North Tawton Community Primary School and Nursery

Newsletter

Term: Autumn • Date: 6.11.2026

Welcome

Dear North Tawton Families,

Welcome back! The children have returned to school after half-term looking smart and ready to learn. They have all clearly had great fun trick or treating — and are very much looking forward to that big event in December! 🎄

We have lots on the calendar this half-term. Next week we have Bikeability for Year 5, and on Friday 13th November both Hazel and Sycamore classes will be taking part in Walkability. Please see the Upcoming Events section for more events this term.

What's been happening in class?

- Willow Class really enjoyed their trip to Kents Cavern in Torquay — a fantastic link to their topics on Prehistoric Britain in History and Rocks in Science. We are very much looking forward to seeing the volcanoes they will be producing as their home learning challenge this half-term!
- Oak Class have been linking their learning on The Colour Monster to their emotions — a wonderful piece of work.
- Acorns enjoyed some spooky spiders and pumpkins for Halloween — a perfect seasonal topic!
- Hazel Class have been working on clay pumpkins decorated in the style of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Look out for these — they'll be on their way home soon!
- Sycamore Class have been working hard on the Industrial Revolution this week. The Year 6s have also started SATs Club with Mr Sandover, which was very well attended and is excellent preparation for May.

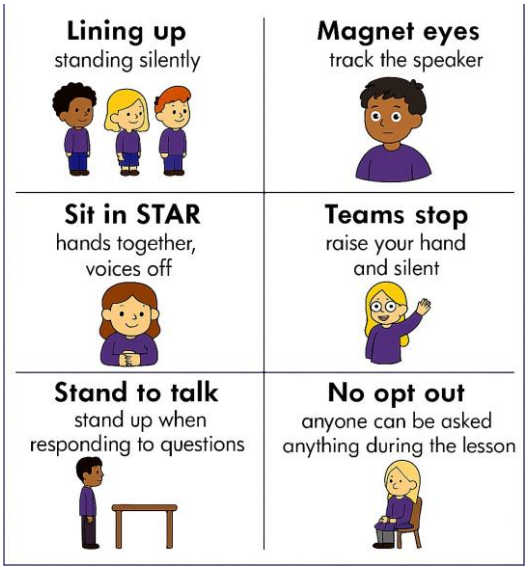
A Quick Update on Staffing

Unfortunately, Mrs Vincent is unwell at the moment and is taking some time away from work. We wish her a speedy recovery and are thinking of her.

In light of this, I will be working in a leadership capacity for the time being and will not be class-based. Please could you direct any queries, questions or comments to me going forward — I am always happy to help.

Our STAR Behaviours

Our STAR Behaviours continue to underpin everything we do at NTCPS. It is wonderful to see children modelling these every day.



With warm regards,
Jason Foreman | Acting Head

Upcoming Events

Please save the dates for the following exciting events this term:

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 6th November	Willow Class trip to Kents Cavern	Willow Class
Sunday 8th November	Children's Tabletop Sale 2:00–4:00pm North Tawton Rugby Club	Open to all
Mon 9th – Thu 12th Nov	Bikeability	Year 5
Friday 13th November	Walkability	Hazel & Sycamore
Friday 14th November	FONTs Silent Disco North Tawton Rugby Club	See FONTs section
Saturday 6th December	Santa Run & Christmas Fair St Peter's Church	Whole community
Wednesday 9th December	Willow & Beech Nativity 2:00pm	Willow & Beech
Thursday 10th December	Willow & Beech Nativity 5:30pm	Willow & Beech
Tuesday 15th December	Christingle Service St Peter's Church 2:00pm	Whole school
Wednesday 17th December	Whole school trip: Sleeping Beauty Northcott Theatre, Exeter	Whole school

FONTs — Friends of North Tawton School

We are FONTs (Friends of North Tawton School) and we are a passionate group of volunteers dedicated to enriching the lives of the children at our school and supporting our amazing staff.

So what do we get up to?

- We have treated our hardworking teachers and staff to an appreciation breakfast and kitted out the staffroom with new mugs, a microwave, water boiler, cutlery and a radio.
- We fund the children's annual pantomime trip, and every class receives an annual allowance towards school trips — helping to keep costs down for families.
- We work closely with the school to provide books, learning materials and classroom resources that directly support children's learning.
- We have run a Mother's Day takeaway afternoon tea, a Father's Day cheese and chutney box, and at Christmas we host our much-loved Christmas Fair and the brilliant Santa Run.
- Coming up — our FONTs Silent Disco on Friday 14th November at the Rugby Club. Watch this space for details!

But here's the thing — we can't do any of this without you.

Many of us are working parents ourselves, but we give whatever time and skills we have, and it all adds up to something really special. Even if you don't think you have much to offer, please do get in touch — you might be surprised, and we would love to have you!

Come and find us:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WeAreFONTS
Email: friendsofnorthtawton@gmail.com
WhatsApp group: Drop us a message to register your number and join!

