



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

North Marston Church of England School

School Hill North Marston Buckingham Buckinghamshire MK18 3PE

Tel./Fax. 01296 670286

e-mail office@northmarston.bucks.sch.uk

- A Voluntary Controlled School with the capacity for 105 pupils, serving the area of North Marston and Granborough with free transport to and from Granborough.
- Age range - Rising 5 to 11 years old
- Head Teacher - Mrs. Catherine Gouldstone
- Governors - Comprises of 11 members, Chair Mr Peter Williams

Our Philosophy

A child is entitled to work in an atmosphere of friendship and trust, where relationships between all people are considerate and caring.

The curriculum should be broad based, well planned and meaningful, providing opportunities for every child to achieve her or his full potential.

Learning should take place in an environment that is comfortable and well organized where security is provided by clearly defined expectations of work and behaviour.

All Staff and Governors seek to maintain this Philosophy.

Dear Parents and Carers

As a family man, I recognise that choosing a school for your children is one of the most important decisions you will make. I am very proud to be associated with North Marston School both as a parent and a governor.

In November 2004 Ofsted found North Marston School to be a good school with some very good aspects. In their summary, the following points of particular strength were amongst the main findings:

- *“Pupils make good progress overall, supported by good teaching..... and attain well above average standards at the end of year 6”*
- *“The pupils interest in school life and enthusiasm for learning are very good”*
- *“The school takes very good care of its pupils”*
- *“The school is a “friendly, caring school community with delightful pupils and a strong Christian ethos”*
- *“Very close links with the village community benefit pupils achievement and well-being”*
- *“Pupils behaviour in classes and around school is very good”*

A copy of the full report is available for your inspection at school. I hope that you will feel welcome to come and see for yourself all that North Marston School can offer.

With every blessing

*Rev Andy Bell
(on behalf of the Governing Body)*

Children come first

North Marston is a Christian school that caters for children of all faiths. We believe firmly that the children come first. This means that our school is organized around the children, so that their needs, interests and academic development are our prime consideration at all times.

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in our school. We hope that this booklet will give you a taste of the way we run our school and make clear to you our commitment to the education and well being of our children.

Our school is a happy, caring and exciting place where everyone is considered important. We believe that the family is the most important part of a child's life and we work in partnership with parents for the benefit of our children. Parents are welcome to help in the classroom in a variety of activities and we encourage children to continue their studies at home.

I hope you will make an appointment to meet me and to view the school so that you get a real flavour of our enthusiasm for educating the children in our care.

With regards

Mrs Catherine Gouldstone
Headteacher

The Aims of the School

North Marston School aims to provide the best possible education and opportunities for all its pupils, through the following programme:-

- To create a stimulating and secure environment where the children will be motivated by a structured but flexible programme of learning, in a welcoming happy atmosphere, which will enable them to develop lively, enquiring minds and so achieve their full potential.
- To follow a curriculum which engenders a love of learning and the excitement of discovery, which develops their academic, spiritual, physical, social and mental skills.
- To ensure that each child has a positive experience of school and perceives him/herself as a valued individual and a successful learner.
- To foster and widen the working relationships currently enjoyed between North Marston School, the parents and the local community; to create an understanding about the world in which they live and the interdependence of individual groups and nations.
- To encourage the self-confidence to achieve an independent and responsible attitude, equipping each child for the next step.

In all our decisions concerning school life, the Staff and Governors will act upon these aims and help the children understand the meaning of religious and moral values.

The Unique Benefits of the Village School

The importance of the early days at school cannot be over emphasised. School, to a young child can seem an alarmingly large, hostile place, full of unfamiliar noisy people. Remembering that the seeds of a child's future educational development are sown at this stage, and that school life stretches ahead for at least another 11 years, it is vital that she or he sets off on the right foot.

We are extremely fortunate at North Marston in being a happy school with a strong family atmosphere where the children feel secure and settle quickly. Many of them will already know the school from its situation at the heart of the community and from its ties with the local nursery. All children quickly learn their way around. It is small enough for even the tiniest person to feel comfortable and not overwhelmed.

If children feel happy, secure and are encouraged to strive for individual attainment in all areas, they will develop to their full potential. Learning should be fun and each new school day a fresh and exciting experience.

As a small school, the staff are able to get to know each child and be conscious of individual needs. Through a programme of target setting and small group teaching we build upon their strengths and address any weaknesses, promoting full academic potential. This enables the staff to track the children's progress through Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 more accurately.

