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Out of class <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed to _____	
	Retrieval activity: Positives and Negatives of sustainability / 5 R's.		
	Learning Focus: Toolkit - I know the features of the text.		
Success criteria		Student	Staff
Core	I can identify features of the text.	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Stretch	I can find some text features within the text.	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Challenge	I can explain what the text features are.	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
This work was completed: Independently <input type="checkbox"/> With some help <input type="checkbox"/> With 1:1 support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> With emotional support <input type="checkbox"/> Scribed <input type="checkbox"/>			
Absence catch up, (date):		Ito1	LM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Title: The Last Plastic Beast

In a future not far from now, the Earth groaned heavily under the weight of pollution. Forests had thinned, oceans choked with plastic, and skies dimmed ominously with smog. But hope flickered brightly in the heart of a young inventor named Lira.



One day, deep in the ruins of an abandoned landfill, Lira discovered the Plastigon—a monstrous creature born unnaturally from centuries of discarded plastic. Towering and toxic, it devoured anything clean and green, growing stronger alarmingly with every bite of nature.

Lira knew she couldn't defeat it forcefully. Instead, she cleverly crafted a suit powered by solar energy and armed with biodegradable tech. Her weapons? Seeds, enzymes, and a drone swarm programmed to recycle efficiently.

The battle raged fiercely for days. The Plastigon hurled plastic storms wildly, but Lira's drones broke them down methodically. Her enzymes melted its limbs steadily, and her seeds sprouted into vines that tangled its core tightly. With one final burst of sunlight, her suit unleashed a wave of regenerative energy, transforming the monster completely into compost.

From its remains, a garden bloomed beautifully.

The world watched, inspired. Cities began composting actively, oceans were cleaned diligently, and sustainability became the new hero's creed.



This week's Gold book winner is Vinnie Bailey. Vinnie showed great care, pride and understanding in his English work. Well done Vinnie!



Would you like support with....

Education

Communication

Physical and Mental Health

Support with your Local Offer



Contact LIFT



07352743648

lift@northstar-academy.co.uk

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

Primary

Boys

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



Girls

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

Breakfast Club!

We are excited to introduce our new Breakfast Club, available every morning for all children. This is a great way for pupils to start the day with a nutritious breakfast and a positive, calm environment before lessons begin. We look forward to welcoming everyone—no need to book, just come along and join us!

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