North Tawton Community Primary School and Nursery

Newsletter

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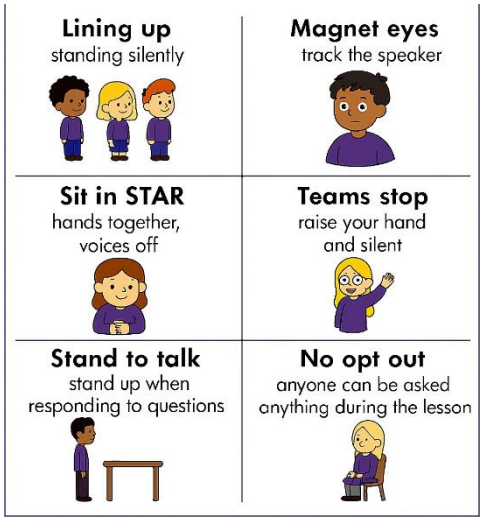
Welcome Back!

Dear North Tawton Families,

Welcome Back!

Wow, what a fantastic first week back! It has been wonderful to see our school filled once again with smiling faces, happy friendships, and lots of learning. We have been so impressed by how quickly the children have settled into their new classes, shown our school values, and worked hard to make a positive start to the year. Everyone has remembered the Star Behaviours, and we will continue to embed these throughout the school.

★ Our STAR Behaviours



We are looking forward to a great year ahead!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

With warm regards,

Clare Vincent Headteacher
Jason Foreman Lead Teacher

Safeguarding at the Start of a New School Year

Keeping Children Safe is Everyone's Responsibility

As we begin a new school year, we'd like to remind all parents and carers that safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. Our school is committed to providing a safe, happy and nurturing environment where every child can learn, grow and thrive.

You can help by:

- Ensuring the school always has up-to-date contact details and emergency contacts
- Letting us know of any changes at home that may affect your child's wellbeing
- Talking regularly with your child about staying safe, both online and offline
- Reporting any safeguarding concerns to the school, no matter how small they may seem

If you have concerns about the safety or welfare of any child, please speak to Mrs Vincent or Mr Foreman.

This year, let's continue to work together to ensure every child feels safe, supported and ready to succeed.

DSL:	Clare Vincent | cvincent@ntcps.co.uk
Deputy DSL:	Jason Foreman | j.foreman@ntcps.co.uk
Contact:	01837 82284
Email:	admin@ntcps.co.uk

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

Community Event — Whiddon Autumn Festival

The Whiddon Autumn Festival runs from 16–20 September 2026 and brings a wonderful programme of music and arts events to our local area. We'd love to share some exciting news with our community:

Our children in **Years 5 and 6** will be singing alongside other local schools on **Thursday at Moretonhampstead Primary School** — what an incredible opportunity for our young musicians! They will also have the fantastic chance to **sing with a professional choir at Moretonhampstead Church on Thursday evening, 5:00–6:00pm**. We are so proud of them and know they will be brilliant.

We'd also love to share this family-friendly highlight from the festival:

Family Concert: Stomp & Sing

Date:	Sunday 20th September 2026
Time:	11:00am
Venue:	Endecott House, Chagford
Performers:	Hannah King (animateur) and Harry Baker (piano)
Booking:	Reserve your place at whiddonautumnfestival.co.uk | £1 booking fee + donate what you can

Come along for a family-friendly concert all about music and movement — get ready to jump, dance, wiggle and jiggle, tap your toes, sway, stomp and sing! Perfect for our youngest families.



Spotlight On… Devon Cricket Coaching

This week, children across the school enjoyed their first session with our **Devon Cricket Coach, Niall Leahy**. The children have had great fun developing their cricket skills, learning to be part of a team and simply enjoying themselves in the process.

We are extremely lucky to have the opportunity to work with a professional coach — what a brilliant experience for all of our children!

Watch this space for more updates on our cricket sessions throughout the term!

School Games Mark — Gold Award 2025/26!

We have worked extremely hard on our PE provision over the last year and we are absolutely delighted to share some brilliant news with you!

GOLD AWARD
School Games Mark 2025/26

The **School Games Mark** is a government-led awards scheme that recognises schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. Achieving the **Gold Award** is a real testament to the hard work of our children, staff and families over the past year — and we couldn't be more proud!

This is a great springboard for greater things to come — **Platinum, here we come!**

Community Policing — Working with PC Adam Peart

This year, children in **Years 4 and 5** will be working throughout the year with our community police officer, **PC Adam Peart**. They had their very first session today, exploring important topics around **rights and criminal responsibility** — a fantastic start to what promises to be a really valuable and thought-provoking programme.

Building trust, understanding rights and developing responsible citizens — one session at a time.

We look forward to future sessions with PC Peart throughout the year and will keep you updated on what the children are learning. A brilliant opportunity to connect our school with our community.

Events This Half Term

Please save the dates for the following events:

Date	Event	Who
Wed 16th Sept	Individual and sibling photos	Whole school
Wed 23rd Sept	Back-up photo date (if bad weather on 16th)	Whole school
Thurs 17th Sept	Whiddon Down Music Festival	Y5 & Y6
Mon 21st Sept	Alice in Wonderland theatre production in school	Whole school
Tues 22nd Sept	FONTs AGM — 3:30pm in school. All welcome!	All parents
Tues 22nd Sept	Parent/Carer meetings with teachers	3:45 – 6:30pm
Thurs 24th Sept	Parent/Carer meetings with teachers	3:45 – 6:00pm

FONTs — Friends of North Tawton School

A message from the staff:

A huge thank you to the members of FONTs who came into school over the holidays to refresh the paintwork in our halls and classrooms. We appreciate it so much!

There are plans to return on Saturday 3rd October, so please get in touch if you'd be willing to join the paint party.

We will be holding our AGM on 22nd September at 3:30pm in school — please do come along.

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 Market and the brilliant Santa Run.

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!

Attendance Focus — Every Day Matters

The best way to help your child achieve academically and thrive socially and emotionally is to ensure that they attend school every day they can.

- Children only get one chance at each lesson — catching up can be hard
- Missing school means missing learning, friendships and opportunities
- **Attendance below 90% (equal to 2 days a month) is classed as persistent absence**

Top Tips for Great Attendance

- Only keep children home for genuine illness (fever, vomiting, contagious bugs)
- Set routines — regular bedtimes and calm mornings make school days easier
- Be ready — clothes, bags and lunches prepared the night before save stress
- Every day counts — even a few missed days each term add up to lost learning
- Plan appointments — try to book doctors and dentists outside school hours
- Work with us — if mornings are tricky or your child is worried, let us know

Arriving on Time

We've had a great start to the term with most children being in school at 08:40, ready to start the day promptly at 08:45. It makes a huge difference to helping them feel settled and gets the day off to a great start.

Pupil Voice

What did you enjoy in your first week back?

Acorns (Nursery): **Josie:** "Making pasties with playdough" **Rosie:** "ALL THE THINGS!"

Oak Class **Barney:** "Seeing my friends. Playing with the big kids on the field"

Beech Class: **Niam:** "Learning new stuff and coming back to my friends. I like writing. We're filling up our cookie jar then we will get one!"

Willow Class: **Amelia:** "I like Maths because it's really fun and we get number cards and make really big numbers"

Hazel Class: **Amelia:** “We leaned about sentences and I wrote a brilliant one with a fronted adverbial followed by a comma”

Sycamore Class: **Laiton:** “I liked the cricket. I like being in Year 6 because you get lots of jobs.”

Thank you for your continued support

We look forward to seeing you at school!