All our children have their own duties which they take very seriously and it is pleasing to watch them growing up and take their turn at the top of the school. Progressing through the school, we aim to meet growing needs and are very much aware of the academic needs of the oldest children as they prepare for examinations. By the time they move on to their next school they are sensible, mature and behave like responsible citizens. We therefore believe that the confidence our children gain in this Village School will remain with them throughout their life.

Direct quotes from our last OFSTED inspection:-

- "There are very good links with parents and the local community"
- "Pupils attitudes, values and personal development, including spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are very good and provide strong support for their learning"
- "Pupils have good relationships with teachers and other staff"
- "Provision in the Foundation Stage is very good overall"

Curriculum

Literacy As well as implementing the National Curriculum in Literacy we integrate language work wherever appropriate into topic based learning. We teach the children to express themselves in as many different ways as possible in both oral and written work. We encourage the children throughout the school to speak clearly and confidently to individuals, small groups and larger audiences. Great importance is placed on listening attentively to instruction and to the views of others.

Each class has a daily literacy lesson according to the National Literacy Strategy. Reading is introduced as soon as a child enters school. A wide range of reading schemes are provided to support the individual needs of the children. We believe it is important for the younger pupils to read daily to an adult. Parental support is welcomed and the children take home reading books every day. The school library is well stocked and the children are taught research skills.

The children are taught the skills of creative writing, poetry and factual accounts and are encouraged to explore these through the use of drama. Children are expected to be able to write clearly and take a pride in the presentation of their work. Grammar, spelling, punctuation and handwriting skills are practised according to a structured scheme.

Numeracy is an academic and practical subject with the emphasis on understanding. A variety of teaching styles are used to promote children's development and understanding of mathematical concepts. Mental arithmetic and multiplication tables are learnt as the child progresses through the school. The use of mathematical language is encouraged during discussion and group activities. Each stage of development is carefully planned and monitored for individuals.

The use and manipulation of numbers is seen as being very important with mental calculation given a high priority. Open ended investigational and problem solving approaches are used throughout the school

Science is a core subject planned within a termly topic covering each area of the National Curriculum. In the early stages of primary education, children are encouraged to use their senses to explore their surroundings. This develops into the use of procedures to investigate co-operatively or independently, communicating results through tables, graphs, diagrams, symbols and models. Secondary sources are introduced for the older children to widen the scope of their investigations. To provide better facilities for environmental studies within the school grounds a "wild life" area is at present being further developed.

History/Geography skills and understanding are developed by structured work to provide continuity and progression. Therefore we begin by looking at the children's immediate environment and move to the excitement of discovering distant places and times. We feel it is important that our children learn about the world in which they live and the heritage behind their existence.

We give the children as many opportunities as we can, making use of maps, reference books, videos, computer programmes and visits, to enhance their experiences.

Design and Technology involves the process of thinking about a problem, considering and planning ways of overcoming and realising some solutions by making, testing and evaluating. A widening range of materials and components are available for children's work as they develop their skills. The children are taught the safe use of tools and processes needed to execute their work.

Information communication technology(ICT) is a cross-curricular tool and pupils are encouraged to become familiar with their role in all aspects of their curriculum. We are fortunate in being particularly well resourced with computers, laptops and software, which are regularly evaluated and updated. Emphasis is placed upon the skills of word processing, data storage and retrieval and the language LOGO. For older pupils desk top publishing facilities are available.

Religious education – Collective worship. These are given an important place in our school. We see RE as being an essential factor in the moral and social development of our school community. The pupils are given opportunities to explore some of the world's major religions but the emphasis is placed on the Christian faith. Our daily act of Collective Worship includes reading, drama, music, art etc and a mixture of reflection which is linked to themes across the year. The local Anglican priest visits us on a weekly basis to take worship and to talk to classes. Parents with special reasons for excluding their children from worship and RE should discuss this with the Headteacher.

Music is viewed as an enjoyable and integral part of the curriculum. Children are given opportunities to listen to an extensive range of music. Singing and the use of percussion instruments help develop a sense of pitch and rhythm. Older children are taught musical notation and have the opportunity to learn an instrument from peripatetic teachers at a cost to parents. There are frequent opportunities for performance in events such as concerts, services and festivals.

Art work is exciting and varied. Children are taught to appreciate the work of various artists. The skills of observation, analysis, expression, communication and design are taught either as a separate study or as part of the work in other subjects. Visiting artists work with the children at various times linked to projects outside school. Children's art is always on display through-out the school.