A huge thank you for everything that you do — from all of the children, staff and parents at NTCPS. You make such a difference to our school and we are incredibly grateful.

Safeguarding — Bonfire Night Safety

With Bonfire Night just around the corner, here are some friendly reminders to help keep everyone safe while enjoying the celebrations.

Bonfire Night — Firework Safety

- Always attend an organised public firework display where possible — they are far safer than home displays.
- If using fireworks at home, follow the Firework Code: only adults light fireworks, never return to a lit firework, keep pets safely indoors.
- Keep children well back from bonfires and fireworks at all times — a recommended distance of at least 25 metres.
- Sparklers burn at extreme temperatures — always wear gloves and never give sparklers to children under 5.
- Dispose of used sparklers safely in a bucket of cold water.

The safest option is always to attend an organised public event where safety measures are in place. For more information visit:

www.firekills.campaign.gov.uk/firework-safety/

Online Safety — Keeping Children Safe Indoors Too

With the darker and colder evenings drawing in, we are likely to spend more time indoors — and for many families, this means more time online. It is a great opportunity to revisit some simple but important habits to keep your children safe.

ThinkUKnow Top Tips for Parents

Talk regularly — Ask your child what they enjoy doing online and who they talk to. Regular, open conversations make it easier for them to come to you if something goes wrong.

Know their apps and games — Understand what your child is using, check the age ratings, and explore apps together so you know what to look out for.

Set boundaries together — Agree on screen time limits and where devices are used at home. Keeping devices out of bedrooms at night is a simple and effective rule.

Remind them about strangers online — Someone a child only knows online is a stranger, even if they feel friendly. Children should never share personal information — their name, school, address or photos — with anyone they don't know in real life.

Encourage them to speak up — Reassure your child that they will never be in trouble for telling you if something online makes them feel worried, upset or uncomfortable.

Use parental controls — Most devices, apps and broadband providers offer parental control settings. These won't catch everything, but they add a useful layer of protection alongside conversation.

A simple question to ask regularly:

"Has anything online made you feel unhappy, worried or confused recently?"

For more expert guidance, visit ThinkUKnow: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/

Thank you for helping to keep all our children safe — online and offline.

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Email:	admin@ntcps.co.uk

Together, we can keep every child safe and help them flourish.

Attendance Focus

Is My Child Too Ill for School?

Did You Know?

The NHS advises that avoiding school often increases anxiety for children who are worried about attending. If your child is struggling with anxiety, school staff, school nurses and healthcare professionals can work together with families to provide support.

For the full NHS guidance, please visit: www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Arriving on Time

Thank you for continuing to get your children to school on time. Doors open at 08:40 and the school day begins promptly at 08:45. Arriving on time helps children feel settled, ready to learn, and part of our school community from the very start of the day.

Parent Voice

Working as a community, we will achieve the best for our children. As key stakeholders in the school, we value parents' views and feedback so that we can continually improve the offer we give our children.

Thank you to those of you who have already responded to the Parent and Carer Survey — the results have been very positive, but have also given us valuable feedback to inform future actions. To make this relevant to more of our community, please do take the time to fill in the survey. The more families who respond, the better we can work together to ensure that our school serves our community in the very best way it can.

North Tawton Parent and Carer Survey — Autumn 2026

We would love to hear from you. Please click the link below to complete the survey:
North Tawton Parent and Carer Survey Autumn 2026 — Fill in form

Thank you so much in advance — your voice matters.

Pupil Voice

What is the most interesting thing you have learned this week?

Acorns (Nursery) We really enjoyed our hot chocolate in the Forest School area on Bonfire Night, it was yummy!

Oak Class "I have enjoyed sharing my learning in class and doing free flow into Acorn class, I loved drawing a rainbow-coloured unicorn." AOB
" I have enjoyed writing in class, writing my name." LW

Beech Class "I've enjoyed handwriting this work, working on the letters g and e, I have improved my handwriting. "AK
"I have enjoyed Maths this week, we have been working on number bonds to 10 and writing number sentences, using my fingers and a tens frame." AOB

Willow Class: "I have really enjoyed working on column addition this week, I have managed to do this really well with exchanging." BP

Hazel Class: " This week, I have enjoyed History, we were finding out about what children had to do as jobs in Victorian times." WG
I have enjoyed English this week, we have been writing Journal pages using our imagination to make a prediction. It was a comparison between the past and the future." AC

Sycamore Class: "This week, I have enjoyed, my geography work on Biomes, I enjoyed seeing different animals habitats. We also found out where different biomes where around the world e.g. Amazon Rainforest in Brazil." RH and MW
"I enjoyed learning about the Industrial Revolution and comparing Manchester before and during the revolution." VM

“ I enjoyed our English work – we wrote a paragraph about darkness or positives about nigh time. I wrote about darkness, giving atmosphere when I wrote about a dark figure in the distance.” FT

Thank you for your continued support

We look forward to seeing you at school!