Norman Gate School Newsletter

Spring Term Issue 1 — Friday 16th January 2026

Diary Dates 2026

Year 6 Swimming
Wednesdays

W/C 2nd February
Parent Engagement Week

W/C 9th February
Children's Mental Health Week

Thursday 26th February
M&M Productions in School– The Wizard of Oz

Monday 2nd March
World Book Week

Tuesday 17th March
Farm to Norman Gate

Friday 20th March
Red Nose Day

Thursday 26th March
RE Day

Inset Days 2025-2026

9th February 2026
27th March 2026
5th May 2026

Happy New Year and welcome back!

We hope you had a restful break and are looking forward to the term ahead. This term our school value is **Respect** and we will be thinking about the importance of showing respect to ourselves, others, and the environment.

Parent Engagement
At the end of this term, parents and carers will be invited into school to share learning opportunities with their child's class. This is a great chance to see what the children have been working on and to join in their learning journey.

Brew Monday – 19th January
Brew Monday encourages people to connect over a cuppa as research by the Samaritan's has found that this can be a difficult day during January. To mark the day, we are inviting parents in on Monday 19th January, at the start of the day for a drink and a biscuit. Any donations would be appreciated.

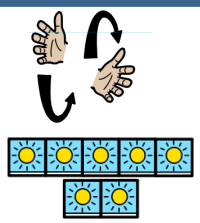
OPAL
To make playtimes even better, we're installing fences on the field to separate it from the woodland walk. This means more classes can use the different spaces and the field can be offered more often at playtimes.

Staff News
We're delighted to share that Lucy, our Cub Class teacher, is expecting a baby! She is planning to begin her maternity leave at the end of the spring term. We'll let you know soon who will be teaching Cub Class after this.

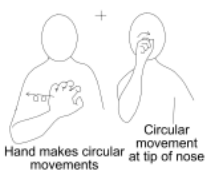
No Excuse for Abuse
Working together helps us support every child's learning and wellbeing. Positivity and respect are our core values, and while most interactions with parents and carers reflect this, a small minority have not. Aggressive or abusive behaviour affects the whole school community, particularly staff. To reinforce expectations, posters promoting respect and positive communication will be displayed around school. We are all here help, any aggressive or abusive communication will be formally investigated, and we will review communication methods with those involved moving forwards.

School Nurse Clinics
We're pleased to be working closely with the school nursing team, who will offer regular clinics in school. These clinics will support with issues such as sleep, behaviour, toileting, and diet. If you'd like to book an appointment, please speak to the admin team or your child's class teacher.

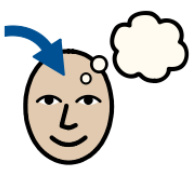
Signs of the Week



hedgehog



To learn



Caterpillar Class

Caterpillar class have enjoyed the start of our topic of Story time. We have been exploring the book Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? The children enjoyed exploring the props and matching the colours from the story. We have also been exploring colours in our art work. We used water colours to make paint marks on paper. We explored making dot and line marks and talking about what we had painted. As part of our early history learning we have been listening to old and more recent nursery rhymes. The children have been joining in by filling in a missing word in the rhyme, singing along or moving their body to the rhythm. Within our whole-class provision we have been getting messy with cornflour, exploring different painting techniques and making marks with different tools. We have had some lovely moments with children playing alongside others, happily and sharing resources.

SEND Early Bird Access

Wed 18th Feb - Wed 18th Feb 2026

Enjoy early bird access to wander around our award-winning farm and adventure park at your own pace.
There's so much to see and do ... don't forget to pre-book to avoid disappointment!

- Learning through discovery, fun and adventure
- Enjoy early bird access from 9 am (an hour before opening time)
- Wander around the farm at your own pace
- Discover the Play Barn's array of soft-play areas
- Explore the acres of outside adventure
- Join everyone for a fun range of seasonal, hands-on animal activities

Finkley Down farm

Next SEND Days

- Wednesday 18th February
- Wednesday 8th April
- Wednesday 29th July
- Wednesday 19th August
- Wednesday 28th October

Butterfly Class

Butterfly Class worked very hard last term and enjoyed lots of different trips including a trip to the cinema and to Winchester Cathedral.

This term has already been very exciting for the year 6 children in class who started going swimming at the leisure centre. The children loved getting on the minibus and getting ready to go into the swimming pool. When in the pool they did some super kicking, paddling and floating both on their front and back. A few of the children were even brave enough to put their heads in and fully submerse themselves under the water!

The children have particularly enjoyed reading our new class story 'The Naughty Bus'. The children have loved exploring what the bus gets up to and saying who comes to save him when he gets into trouble. They have also enjoyed mapping the story, focusing on what happens in the beginning, middle and end of the story and joining in with retelling the story.

In history this term the children are exploring and identifying their own history including sequencing their own milestones. They have enjoyed looking at different events in their friends lives and talking about these. It has been lovely to see the children interested and enjoying exploring these different photos and events!

In PSED the children have been enjoying and exploring different foods. We have been doing lots of work on which foods are healthier and exploring which foods the children like and why.

Lisa Collins Headteacher	**Sophie Durbajlo** Deputy Head	**Lindsay Symmonds** Class Teacher	**Kay Barnikel** Home School Support Co-Ordinator (Mon, Tues Wed)

Norman Gate School

DSL Staff

(Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Otter Class

Otter class have been super at applying all their P.E. learning over the year so far into their spring lessons. They have been transitioning safely to different parts of the school and following a sequence of up 5 different activities within each lesson, including a warm up, practising different skills (throwing, catching, rolling and balancing) and a team game. Otter class have shown respect when taking turns using the different equipment and they have shown great teamwork to play a range of P.E. games together. On Friday, all of the children went on the field and used the bikes and scooters safely. They wore their helmets; went one way round the track; asked adults for help when they needed it and most importantly had lots of fun. We are very proud of the progress they have all made to engage in P.E. so brilliantly. Well done Otter Class!

Cholderton Rare Breeds Farm

Unforgettable Festive Family Farm Fun in Wiltshire

WE'RE BACK OPEN! Take advantage of our January Sale!

Visit between Saturday 27th December and 13th February* and get buy one, get one free on entry tickets!