Physical education This encompasses a wide range of activities, which include gymnastics, swimming, games skills, dance and drama. All activities are seen as non gender specific and together they help to improve co-ordination and physical skills. The school is fortunate to have such extensive grounds, both hard standing and field, where cricket, netball, hockey, rugby, football, short-tennis and rounders are taught. The School holds an annual sports day and we enjoy taking part in local sports tournaments. Although there is plenty of scope for team games, the emphasis within the school lessons is upon the improvement of skills by all children rather than purely their utilisation in competitive situations.

Homework is given to all children. This includes following up at home enquiries and studies which they have begun at school. They are expected to continue their reading and to learn facts such as tables and spellings at home.

Sex education aims to help pupils to cope with the physical, mental and emotional challenges of growing up. It is taught within a moral framework as part of our personal, social and health education, in co-operation with the Local Health Education Team. Under the Education Act 1993, pupils can be withdrawn from the part of sex education that is outside the compulsory elements contained within the Science National Curriculum. A letter will be sent to parents when the children are going to begin their programme of sex education; this will include a summary of the content and an opportunity for parents to view the material which is going to be used. Concerned parents will be invited to see the Headteacher.

Special educational needs. The Governors and staff of the school are committed to the belief that all pupils should have the same right of access to the curriculum, both the exceptionally able children and those with learning difficulties.

The school seeks to identify pupils with special educational needs through continuous assessment by each class teacher and through a screening programme. In addition, any parent who feels that their child has a marked learning difficulty should contact the class teacher or the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Pupils identified will be assigned extra provision according to the DfES Code of Practice. This can include access to a Support Assistant, the County Learning Support Team and to the County Educational Psychologist.

The school's Special Educational Needs Policy can be viewed on request.

Extra-curricular activities including sports, creative and musical activities are organised as lunchtime clubs or after-school activities. Recent club activities have included Art and Craft, French, ICT Games, Gardening, Football, Volleyball, Badminton and Tag Rugby.

North Marston Church of England School

List of Personnel – September 2007

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Gouldstone

Teachers: Ms Debbie Allen
Mr Chris Armstead
Mrs Kerry Dickson
Mrs Marion Kitson
Mrs Shannon Thewlis

Clerical Officer: Mrs Dawn Miles
Finance Officer: Mrs Jane Hill

Learning Support: Mrs Brenda Butterwith
Mrs Pam Carter
Mrs Nikki Day
Mrs Gill Little
Mrs Dawn Miles

Caretaker: Mrs Pam Carter

Midday Supervisors: Mrs Pam Carter
Mrs Sheila Grant
Mrs Jackie Dean

HOLIDAY DATES

Term	Open Morning of	Close end of
Autumn 2007	Wednesday 5 September	Friday 19 October
	Monday 29 October	Friday 21 December
Spring 2008	Tuesday 8 January	Friday 15 February
	Monday 25 February	Friday 4 April
Summer 2008	Monday 21 April	Friday 23 May
	Monday 2 June	Wednesday 23 July
Autumn 2008	Wednesday 3 September	Friday 24 October
	Monday 3 November	Friday 19 December
Spring 2009	Tuesday 6 January	Friday 13 February
	Monday 23 February	Friday 3 April
Summer 2009	Monday 20 April	Friday 22 May
	Monday 1 June	Friday 17 July

Please Note- Easter weekend is 21-24 March 2008 and is not included in the 2 weeks Easter Holidays.

The school will be closed for further INSET days during each academic year. These are yet to be arranged within the above dates, subject to the approval of the Governing Body. On these days pupils are on holiday but staff attend for in-service training or other purposes as directed by the Headteacher.

Uniform - Girls and Boys

Summer

Green and white dress
Navy trousers / shorts / skirt
White or navy polo shirt
Emerald sweatshirt / cardigan
White or navy socks
White, navy or black shoes/ sandals

Winter

Navy skirt / pinafore dress / trousers
White shirt (school tie optional)
White or navy polo shirt
Emerald sweatshirt or cardigan
White or navy socks / tights
White, navy or black shoes or sandals

P.E. KIT :

Indoor

Emerald T-shirt
Navy shorts
White / Navy spare socks
Black plimsolls

Outdoor

Sweatshirt
Navy tracksuit – optional
Trainers
Football boots – optional

Swimming hats must be worn by boys and girls.

Some school Uniform can be ordered from school.

