A Message from Mr Garside

We have reached the end of what has been a very busy but enjoyable first half term for me as your headteacher. Thank you to our children, staff and families for your hard work, kindness and support. There has been so much to celebrate, and I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned half-term break.

Thank You for your Understanding: Power Cut

Thank you for your patience and understanding when we had to close school on Tuesday 20th October because of a power cut affecting the local area.

With no heating, hot water or lighting, we could not safely keep children and staff in the building. We know that collecting children and arranging childcare at short notice was difficult, particularly for working parents.

Both Norwood and Holy Family made the decision to close for the day. We did not know when power would return, or whether it would stay on while repairs continued. The situation was outside our control, but keeping everyone safe had to come first.

Thank you for responding so quickly and supporting our staff. The closure will not count against your child's attendance.

Term Dates and Planning Holidays

Governors have agreed our term dates. These are now available on our website and attached to this newsletter.

Our school holidays follow Sefton's dates. We have carefully placed our staff training days, shown in **purple**, next to school holidays where possible. Children do not attend school on these days.

Last year, **1,084.5 days of learning were lost to recorded term-time holidays**. That is the equivalent of more than five children being away on holiday every school day.

We know family holidays can be expensive. We hope that placing training days around popular holiday periods will give families more flexibility and help them find a cheaper break without missing school.

Please check the dates before booking a holiday.

Term-time holidays will not normally be authorised. Under national attendance rules, schools must consider a penalty notice when a child of compulsory school age misses **10 or more sessions for unauthorised reasons within any 10-school-week period**.

There are two sessions each day, so **10 sessions equals five school days**. These do not have to be consecutive. An unauthorised term-time holiday reaching this threshold may therefore lead to a fine.

Thank you for helping us protect every child's learning.

Ofsted Update

Thank you for the many kind words you shared with the inspectors during our recent Ofsted inspection. Your support meant a great deal to us. We expect to receive the report soon after half term. School leaders and governors will share it with you as soon as we are allowed to do so.

Norwood Primary School

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A Special Author Visit

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a brilliant time meeting author and illustrator Sean Perkins. It was a special opportunity for our younger children to meet someone who creates the stories and pictures they enjoy in books.

The children loved hearing his latest Oscar and Ben picnic story and sharing the excitement of a story told by its author. Visits like these help bring books to life and encourage children to enjoy reading, use their imaginations and think about stories of their own.

Thank you, Sean, for a wonderful visit and for helping us celebrate the joy of books and storytelling!

Year 6 Explore our Coast

Year 6 enjoyed a day of coastal fieldwork in Southport, including a visit to the lifeboat station.

The children explored how our coastline has changed over time, including how far the sea reaches today compared with the past. They also learned how coastal defences help protect the road beside the beach from flooding.

One surprising discovery was that the Marine Lake is dyed blue!

There was even time for Mr Garside to dress as a member of the lifeboat crew, ready for a rescue. A memorable day of learning beyond the classroom!

YOU ARE AMAZING!

We know that our Norwood pupils achieve fantastic things outside school, and we would love to celebrate their successes. Has your child earned an award, learned a new skill, reached a personal goal or done something kind for others? Please tell us! We are refreshing our celebration display by the school office and would love to include photographs and a few words about your child's achievement.

Please email:

- **Mrs Howard:** s.howard@norwoodmail.co.uk
- **School office:** admin@norwood.sefton.org.uk

We look forward to celebrating your children's talents, effort and achievements.

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Meet our New School Captains

Mrs Harris has appointed our new School Captains. Congratulations to everyone selected! Our captains have an important role as pupil leaders. They will listen to children from every class and share their ideas, helping pupils have a say in decisions about school life. Their first task is to gather pupils' views about our fundraising goals for this year. We look forward to hearing their ideas.

The Titanic – Year 2

Year 2 brought history to life in a workshop exploring how and why the Titanic sank. The children enjoyed investigating the events of that famous voyage and deepening their understanding of their Titanic topic.

Safeguarding Message

If parents have any safeguarding concerns during half term they can email safeguarding@norwoodmail.co.uk where messages will be monitored by Mrs Taylor.

Have a great half term break. See you on Monday 2nd November ☺

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NORWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Phonics & Early Reading

A workshop for parents and carers

Wednesday 18 November 2026
8:30am–10:00am

Especially for Reception and Year 1 families

What is phonics?

Phonics teaches children the sounds that letters and groups of letters represent. Children blend these sounds together to read words.

Come along to find out:

- How we teach phonics and early reading
- What your child is learning at school
- How we prepare children for the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Simple ways to practise reading at home

The screening check helps us see how well children use phonics to read words and who needs extra support.

No previous knowledge needed.

Come along, ask questions and help your child grow into a confident reader!

For more information, please speak to Mrs Thorpe, our EYFS Lead.

Aspire • Respect • Enjoy

Term Dates 2027 - 2028

September 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35			1	2	3	4	5
36	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
37	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
38	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
39	27	28	29	30			

October 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
39					1	2	30
40	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
41	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
42	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
43	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
45	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
46	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
47	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
48	29	30					

December 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48			1	2	3	4	5
49	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
50	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
51	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
52	27	28	29	30	31		

January 2028							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
52						1	2
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
4	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5	31						

February 2028							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9	28	29					

March 2028							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9			1	2	3	4	5
10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
12	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
13	27	28	29	30	31		

April 2028							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13						1	2
14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
17	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2028							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
22	29	30	31				

June 2028							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22				1	2	3	4
23	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	26	27	28	29	30		

July 2028							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26						1	2
27	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
28	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
29	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	31						

August 2028							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31		1	2	3	4	5	6
32	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
33	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
34	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
35	28	29	30	31			

Autumn 1	35 Days	Autumn 2	35 Days	Spring 1	34 Days	Spring 2	30 Days	Summer 1	24 Days	Summer 2	32 Days	Total	190 Days

	School Open: for All Pupils		School Closed: Holidays
	School Closed: Bank Holiday		School Closed: INSET Day