No jewellery, except for one pair of plain ear studs and a wrist watch.

All clothing and footwear must be clearly named.

Things you need to know about the school.

Children living in the village are encouraged to walk to school whenever possible for physical and social reasons. It also alleviates the hazard of unnecessary traffic at school at peak times of the day, and is part of our School Travel Plan.

Induction for new children

The whole Reception year group start school in September, mornings only. Anyone who reaches their 5th birthday between 1st September and 31st December will be at school full time from January. Children with birthdays between 1st January and 31st August will be full time after Easter.

Registration – Absence – Home time

The children are expected to be at school when the bell rings promptly at 8.55 a.m. for the morning session with a morning break at 10.15 for 15 minutes. There is a break for lunch at 12.00 p.m. and the afternoon session starts at 1.00 p.m. with an afternoon break for Key Stage 1 and Foundation pupils. Please note, the playground is only supervised from 8.45 a.m. If your child arrives late and misses registration at 9.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m., it is important that they report to the office where they can be entered as present. This is important for safety reasons.

Absences are also recorded and entered on the child's report at the end of the year. Parents are expected to offer a reasonable explanation for their child's absence. If no explanation is received, the absence must be recorded as unauthorised. Family holidays taken in term time are a major interruption in your child's education and should be avoided. However, if this is impossible, application forms are available from the school office.

At the end of the day, children are collected from the playground at 3.10 p.m. Please inform the class teacher if anyone other than yourself is to collect your child. The children are instructed not to leave the premises if a parent or carer is delayed.

Break/Lunch time arrangements

You will need to provide a packed lunch for your child unless your child is eligible for free school meals. Please ensure that the lunch is brought in a suitable container and is both healthy and nutritious, and includes a drink. A small healthy snack of fruit or vegetables is allowed at breaktime if required, please pack this separately.

Contact numbers, illness and accidents

Please provide a day-time contact number in case of an emergency. You will be expected to let us know if your child has any medical requirements, which will be kept strictly confidential. If your child becomes unwell during the day you will be asked to take your child home. The visiting school nurse is happy to meet with parents to discuss any concerns.

Special events / Visits and charging policy

From time to time special events are arranged as well as educational visits out of School. Alternatively, theatre groups, musicians, writers, magicians, story tellers and contacts from Industry may visit the school. All children benefit from these experiences. They are carefully planned to broaden the children's education.

- Where activities take place in school time, parents may be invited to make contributions towards the cost. A pupil will not be prevented from taking part in that activity because his/her parents cannot or will not contribute. However events may be cancelled or limited if sufficient funds are not received.
- Where activities take place out of school time, charges continue to be levied where appropriate.
- Charges may be made for cookery ingredients when items are taken home.
- Parents may be required to meet the cost of breakages and damages, where this is a result of their child's behaviour, at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Recycling

As part of the children's education for sustainable development, we are committed to the recycling of paper, cardboard, plastic & foil. We also compost our fruit and vegetable waste for use in our quiet garden.

Complaints Procedure

It is hoped that parents will discuss any particular concern with their child's class teacher and or Headteacher first so that the matter may be resolved. Should you be unhappy with the outcome, the next point of contact is the Chairman of Governors. If the situation is still not resolved to your satisfaction, the Headteacher will supply details of how to contact the Senior Officer for Education

The Parents' Association

The school is lucky to have an active and enthusiastic Parents' Association, which organises fund-raising and social activities throughout the year. Parents are automatically members of the Association once their child is a registered pupil and helpers are always needed to assist at events.

Inclusion

We operate a full inclusion policy here at North Marston School.

Additional Information

We would like to draw your attention to the following:-

Child Protection The school has a Child Protection Policy which may be viewed on request. The School's Child Protection Officer is the Headteacher and any concerns should be addressed to her.

We have a rigorous recruitment policy and all staff and volunteers are CRB checked.

Playgrounds Play equipment on the school grounds is for use during school hours. For safety reasons, children are not allowed to use the apparatus unless supervised by staff. The school cannot be held responsible for any accident that may occur outside school hours.

Car Parking A voluntary 'one way' system operates up to school via Church Street and down School Hill. To alleviate peak time congestion, parents are asked not to make unnecessary journeys to school in the car.

Smoking Please do not smoke within the school grounds.

Dogs Please do not bring dogs on to school premises for health and safety reasons.

We hope you have found this information useful. If you have any questions we will do our best to answer them.

Please note: The information in this booklet was correct at the time of publication (April 2007).